

BRITISH ARCHIVES AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS*

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Dr. Baylen opened his remarks on British repositories by stressing the importance of preparing for research in foreign repositories. This preparation should be undertaken on two levels. First, the researcher should write to each of the repositories to which one expects to travel in order to apprise them of one's arrival and of the subject of one's research. The second necessary preliminary work is to consult the numerous published guides available on British history. Since Dr. Baylen's major work is in 19th century British history, he referred to Cook's *Sources in British Parliamentary History* (5 vols.), and Victor Moutte's *Guide to Cabinet papers*. Once in England, the researcher will discover a new generation of youthful archivists which is better trained and more helpful than were their counterparts several decades ago. Moreover, English archives were spared the destruction common to German repositories during WWII since they were removed to safe storage during the blitz. And, on a similar note, the "new" Public Record Office facilities, now at Kew Garden, are rated by Dr. Baylen as much improved, especially with regard to the delivery of requested materials.

Dr. Baylen next talked specifically of some of the more important libraries and archives available to the researcher. The most useful is the Public Record Office (PRO) which is the repository of Cabinet papers and recollections of private papers of prominent British statesmen. A corollary collection is the House of Lords Record Office. This repository holds the archives of members of the House of Lords, including the papers of Lloyd George, and many other private collections. In addition to these central collections, the researcher could profitably consult the National Libraries of both Wales and Scotland which are equally rich in holdings of prominent statesmen of Welsh and Scottish descent, and county records. National figures have often deposited their papers in these; one example Dr. Baylen gave was of Lord Darby, whose papers are held by the record office of his home county.

University Archives are also a rich source of material for the historian. Dr. Baylen referred specifically to the libraries of the separate colleges at Oxford University (St. Anthony's, Rhodes House) and at Cambridge, where Churchill College is important for late 19th century and 20th century figures. He concluded his remarks by referring to the Museum of London, which holds materials on London's history and the Suffragette movement, and to the Lambeth Palace Libraries, with collections on 18th-19th century figures.

*Synopsis prepared by Michael E. Shaw, Georgia Southern College.