1. SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

For the fifth year in succession the office was beset by builders. Though work on the outside of the Victoria Tower was finished in 1993, much remains to be done on the inside. This summer the lift was replaced so that documents could only be produced by walking up the stairs to any one of its twelve floors and returning laden. Nevertheless, the Search Room remained open and welcomed a record number of visitors, and 85% of our correspondents needing a substantial written reply received one within seven days.

Further building operations are in progress. This has been a year of planning and preparation prior to moving the greater part of the Record Office, including the Search Room, to new accommodation on the second floor of the South Front of the Palace of Westminster in the autumn of 1995. The Search Room will be somewhat larger, with improved facilities and security, and particular efforts are being made to provide shelving for essential printed series, such as the Journals of the two Houses, nearby. Other changes to the conservation services are planned for 1996.

In the midst of this disruption the project to send away regular consignments of Original Acts for special treatment - the Santobrite project - has been making good progress. All members of staff have helped in loading and unloading parchment rolls, arranging for the industrial cleaning of vacated shelves, and negotiating with various contractors and outside experts. It has been a heavy drain on staff time.

Other projects are coming to fruition: a new room off-site has been equipped with plan chests and the transfer of a large number of plans is imminent; some large accessions of primarily administrative records have been accommodated in a limbo while we consider a possible records management system; and growing databases are already proving their worth and are soon to be networked. All these projects are being marshalled in a five-year, strategic plan.

2. STAFF

CLERK OF THE RECORDS: D.J. Johnson, BA, FSA, FRHist.S
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE RECORDS: S.K. Ellison, BA, MSc
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE RECORDS: D.L. Prior, BA, MPhil.
ARCHIVIST (Modern Collections): Ms K.V. Bligh, BA
ARCHIVIST (Architectural Archives) (part-time): Lady Wedgwood, BA, FSA

ARCHIVES OFFICER: R.S.Harrison, BA

PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE RECORDS: Mrs P.M.O'Neil

SECRETARY (part-time): Mrs R.Copsey

ASSISTANT ARCHIVES OFFICERS: Ms S.A.Smith (to 27 June), M.J.Troke, BA, P.C.Goldstein (from 27 June)

CONSERVATION STAFF SECONDED BY THE BRITISH LIBRARY BINDERY:
  Working on book binding and manuscript repairs: M.Combe; C.Charles; Miss I.A.Cross; Miss E.Akers; Miss L.Heath; N.Sellwood (to 30 Jan.)
  Working on plan repairs: B.Hopkins; R.G.Rackham; G.Drury (to 31 March 1995)

REPROGRAPHIC STAFF SECONDED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
  S.Chamberlain; Mrs C.Korth; D.J.Trowbridge

REPOSITORY HOUSEMAIDS
  Mrs C.Archer; Mrs G.Neenham (from 9 April); Mrs M.Cross (from 31 May); Mrs C Norwell (to 1 June)

The main staff change was to the complement of conservators, which was reduced from nine to eight at the end of January and to seven at the end of March. This coincided with the deindustrialization of all British Library conservation staff, including those seconded to the House of Lords. One result of this is that Mr B.Russell, as the British Library's supervisor, will henceforth be spending about half his time in the Record Office.

Mrs S.Smith left the office after four very useful years' work to take up a well-deserved promotion in the Private Bill Office; she has been ably succeeded by Mr Paul Goldstein.

The Clerks served assemblies of the Council of Europe and Western European Union as members of the summary report teams, and attended various professional and historical conferences and committees. Robert Harrison is a member of the council of the Heraldry Society; as such he has been widely consulted within Parliament, by the Speaker and others, on heraldic matters and contributed to Facts about the British Prime Ministers, compiled by Dermot Englefield, Janet Seaton and Isobel White (1995).

3. VICTORIA TOWER REPOSITORY AND ACCOMMODATION

The Record Office now has the use of two rooms in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre basement, one for security microfilms of the main series of records, the other for plan storage. The latter has been fitted out with 72 mobile plan chests, arranged in rows each three chests high, providing 28 cubic metres of storage space; there are also a further 7.3 cubic metres of static shelving.
These figures have been derived from Stephen Ellison's database which is programmed to record shelf lists and to incorporate a space audit of all Record Office storage capacity. This will be particularly useful for the forthcoming value-for-money investigation into the Record Office's storage needs.

As well as the installation of a new lift, work on the interior of the Victoria Tower has included rewiring, the supply of emergency lighting, and the renewal of fire hoses. Updating of the fire detection system and complete redecoration is still to come. A survey carried out by the British Library's conservation department found that the climate of the Victoria Tower was generally acceptable though some improvements were possible.

Planning for new Record Office accommodation including a new Search Room, reprography room, temporary storage space and four new offices is well advanced.

4. ACCESSIONS

There has been continuity as well as change in the pattern of deposits in the Record Office and in the manner of dealing with them. Accessions numbered 107 compared to 82 for the same period 1993-94. Deposits from the Committee Offices of both Houses again figured large amongst the regular deposits. Those from the Commons Committee Office have mainly been files of memoranda reported to the House but not printed, and there has been a steady stream of material from the Lords Committee Office (30 boxes). All of these committee papers have been listed. As was predicted last year, the effects of the Transport and Works Act of 1992 have begun to be felt, with fewer large plans and Bill files being deposited by the Private Bill Offices. Instead, there have been deposits of orders and plans in accordance with the Act and these have been placed in a new record series. The office has also been able to review a large collection of files of the Leader of the House of Commons in the possession of the Cabinet Office which dated back to 1961. Those of parliamentary interest have been transferred to the Record Office where they will be subjected to further scrutiny.

The office has continued to promote good records management within the Palace. Advice has been given to several offices, in both the House of Lords and House of Commons, and this has produced beneficial results. In particular, the Office has worked very closely with two departments in the House of Commons. In the case of the Parliamentary Works Directorate a retention schedule was negotiated in respect of the large backlog of records which had passed into the ownership of the PWD in 1992 (see last year's report) and during the course of the year over 2,000 files were transferred to the Record Office. These are being reviewed for destruction or short/long term preservation. Negotiations also took place with the Commons Establishments Office which resulted in a large proportion of files being destroyed; the rest have been deposited in the Record Office subject to review and destruction dates. Both these cases have demonstrated the need, particularly in respect of parliamentary administrative records, for a records management policy within the Palace of Westminster and at the end of the period in question the Record Office was in the process of drawing up a discussion paper on this subject. In the meantime the process of review is being applied to other deposits of records and to records already held by the office.
The office has continued to acquire papers from private sources and during the year a number of acquisitions were added to the Historical Collections series. These include a 17th-century treatise on the office of Lord Chancellor, a volume of proceedings of the Commons committee on the Horsham election of 1807, the papers of Robert Lowe, Viscount Sherbrooke, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer 1868-73, and glimpses into the Parliamentary activities of Lord John Russell, W.E.Gladstone and C.S.Parnell. Loading of the Historical Collections onto a database has now begun. Advice concerning personal papers has also been given to a number of individuals.

5. COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Significant progress has been made with two database projects which were launched last year and highlighted in the last annual report. Dr Kenton Bamford, researcher for the Transport History Research Trust, has completed entering data about witnesses giving evidence on transport bills before Lords private bill select committees between 1835 and 1900. Equivalent data for the Commons covers 1835 to 1883 and is expected to be completed to 1900 during the summer. The database will provide unique access to a wealth of untapped information and has already proved its effectiveness in identifying evidence given by particular witnesses. Approximately half of the manual catalogue of the architectural archive has been converted to a database which has improved access for surveyors and others to essential references to parliamentary architectural drawings.

Public access to both databases is inhibited because they are mounted on standalone PCs outside the Search Room. However, in 1995 the Record Office is planning to implement a local area network which will also provide access to the Parliamentary Data and Video Network. Search Room users will be able to use our established databases and also to access POLIS, the Parliamentary Online Information System.

The office has also implemented an integrated system of seven databases for more effective management of data about public enquiries and use of the Search Room. The system which is programmed in dBase IV has application databases for recording details of correspondence, search applications, Search Room visits, records consulted, payments for photocopying and loans. To minimise duplication of data the databases are related to a core database containing details of users and there are further links between the databases. The system facilitates accurate and rapid compilation of a range of statistics about use of the office which had not been possible hitherto. The system will be extended by the addition of a database for recording data produced in an audit of repository storage space.

It is noted elsewhere that this report is the 24th supplement to the Guide to the Records of Parliament published in 1971. No firm decisions have been taken about a revision of the Guide but as a precursor to its update the text has been converted to electronic format. Once the inevitable deficiencies and inaccuracies of the scanning process have been eliminated the text can be further edited and updated, and its future format and dissemination considered.

6. THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
The Record Office has continued to administer conservation services supplied to the House by the British Library and has been well served in that task by Mr A. Greenhalgh, Administration Manager of the Library. We are indebted to the staff for their skilled work and also for demonstrating and discussing their techniques with an increasing number of parties and individual archive students. We are grateful to Mr R. A. Russell and Mr B. Russell of the British Library for their continued oversight of the work of the Conservation Studios and for their specialist advice on all aspects of conservation.

They carried out the following conservation work for the Record Office in the year ended 31 March 1995:

**Paper and Parchment Repairs**: 102 files of 18th-century Main Papers were filed and lettered; 57 boxes and slip cases were made and/or lettered.

**House of Lords Deposited Plans**: 2,662 sheets of Lords deposited plans and 13,789 sheets of ancillary deposits were cleaned, repaired, mounted and boxed.

**Binding**: 58 volumes were bound or rebound and lettered.

The project to remove Santobrite-impregnated tissue from the Original Acts has made good progress. Outside contractors designed apparatus within an extraction cabinet to unroll the acts, remove the tissue and clean the parchment with air brushes. The documents are then re-rolled with clean tissue. After a few small adjustments the apparatus was found to work very satisfactorily and by 31 March 1995 some 6,100 rolls had been treated. The opportunity is being taken to repair unstitched and torn membranes and to number the refurbished documents with colour-coded tags so that they may the more easily be kept in their correct sequences. As a result the whole project will constitute a general overhaul of our most important series.

### 7. REPROGRAPHIC WORK

Following structural reorganisation of HMSO's core businesses management responsibility for staff seconded to the HLRO Reprographic Unit has been transferred from the Macaulay Security Press to the HMSO Liaison Officer in the House of Commons. The Record Office welcomes the new arrangement which is a practical and logical development of collaboration in the provision of reprographic services.

The main feature of reprographic work has been steady progress in producing 35mm aperture cards of Lords private bill deposited plans from 1975 to 1991. Filming will facilitate their forthcoming transfer to new storage in the basement of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. The essential details of filmed plans are recorded in a database of private bill records. Work is continuing in surveying the state of stock microfilm and producing a computerised inventory.

Reprographic work carried out in the year ended 31 March 1995 is summarised below.

**Security microfilming**:
35mm roll-filming: 151,246 frames, including 81,733 of evidence given before Lords select committees, and the rest mainly of Beaverbrook Papers 29,373, Bonar Law Papers 27,367, Lloyd George Papers 9,821, Stansgate Papers 2,364, Davidson Papers 319.

35mm aperture cards: 6,167 of deposited plans, including some for sale to the public.

Survey of microfilm stock: 1,181 films checked and recorded on a database, re-filmed when necessary, boxed and labelled.

Reprographic copies for sale to the public:

269 frames of roll film, 650 A1 and 2,251 A4 electrostatic prints enlarged from microfilm, and 30,870 sheets of xerox.

The total number of customer orders was 797.

8. LISTING AND INDEXING

Loading of information onto the database of Historical Collections began during the year and steady progress has been made. Much of the hard copy data needs to be edited before being loaded so as to ensure that the information will enable satisfactory searches to be made. It is already clear that the database will prove an extremely valuable tool to researchers. In addition, the Record Office will be able to obtain for the first time an accurate picture of the full scope of the private collections and be able to monitor and record their state of repair, location, etc.

Reviewing, sorting, listing and boxing work continued during the year and was assisted by several work experience students. It has included the following:

House of Lords

Clerk of the Parliaments' office files, Committee papers, Leader of the House and Chief Whip's office files, Main Papers, Public Bill files, plans.

House of Commons

Committee papers, Leader of the House files, Parliamentary Works Directorate files, Refreshment Department records.

Parliamentary Groups

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK branch) records.

Historical Collections
9. THE SEARCH ROOM

Despite the restriction on document production during the summer recess due to the installation of the new lift in the Victoria Tower repository, the number of visits to the Search Room increased, again, from 1,298 in 1993 to 1,490 in 1994. Not surprisingly, the busiest months were June and November, just before and after the period of restricted service, when the daily average attendance rose to a record 8.72. The annual daily average attendance was 6.42 compared to 5.35 in 1993. With only a maximum of eight seats, space is often at a premium.

A large proportion of searchers, 64.34%, paid only one visit to the Search Room; 25.18% came two or three times and only 3.3% came regularly on more than ten occasions. There were 463 new applicants. A total number of 10,824 items, that is boxes, files, volumes or single documents, were produced for use in the Search Room - an average of more than 7 items per visit. 157 loans to other departments in Parliament were also produced. These figures are derived from the new database of user services.

About one fifth of all new applicants were conducting official, legal or other business enquiries and a further 6.25% were engaged in architectural work around the Palace. Following the trend of recent years, this represents a further increase in these categories. Nearly 3% came from the media and just under 6% came for genealogical purposes - a slight decrease from last year's record 7%. The remainder came as usual for a variety of personal, historical, social and literary research purposes.

As in recent years, nearly half the subjects studied were of the 20th century right up until the present day. The Iraqi super gun affair continued to attract attention as did other contemporary issues such as the Pergau dam, euthanasia, sport in schools, juvenile offenders, the control of pornography and politics and the press. The unprinted memoranda and evidence in the House of Commons committee papers continued to be used frequently for these purposes. Earlier 20th century topics included film propaganda during the First World War, Anglo-Polish relations 1920-26, British Disarmament 1919-1934, the General Elections of 1918 and 1929, the Abdication crisis, the British press and the Holocaust, the captured German files, and the legacy of Lloyd George to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death (26 March 1945). Studies in various aspects of Anglo-Irish history, the Conservative Party and Fascism continued to attract attention.

For the first time for many years the proportion of local studies decreased considerably from 20% to 14%. Areas covered included Wembury Harbour, Scottish highways and bridges, North Wales narrow gauge railway, Middlesex enclosures, the Stockport hatting industry, recusancy in Kendal and Lonsdale, Bath turnpike roads and Victorian Folkestone. Researchers from the History of Parliament Trust and one or two others have continued to work on parliamentary and constitutional aspects of history from the 16th to the 20th centuries. A wide variety of biographical studies included St Aspenquid - a 17th century Indian in Nova Scotia, Speaker Wingfield, Sir Charles Barry, A.W.N.Pugin, Ford Madox Ford, Lord Callaghan, Robert Bruce Lockhart and A.J.P.Taylor. Other topics included theatre suppression under Cromwell, interpretations of Hamlet, the 18th century Moravian church, marital discord and divorce, the
slave trade, Poor Law reform, the circus in 19th century Britain, contagious diseases, and George III for the film version of *The Madness of George III*.

10. ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE

The Architectural Archive is a growing resource of plans, illustrations and documents relating to the Palace of Westminster. Its archivist, Lady Wedgwood, continues to advise committees of both Houses, staff and members of the public.

Following the publication in September of the *Guide to the Speaker's House*, much research has been done on the Speaker's Coach, the oldest surviving State Coach in the country. Work on the listing of the drawings in the Moulton-Barrett volume is nearly complete.

Roberta Copsey has made considerable progress in transferring the Architectural Archive catalogue from a card index to a computer base. Lady Wedgwood works in close co-operation with the Parliamentary Works Directorate, particularly Terry Jardine, the Conservation Architect, and Malcolm Hay, the Curator of Works of Art.

11. PUBLICATIONS

The office's *Report for 1993* (HLRO Memorandum No 82) was published last summer. "Politicians and Archives", by H.S.Cobb, who retired as Clerk of the Records in 1991, was published in the *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, vol 15, no 2 (1994), to mark his presidency of the Society.

Lady Wedgwood contributed four chapters to Paul Atterbury and Clive Wainwright (ed.), *Pugin - a Gothic Passion* (1994) which was issued to coincide with the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.


12. VISITS, LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS

Staff gave talks to groups of students from the following colleges etc:

- Bolton School, Lancashire
- Clevedon School, Bristol
- Edinburgh University Graduates' Club (2 groups)
- Eton College
- Exeter University, History Department
- Historical Association Annual Conference
- Hull University, Economic and Social History Dept
Institute of Historical Research, Methods and Sources Course (3 groups)
Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society
Liverpool University, Archives Administration Course
London Archive Users Forum
London School of Economics, Economic History Dept
Meirion College, Dwyfor
Royal Holloway (Univ. of London), History Department
RIPA, Parliamentary Administration Course
University of Wales (Aberystwyth), Archives Administration Course
Westminster Local History Society

We were pleased to welcome several Members of both Houses, M. André Lanteigne from the New Brunswick government, and Parliamentary Clerks, Librarians, Archivists and other officers from the following countries:

Australia, Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

David Johnson gave lectures to the London and North Middlesex Family History Society, at Enfield and in London, to the North London branch of the Historical Association and to the Twickenham Women Citizens' Association; David Prior spoke to a meeting of the Society of Archivists Specialist Repositories Group; and Robert Harrison introduced the Record Office to new Parliamentary staff of both Houses on several induction courses.

A number of archive students and others spent weeks in the office to provide them with work experience and us with help in basic sorting and listing.

The programme of exchange visits with staff of other record offices, begun last year, has continued. House of Lords staff visited the British Library Manuscripts Room, the Greater London Record Office, the Royal Library at Windsor (in co-operation with the House of Commons Library), and the Muniment Room and Library of Westminster Abbey (under the auspices of the Greater London Archives Network). Visits were also arranged to the site of the new British Library at St Pancras and, for those concerned with our own map storage, the new map library there. In return we welcomed parties from the Public Record Office and the Greater London Record Office.

The Record Office contributed to the "Pugin - a Gothic Passion" exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in June, to the exhibition on Parliamentary Reporting which was opened by the Prime Minister in Dr Johnson's House in October, to the "London at War 1939-1945" exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in March, and to the French National Assembly Parliamentary Museum at Versailles. Perhaps the most satisfying example of "outreach" was the Record Office's contribution to the new design for the packaging of the House of Lords Scotch whisky.

13. MISCELLANEA
Photographs in the Record Office

The Record Office is used increasingly by picture researchers working on behalf of publishers, television companies, video and film makers seeking to identify illustrative material. Recent requests for illustrations have been received from the BBC for an exhibition about parliamentary reporting held in Dr Johnson's house and for a planned CD-ROM about the work of Parliament. Photographs of the Palace of Westminster Home Guard and of the munitions factory sited beneath the Palace of Westminster were reproduced in the ceremonial booklet for the Presentation of Addresses by both Houses of Parliament to HM the Queen in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the end of World War II. The imminent completion of a database of graphic records makes it opportune to summarise the main photographic collections and to explain arrangements for their use.

There are four main sources for photographic material: (i) special collections in the custody of the Record Office, (ii) photographic material contained amongst official records or collections of personal and political papers, (iii) photographs and negatives made or acquired in the compilation of the Architectural Archive of plans and drawings of the Palace of Westminster, and (iv) an amorphous collection of photographs, negatives, transparencies and slides commissioned or acquired by the Record Office since the 1950s. The main constituents of these four categories may be summarised as follows:

(i) Photograph albums containing portraits of MPs, some Clerks and others (HC Library Mss), 1856-99 and 1945, 24 volumes. (NB The House of Lords Library also has custody of 8 albums of photographs of Members of the Lords and Commons c.1865-75).

The Stone Collection of photographs (Historical Collection no 178, HC Library Ms 111): photographs of the interior and exterior of the Palace of Westminster and some groups taken by Sir Benjamin Stone MP between 1897 and 1910, 415 items. The negatives are held by the Local Studies Department, Birmingham Reference Library. (NB the main collection of Stone portraits of MPs is in the National Portrait Gallery.)

The Farmer Collection of photographs (Historical Collection no 96): negatives and photographs (black & white) of the interior and exterior of the Palace of Westminster taken for reproduction in Parliament Past and Present by A. Wright and P. Smith, c.1905, 354 items.

A collection of photographs of the Palace of Westminster formed by the Parliamentary Works Office (Historical Collection no 354): photographs of the interior and exterior of the Palace of Westminster including the Lying in State of Edward VII, George V, George VI, and Queen Mary, and war-time damage and post-war reconstruction, 1910-1980, 200 items (catalogued as part of the Architectural Archive).

(ii) Palace of Westminster Second World War Records include black and white photographs of the Home Guard, including their inspection by Winston Churchill.

There are photographs amongst the Bonar Law Papers, the Beaverbrook Papers, the Lloyd George Papers and the Samuel Papers, featuring prominent politicians such a Winston Churchill. The photographs are listed or summarised in the Search Room.
catalogues of those collections. Similarly, there are unlisted and unsorted photographs amongst the Davidson Papers, Sorenson Papers and Stansgate Papers.

(iii) The Architectural Archive largely consists of photographic reproductions of the original architectural drawings from which the Palace was built, 1835 to c.1866, and which are now held in the Public Record Office at Kew, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Royal Institute of British Architects. In addition, there is a substantial number of photographs of the exterior and interior as built, the earliest dating from 1869 and the most recent consisting of a photogrammetric survey begun by Plowman Craven in 1971. Among special collections are a survey of the building made in 1942 and a record of all the stained glass existing in 1985. All items have been catalogued in some detail.

(iv) Since the 1950s the Record Office has accumulated a diverse collection of 1,400 photographs, 490 negatives, 140 colour transparencies, and an unspecified number of 35mm slides mostly depicting parliamentary subjects. Amongst the subjects covered by the collection are State Openings of Parliament, the Presentation of Addresses by both Houses of Parliament to HM the Queen, the interior and exterior of the Palace of Westminster from 1939, early meeting places of both Houses of Parliament, temporary chambers used by the Lords and Commons during and after the Second World War, furniture and works of art in the House of Lords, Members and officials of both Houses of Parliament. Some of the most significant and well known records of Parliament dating from 1497 also feature strongly, including the Death Warrant of Charles I, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Draft Declaration of Rights, the Bill of Rights, the Articles of Union between England and Scotland and the Representation of the People Acts. Each image has been described on a database which enables rapid identification and retrieval of the essential references to the photographic records. The database is not yet available for online public access but it can be used under supervision by prior arrangement. The Record Office is willing to conduct searches in response to telephone or written requests and to supply print-outs from the database at the current charge for A4 photocopying.

The office is willing to loan negatives, transparencies and some photographs, but not original prints, subject to the borrower's agreeing to meet the full cost of replacement in case of loss or damage. Subject to prior arrangement the Record Office is pleased to permit photographers to photograph records in the office. A small fee will be charged for work involving close supervision by staff. For large-scale filming involving a crew with equipment, application should be made to Black Rod's Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

Publishers or producers should seek written agreement to the use of illustrations deriving from the Record Office. Permission is usually given subject to suitable acknowledgement and to payment of any reproduction fee. The current scale of fees for the commercial reproduction of records, and an identical tariff operated by the Curator of Works of Art, were brought into effect on 1 April 1994. A copy of the tariff is available on request. Reproduction fees may be waived or reduced, at the discretion of the Clerk of the Records, if use is intended for educational or charitable purposes without commercial gain.

Other sources of photographic records in the Palace of Westminster are the Office of the Curator of Works of Art, the Education Officer of the House of Commons Library and the Parliamentary Works Directorate.
The Madness of George III

From time to time the office is consulted by stage and film production teams about matters historical. In 1992, while Alan Bennett's play *The Madness of George III* was in production, we were questioned about the appearance of the Commons chamber, the Speaker's chair, and despatch boxes at the time of the Regency Bill of 1788-89. When the play was being transformed into a film, *The Madness of King George*, further questions about the architecture and decoration of the two Houses, the robes and regalia on display at a State Opening, and the format of a printed bill, were raised. Answers were found from our records, photographic collections, reference books - and even our small collection of despatch boxes - and Robert Harrison was invited to attend Shepperton Film Studios to advise during the shooting. Even so, artistic licence was frequently given a higher priority than historical accuracy.

The Articles of Union, 22 July 1706

As a result of the interest shown by Scottish peers, one of the best known constitutional documents in the Record Office has recently been put on permanent display in the Royal Gallery. This is the Articles of Union, which formed the basis of the union between England and Scotland in 1707.

Although King James VI of Scotland had succeeded to the English throne as James I in 1603, the two kingdoms remained separate; each jealously preserved its own religious and legal traditions and its own Parliament. During the next 100 years there were a few attempts to achieve closer union but rivalry over matters of trade was continuous and there were even periods of open warfare.

After the English Parliament had passed the Act of Settlement in 1701 (which provided for the English crown to pass to the Hanoverian dynasty if Queen Anne should die without an heir), the Scottish Parliament replied, in 1703, with its Act of Security (which reserved to the Scots the right to choose a different Protestant successor to the crown of Scotland unless their Parliament, religion, liberty and trade were secured against English influence). In turn the English Parliament threatened to treat all Scots as aliens and both sides began to take up arms.

Widespread Scottish fears of being absorbed by England were finally overcome - at least in the Scottish Parliament - by a combination of patronage and propaganda, so that on 22 July 1706 commissioners from the two countries were able to agree to a treaty, the Articles of Union. These provided that Scotland should send 45 MPs and 16 representative peers to one "Parliament of Great Britain". The Scots accepted the English royal succession, together with English customs and excise, coinage, weights and measures, but retained their own legal system. Most importantly, they were given the freedom to trade anywhere within Great Britain and the colonies.

Early in 1707 both Parliaments passed Acts to preserve "the true Protestant religion" as established in their respective countries - the Church of England in one and Presbyterianism in the other - and these safeguards were incorporated into the Acts ratifying the Articles of Union, which came into effect on 1 May 1707.
The Articles are engrossed in a slim parchment volume, the last two pages of which contain the signatures and red wax seals of the commissioners. In the Record Office - or English - version references are to England and Scotland and the English commissioners are listed in the left-hand column while the Scots are in the right. The Articles engrossed for the Scottish commissioners, which are now in the Royal Library, refer to Scotland and England and reverse the order of the signatories.

Rahno Walker's Travel Diary

The travel diary of Rahno Walker, Lord Beaverbrook's eldest sister, is a strange mixture of travelogue, personal and family history and press cuttings featuring various members of the family, including Lord Beaverbrook and his son Max Aitken. Apart from Rahno's impressions of Italy in particular, it gives details of Aitken Family history which cannot always be found in the Beaverbrook Papers. It covers much of the first half of the Second World War ending in 1943. There are American press cuttings of Beaverbrook with Churchill and Roosevelt in Washington in January 1942 and of Wing-Commander Max Aitken receiving the Czechoslovak War Cross from Dr Benes, President of Czechoslovakia.

Rahno Walker, who was widowed early in life after only two years of marriage, trained as a nurse and eventually headed the Children's Hospital at Columbus, Ohio. Later she became Superintendent of the Good Samaritan Hospital at Los Angeles. She had no children of her own but obviously followed the lives and careers of her many nephews and nieces with great interest. She was often accompanied in her travels by another widowed sister, Mrs Jean Stickney. Like her brother, Lord Beaverbrook, she suffered from asthma and once or twice, as she records in her diary, her travels were cut short by a severe attack. The diary of Rahno Walker was deposited by Michael Davie, biographer of Lord Beaverbrook.

David J. Johnson
July 1995
Clerk of the Records

APPENDIX I

DONATIONS OF REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS, 1994

The Clerk of the Records acknowledges with thanks the receipt of reports and other publications from the following institutions:

Australian Archives
Bank of England
Buckinghamshire Record Office
Canadian High Commission
Dyfed Archives Service
East Sussex Record Office
Gloucestershire Record Office
Birmingham Archives Service
Bodleian Library
British Library, Oriental and India

Clwyd Record Office
Hereford and Worcester Record Office
Hertfordshire Record Office
Lambeth Palace Library
Leicestershire Record Office
London, Corporation of
Princeton University Art Museum
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts
Royal Commission on the Historical
The Clerk of the Records also acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of the following books, offprints and other publications:

L. Conlon, *The Heritage of Collon 1764-1984* (Collon, Ireland, 1984);
C.J.L. Elwell, "Black Country Gas: Early Days - A Preliminary Survey" in *The Blackcountryman*, vol. 27, nos. 3 and 4 (1994);
V. Harrison, "The signatures on the walls of Queen's House, Linton, Cambridgeshire" in *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*, vol. 58, pt. 218 (1994);
G. Jenkins and J. G. Jones, *Lord Cledwyn Papers* (National Library of Wales, 1994);
J. D. Pearson (ed.), *A Guide to Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles relating to Africa* (1994);

**APPENDIX II**

**ACCESSIONS 1994**

The list of accessions which follows constitutes the 24th annual supplement to the *Guide to the Records of Parliament* (HMSO, 1971). Items marked with an asterisk are not yet accessible to the public and are, in the main, subject to the thirty year rule.

**House of Lords**

Clerk of the Parliaments' Office: Records 1991-94 (4 files)*

Committee Office: European Communities Select Committee and Sub-Committees A, B, D, E: 19 boxes 1992-94
Medical Ethics Select Committee: 5 boxes 1992-94
Science and Technology Select Committee and Sub-Committee 1: 6 boxes 1990-94

Journal and Information Office: Main Papers 1992-93, 1993-94 (45 bundles)
Manuscript minutes 1992-93 (6 boxes)
Printed minutes 1993-94 (3 vols.)
Journal 1992-93

Judicial Office: Appeal cases 1993 (34 vols.)
Leader of the House and Chief Whip: Records 1945-94 (70 files)*

Library: Deposited papers 1987-94

Parliament Office: Peers' War Memorial Fund papers 1971-76 (1 file)*

  House Bills 1993, 1994
  Plans 1988-93
  Transport and Works Act Orders and plans 1994-95

Public Bill Office: Original Acts 1993
  Bill files 1992-93
  House Bills 1992-93

Registry: Overseas and European Office papers 1978 (1 file)*

Staff Superintendent: Notice concerning sick leave 1934

House of Commons

Committee Office: (only memoranda reported but not printed open to public inspection)
  Accommodation and Works Committee: 1 file 1994-95
  Agriculture Committee: 1 file 1993-94
  Defence Committee: 1 file 1994-95
  Education Committee: 5 files 1992-95
  Employment Committee: 3 files 1993-95
  Environment Committee: 7 files 1992-94
  European Legislation Committee: 461 files 1969-92
  Foreign Affairs Committee: 2 files 1993-94
  Health Committee: 3 files 1993-95
  Home Affairs Committee: 2 files 1993-94
  Members' Interests Committee: 3 boxes and 2 files 1975-90
  Motor Mileage Allowance Enquiry: 1 file 1984
  Public Accounts Committee: 1 file 1993-94
  Science and Technology Committee: 3 files 1993-94
  Scottish Affairs Committee: 1 file 1993-94
  Services Committee: 21 boxes 1968-92
  Social Security Committee: 1 file 1994-95
  Trade and Industry Committee: 14 files 1992-95
  Treasury and Civil Service Committee: 2 files 1993-95
  Welsh Affairs Committee: 5 files 1993-95

Establishments Office: Records 1935-93 (454 files)*

House of Commons Commission: Records 1979-90 (3 boxes)*
Leader of the House: Records 1961-91 (244 files and 34 boxes)*

Parliamentary Works Directorate:* Records 1868-93 (c.2,000 files and 10 boxes)

Private Bill Office: Bill papers and plans 1984-94

Public Bill Office: Lords Bills not passed in the House of Commons 1991-92 (5 items), 1992-93 (7 items)

Speaker's Office: Records 1937-88 (2 files)*

House of Lords Record Office Historical Collections

6 items 1613-60 from the Manchester MSS. Purchased (Hist. Coll. 67, addnl. 4-5).


Horsham election committee proceedings 1807. Purchased (Hist. Coll. 386).

Declaration of 8 February 1810 made by Hon. G.Berkeley relating to his nephew Viscount Dursley. Purchased (Hist. Coll. 384).


Autograph parliamentary question submitted by W.E.Gladstone and directed to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. ND. Purchased (Hist. Coll. 389).


Note by C.S.Parnell 1888. Purchased (Hist. Coll. 382).


Video relating to Tony Benn MP. Hist. Coll. 387.


Miscellaneous
Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), House of Lords, 1979-92 (129 vols.)
Presented by Lady Wakehurst.

Printed Private Acts relating to the Duchy of Cornwall.
Presented by the Duchy of Cornwall Office.