

# DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

## WAR CHANGES

WAR HAS BEGUN TO MAKE INROADS UPON THE PERSONNEL of the Department staff. More may follow. Maynard F. Reece, the museum artist, has for some months been a member of the U. S. Army Signal Corps. Fortunately he is receiving his specialized training in communications work in Des Moines, which enables him to continue his services for the present in the Department. Kenneth E. Colton, Assistant Editor of THE ANNALS OF IOWA, has been called for service in the Army of the United States the last of October. Mr. Colton leaves after five years in the Department, during the latter portion of which time he has also been in charge of the private Manuscript Division, and the historical photograph files. Recently he has supervised the work of the War Records Division.

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WAR RECORDS RECEIVED DURING THE PAST QUARTER FOR THE Iowa War Records Division include radio scripts, broadsides, posters from the armed services and from private industries, advertisements and display literature, notices of ration restrictions enforced in businesses by government restrictions. Organizational reports and summaries of activities have likewise been obtained for the same files. A beginning has been made in the collection of "doughboy letters," notably a report of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

On September 20, Kenneth E. Colton, under whose charge the War Records division has been, was among others who spoke briefly to the institute meeting of the Iowa State Library Association in Des Moines. His subject was the opportunities for librarians to assist in preserving their community war records.

With the assistance of clerical help provided by the WPA War Information Service, bulletins have been prepared by the Department stating the purposes and functions of a War Records Commission and the role of the

library in preserving war records. Other bulletins are in preparation.

Continued additions to World War II popular sheet music have been made during the past quarter, supplementing the collection begun with the first week of Pearl Harbor. This material, assembled for the Iowa War Records Commission division, already surpasses in size the collection made of the first world war music.

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WITH THE RELAXATION OF STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS FOR delayed birth certificates in recent months, the Public Archives Division has witnessed a marked lessening in the rush for certifications of the census record. Efforts are now being made to complete an indexing and cataloging of the archival material which accumulated during the rush of census certification demands. This new index will supplant the earlier C. C. Stiles' index and bring up to date the accessioning and cataloging of the state records.

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THROUGH THE COURTESY OF MR. JAMES T. CRAIG, THE Newspaper Division has been presented by the Fred Robinson Estate with a complete file of the *Oelwein Daily Register* from 1906 to date.

A valuable addition to the files of the early newspapers in the Department has been made in the production of a microfilm of the *Iowa Sun and Davenport and Rock Island News*, 1838-1842, published in Davenport, Iowa. There is now available for the first time in the state a complete file in one place of all the known issues of this important paper, obtained from Davenport, Des Moines, and Washington, D. C. Plans are being formulated for similar projects on other early Iowa newspapers. The Department is anxious to begin microfilming the state papers in the "wood pulp era," which were at their worst between 1885 and the first World War. These papers have deteriorated rapidly during the past year due to the extra handling given them by persons in search of vital statistical records necessary to validate certificates filed with the Iowa State Board of Health.

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