



# e-Abhilekh

## **QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER**

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"Let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks...but by multiplication of copies..."

- Thomas Jefferson, 1791



It gives me pleasure to present the **e-Abhilekh** in a new look. The idea of the Newsletter took shape through a humble beginning made by the Department in April 2006 and continued till April 2009. It was then only confined to the activities of the National Archives of India.

The present revised version, however, promises to be more meaningful and purposeful. It has been planned with the objective of disseminating information for development of archives not only in the country but also around the world.

I hope that by sharing experience and information, we will be able to access and adopt the latest techniques in the field of Archives and open new vistas to help one another in carrying forward our efforts in conserving our archival wealth for the posterity.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions.



Pramod Jain, IAS
Director General of Archives

# **News from National Archives of India**

### **New Director General of Archives**

Shri Pramod Jain, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture took additional charge as Director General of Archives on 14 May 2013, succeeding Prof. Mushirul Hasan. Shri Jain studied in India, United Kingdom and USA and is widely travelled. He has two books to his credit and has handled many challenging assignments in his cadre.

#### **Records Management**

Advices was tendered to Ministry of External Affairs, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Indian Tourism development Corporation, New Delhi and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai for augmenting their records management mechanism and keep the system more effective.

Simultaneously a planned programme was launched for appraisal and transfer of the historically valuable public records lying in the Ministries by experts from NAI. The team appraised **41,518** files of the Rehabilitation Division and Freedom Fighter Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, Monopolies & Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata. They also entered references of **10,114** files on Archival Information Management System (AIMS) for online reference media.

#### **Exhibition**

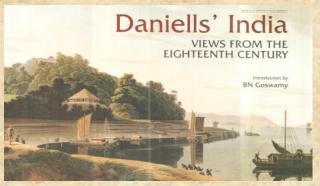
An exhibition entitled **PRS Mani:** An Indian Journalist in Indonesia was organized by this department in collaboration with University of Technology, Sydney. This exhibition was researched and curated by Prof. Heather Goodall and was inaugurated by Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharti, New Delhi in the presence of distinguished guests on 1 May 2013 at National Archives Museum.



Another exhibition on Display of **Facsimile** Copies of Oriental Records was organized in collaboration with Noor International Microfilm Centre. Iran Culture House, New Delhi at National **Archives** India from 2-17 May 2013.



#### **Publication**



Under the project 'Archives in India: Historical Reprints' a rare book from the holdings of Library of NAI entitled **Daniell's India: Views from the Eighteenth Century** was published.

#### Workshop



Two day's workshop for the Officers of various organizations under the Ministry of Culture was conducted at National Archives of India, New Delhi from 16-17 May, 2013. Orientation Course in Records Management was also conducted in the department from 10-14 June 2013 for Record Officers of various

Ministries/Departments/PSUs.

#### Deputation

Smt. Jayaprabha Ravindran, Assistant Director of Archives was deputed to present a paper entitled **Dance forms of Kerala: Symbol of traditional Culture** in the SAARC Regional Conference on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Culture Expressions of South Asia held from 29 April - 1 May 2013 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

#### Digitization

A programme has been initiated to digitize the private papers of eminent personalities presently in the custody of this Department. Among the collections proposed to be covered under this programme are papers of K.M. Pannikar, Sita Ram, K. M. Cariappa, K.M. Munshi, Jitendra Prasad, Babu Rameshwar Prasad, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Sardar Vallabh Patel's Microfilm Rolls.

#### **Important Visitors**

General J.J. Singh, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh visited NAI to consult records relating to Indo- China relations. Besides, Sh. J.S. Gill, former I.G., C.R.P.F., New Delhi and Prof. William R. Pinch from United States, Prof. Subrata Mitra from Germany and Prof. Jan Lucassen from Netherland were also consulted documents in the department.

Mr. Zakaria Aabid Al Kharusi, Head of the Documentation Classification Section and Mr. Zahir Hamoud Al Rawahi, Head of the Translation Section of the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman visited National Archives of India from 17-26 June, 2013 under Indo-Oman Memorandum of Understanding to consult the Catalogues and select the records of their interest from the holding of National Archives of India.

#### **Research facilities**

During the period, 203 Indian and 19 foreign scholars were freshly enrolled in the Research Room and availed research facilities in this department. **13,836 requisitions** were made by the Scholars for their research works.

### **School of Archival Studies**

During the period the following courses were conducted by the School of Archival Studies for the professional and sub-professionals.

Name of the Course	Period
67 <sup>th</sup> Short Term Certificate Course in Reprography	18 April- 17 May 2013
77 <sup>th</sup> Short Term Certificate Course in Servicing and	13 May 2013 to 21 June 2013
Repair of Records	0 2/26 20 20 2/22
76 <sup>th</sup> Short Term Certificate course in Record	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 to 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
Management	

### **Reprographic Services**

As a part of the security microfilming work of public records, 125 microfilm rolls were prepared from the records of Finance Department, Home Department (Jail), Ministry of States (Political Department 'B') and Military Department (ABC). Besides, 1,421 maps from the cartographic records were also scanned on A-O Size Scanner.

#### **Financial Assistance**

An Advertisement for providing financial assistance up to Rs. 50 lakhs to State/ Union Territory Archival Repositories, Government Libraries and Museums for conservation and preservation of Archival materials under the Grants-in aid Scheme appeared in daily newspapers on 11 May 2013.

# Regional Office, Bhopal

Shri Pramod Jain, Director General of Archives visited Regional Office Bhopal, on 14 June 2013 and reviewed the functioning of the Regional Office.





# **Record Centre, Puducherry**

Shri J.B.P.More, a famous historian and writer donated **2 Folders** containing photocopies of **11** items of the documents on **Darmanathan Prouchandy** which was first Indian Passenger ship in Indo-China during the year **1891** - **1900**. Besides, he also donated **12** historical books.

# State/UT Archives

## **Andhra Pradesh**

#### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

# Plans to digitize 25 lakh rarest documents

3.74 lakh documents already done

SUDMERE GOUTHAM
Hyderabad: He it the far mans and sanda fautheriat the records of various rulia mans and sanda fautheriat the records of various rulia transtes, or the Mugha records of Decean provine pertaining to the regin of pertaining to the regin of the present AP government, all the present AP government, all the present AP state Archives an Research Institute. The AP State Archives and Research Institute. The region of the regin of the region of the country. It is the treas ure house of extremely present and region in very large countercords in a very large countercords in a very large.



Documents of Asaf Jahi period that were preserved in chemical protected enclosure in AP State Archives and Research Institute. (Inset) APSARI Diretor Zassena Purvean Photos: Ray Gigaami.

nextees of various runing of manties of Decean such i. Apart from this, it also po seeses Mughal records date back to 1406 A.D, as well . how of Asat Jahi dynauty said Dr. Zareena Farvee Dr. Parveen told TF Hans India that the reposite ires of archives here are the richest in the world. The archives serve as primar archives serve as primar povernment as well as the search scholars working of the political, economic, as ministrative and social, cu Decean. It also preserves it family and private collectic of the above mentione rulers and distinguished pe sonalities in different languages including Persian Urdu. Telugu, English Urdu. Telugu, English Languages inchuling Persian Earlier, the Andh Record Office, Kurnool (the capital of AP from 193: 1956) continued as a brane of Central Record office of Hyderabad until April 3 were mergade and since the the records of secretariat department (G.O's) of the

revenue records, surve coords, proceeding, voice of revenue records, surve coords, proceeding, voice p

Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs 2 Crore annually for a period of 14 years for the digitization and preservation of the precious old records. The State Archives has accordingly taken up the task of digitization of 50 million records. The first phase of the grand digitalization Project was unveiled on 23 April 2013 and a total number of 3,73,134 documents of ex-Hyderabad Government of the year 1846 and Andhra Pradesh GOs 1920 onwards have been scanned/microfilmed and digitized.

The department has also taken up a project of National Mission for Manuscripts to repair 9,322 manuscript folios under preventive conservation and 1,515 under curative conservation.

## **Assam**

Shri Jishnu Baruah, IAS, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister took additional charge of the State Archives on 19 January, 2013. Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam inaugurated an Exhibition of Rare and old Photos of the erstwhile Chief Secretary, ICS Officers, Deputy Commissioners, Tea Planters, Miners of British period, on 19 April 2013. Besides, a digital Archives week was also celebrated during the period under report.





# Bihar



Mother of Late Prof. Vijay Kumar Thakur cutting the ribbon on occasion of book transfer to Bihar State Archives.

4354 books from the personal collection of Prof. Upendra Thakur and Prof. Vijay Kumar Thakur were transferred to Bihar State Archives. The archival material was also collected from contemporary newspapers and legislative council and Assembly papers for a publication on **Thinking and Ideology** of Dr. Srikrishna Sinha and Dr. Anugraha Narayan Sinha.

## Delhi

The request for proposal for the Project of Digitization/ Micro-filming of archival records is under active consideration of the Government. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 50 Crore and will be completed in 6 years. The Department has engaged NISG as Consultant for execution of the Project.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has accepted the proposal of hosting 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National Committee of Archivists (NCA) in Delhi. Besides, Department has also planned an exhibition based on archival records and photographs on *Shahjahanabad*.

# Haryana

Dr.Ashok Khemka, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary has taken the charge of Haryana State Archives on 5 April 2013. A State Advisory Committee comprising eminent Historians has recently been formed to bridge the gap between Historians and Archivists. The Archives will initiate efforts to survey and acquire records, manuscripts, private papers with the assistance of the Committee.

An exhibition was also organized by the Haryana State Archives to pay a tribute to the great revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev on the martyrdom day on 23 March 2013 and continued till 20 April 2013. It also portrayed glimpses of non-cooperation movement in Haryana.

## Mizoram

Mizoram State Archives has now focused on collection of important photographs which are being kept under private custody. Approximately 500 old photos have been collected



under the project.



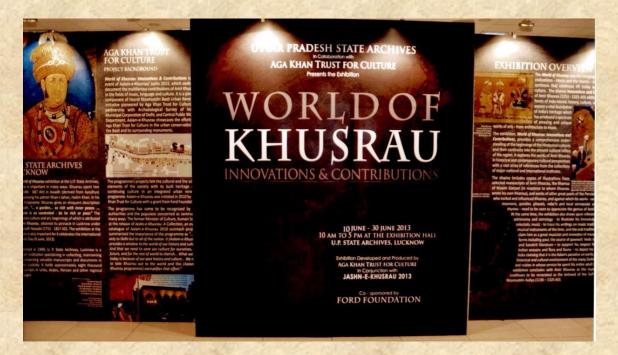
(Former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi during her visit to Mizoram, 1972)

(Mr. Ch. Chhunga, the First Chief Minister of Mizoram addressing Independence Day speech , 1975)

# Punjab

In collaboration with United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, a workshop of the monitoring panel for all the tangible and intangible heritage of Punjab was organised on 7 June 2013. The Punjab State Archives is actively associated with programme for the conservation of archival heritage under the intangible heritage.

## **Uttar Pradesh**



An archival exhibition was organized on 'Mutiny in Jhansi' at Jhansi by Regional Archives Allahabad on 23 April 2013. Another archival exhibition on 'Heritage and its Preservation' was organized in Gurudham Temple Campus, Varanasi by Regional Archives Varanasi on 18 April



2013. On occasion of International Archives Day, an exhibition on Amir Khusrau 'Innovation and Contribution' was held from 9-30 June 2013 with the objective to promote his contributions to a composite culture, universal brotherhood and to popularize the common language Hindevi and Folk performance etc.

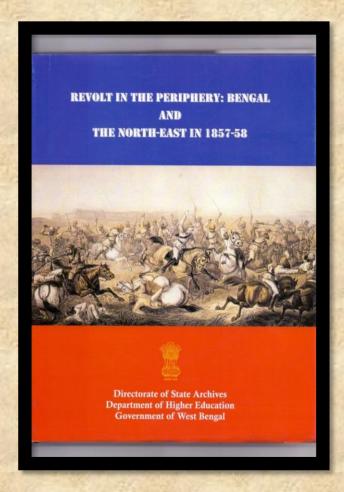
# **West Bengal**

The annual exhibition entitled Women revolutionaries of Bengal and Indian Freedom Movement was organised by the department. This exhibition was based on glass slides and photos from the Intelligence Bureau's files which is one of the important collections of State Archives. In this exhibition an attempt was made to portray the role of lesser known women who were convicted for their political movement during the freedom struggle. The recruitment of women from various districts to the Rani of Jhansi regiment was one of the important aspects of the exhibition.



Mr.Bratya Basu, Hon'ble Minister, Higher School Education launched the website of the Directorate of State Archives (wbdte.in). A digitization project for the proper preservation of Survey Maps of the British period has been taken up and approximately 700 maps of Kolkata have been digitized. These maps are of 19<sup>th</sup> Century and provide information on urban history of Kolkata wherein drainage, road and buildings etc., have been portrayed. Besides,

approximately 300 maps of Sunderban area have also been digitized which reflects meticulous survey of the British administration on ecologically sensitive region during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



A publication based on exhibition Revolt in the periphery of Bengal and The Northeast in 1857-58 was also released during the period.

# The Archives of Business

## **Reserve Bank of India Archives**



The Reserve Bank of India Archives (RBIA) Pune, earlier known as Central Records and Documentation Centre (CRDC) was established on August 24, 1981 with the twin objective of serving as a repository of non-current permanent records and as Central Archives of the Reserve Bank of India for research purposes.

Dr. D. Subbarao, Governor, Reserve Bank of India inaugurated the Archives Museum on 1 June 2010 and the exhibits in the Museum are on the theme "Evolution of Reserve Bank of India, 1935 – 2010." Tracing the journey of the Reserve Bank of India for 75 years. These documents provides visuals and vignettes that transcend time and help RBI go down to the institutional memory lane. A special Exhibition on the History of Cooperative Movement in India, 1904 – 1982 is on display since November 2012. The Museum is open to public on all working days (Monday to Friday) from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.



(Dr. R.L.Sahoo, Chief Archivist with Mr. Hashim Kirungi, Principal Banking Officer, Bank of Uganda during his visit to RBI Archives on 29 June 2013)

# State Bank Archives and Museum

The Chairman of the State Bank of India visited State Bank Archives and Museum, Kolkata on 24 May 2013. Besides, Shri Raghupathi N Cavale, Vice President of Infosys and Shri Prashant Dalmia, Hindustan Lever Ltd. were among the other prominent visitors to the Archives during the period. State Bank Archives and Museum is open to the visitors between 2.30 to 5.00 in the afternoon on all the working days of the Bank from Tuesday through Friday.



R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, once a Dewan of Cochin; free India's first Finance Minister. He was also briefly a member of the Madras Local Board and a shareholder of the Imperial Bank.

## **Jindal Steel Works Archives**



Jindal Steel Works group, part of O. P. Jindal Group is a late entrant in the steel making industry in India. When the industry grew by leaps and bounds, the need for a Business Archives was felt and the Archives was set up in 2006 at the JVSL, Vijayanagar, Bellary, Karnataka. The Archives is in nascent stage and holdings are comprised of documents,

photographs, CDs/DVDs and in-house journals etc.

# **Godrej Archives**

The Godrej Archives Organized a month long exhibition as a part of the concluding celebrations of Sohrab Godej's Centenary Birth Year. The company which is synonymous with the metal almirahs, refrigrators, type writers, soaps and locks provided a chance to common man to see the historical artefacts relating to Sohrab Godrej, a great visionary of his time. One of

the striking features of the exhibition is a Photo mosaic made of 1200 smaller photographs of Sohrab Godrej and they are arranged in such a manner that when it is seen from a distance it resembles a portrait of Sohrab Godrej. The exhibition also featured an audio kiosk where visitors could listen to the recording of Sohrab Godrej talking about his uncle Ardeshin and Father Pirojsha, the founding father of Godrej.





#### SOHRAB GODREJ (1912 - 2000)

#### THE RESTLESS VISIONARY

An Exhibition by Godrej Archives

#### Date:

3rd June to 3rd July 2013 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Venue:

Pragati Kendra, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. Pirojshanagar, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai

#### RSVP:

archives@godrej.com



# **Other Institutions**

# **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**

NMML has added approximately 33 Private Papers of eminent personalities and institutions from the field of Social Activism, Economics, History, Judiciary, Civil Service, Literature, Science, Ecology and Environment, Politics, Drama and Theatre to their private paper collections. Some of the important private paper collections are – papers of Chandra Shekhar (former Prime Minister of India), Acharya Ramchandra Shukla & Munshi Premchand (writer), D. D. Kosambi (Historian), Y. Subbarow (Scientist), Natwar Singh (Diplomat and Parliamentarian). Besides, Private Papers of Natrang Pratisthan, New Delhi and Unnayan Group, Kolkata have also been collected in the NMML.

To enrich the Oral History Collection, NMML has interviewed Mohsina Kidwai, Member of Parliament, Chandralekha Mehta (daughter of Vijayalakshmi Pandit), Chandi Prasad Bhatt, eminent environmentalist, Dr. Ashok Desai, and Dr. Shankar Acharya, renowned economist. A special project to interview personalities from Northeast has also been taken up.

# National Library, Kolkata

Honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha has appointed a Committee on "Digitization and Microfilming



of Parliamentary Proceedings" in order to create a website for public access. National Library, Kolkata is committed to give more than 1,800 digitised government publications from the holdings of the Library. Accordingly 1,294 such documents in PDF format have already been given to the Parliament Library in two instalments.

Besides, 1,076 books in Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi and Urdu containing 3,01,629 pages have also been digitized.

# Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

The Cultural Archives of IGNCA has recently acquired the collections of Anand K Coomaraswamy and Dr. Kapila Vatsayan. The documentation of these collections is under process. The Archives of the IGNCA has mainly five categories of artifacts: Sahitya (literature), Vatsu Silpa (architecture), Sangita (Music), Nritya (dance), and Natya (drama).

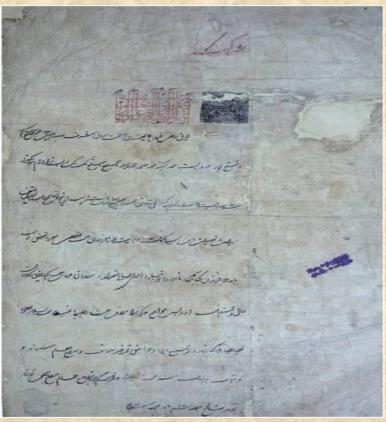


It has a sizeable quantum of analog tapes both audio and video, music records, spools and reel films. Keeping in view, the end user of the archives mainly students and researchers, a User's Room is being set up with adequate equipment to facilitate listening and viewing. Recently, some films from the archives of IGNCA made by Late Jai Chandiram were screened for public viewing. The archive is planning to have a photography exhibition on the works of Sunil Janah in the coming months.

# Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna

The Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library is essentially known for its rich collection of manuscripts. Some important and interesting archival documents are also preserved in this Library. The highlights of these valuable documents include *Farmans* and *parwanas*, mostly of the later Mughal rulers and also a few from the reigns of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb. Besides, the Court judgments from the East India Company also form a major part of the collections.

The display of some of these documents may be seen in this library.



(Farman relating to a land grant made in the subah by a noble of Jahangir)



Exhibition on Arabic Manuscript on the occasion of World Heritage Day, 18 April 2013

# **Special Feature**

# 9th June: International Archives Day

In 2004, at the International Congress in Vienna, the 2000 participants adopted a resolution requesting the United Nations to create an International Archives Day.

The UNESCO General Conference at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session in 2005 at Paris proclaimed the 27<sup>th</sup> October as the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage. The World Day is an appropriate opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of audio-visual archives. It brings new incentives to the benefit of the preservation of these archives. This was an excellent initiative, but these are not the only archives that are at risk and in need of attention.

This is the reason ICA decided at its Annual General Meeting in November 2007 to launch the International Archives Day by its own, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June because on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1948, the International Council on Archives was created under the auspices of the UNESCO. This choice was adopted by ICA Executive Board, and adopted by the archives community as a whole.

Through the International Archives Day, we can:

- Raise awareness among the public about the importance of records and archives, in order to make it understood that records and archives provide the foundation for their rights and identity;
- Raise the awareness of decision makers about the benefits of records management;
- Raise the public, private and public sectors' awareness about the necessity of preserving archives for the long-term, and of providing access to them;
- Promote and bring to the attention of the larger public unique, extraordinary and rare documents preserved in archival institutions;
- Improve the image of records and archives and enhance their visibility globally.

#### International Societies of Archival world

- 1. International Council on Archives: <a href="http://www.ica.org">http://www.ica.org</a>
- 2. Society of American Archivist: <a href="http://www2.archivists.org/">http://www2.archivists.org/</a>
- 3. Association of Canadian Archivist : <a href="http://archivists.ca/">http://archivists.ca/</a>
- 4. Society of Archivist (U.K. Ireland): <a href="http://www.archives.org.uk/">http://www.archives.org.uk/</a>
- 5. Australian Society of Archivist : <a href="http://archiveslive.ning.com/">http://archiveslive.ning.com/</a>
- 6. The Business Archives Council: www.businessarchivescouncil.org.uk
- 7. British Records Association: <a href="http://www.britishrecordsassociation.org.uk/">http://www.britishrecordsassociation.org.uk/</a>
- 8. International Records Management Trust: <a href="http://www.irmt.org/">http://www.irmt.org/</a>
- 9. Association of Commonwealth Archivist and Record Managers: http://www.acarm.org

# **Archives around the World**

#### Australia

The National Archives of Australia holds a large collection of 20th Century migration records including records of child migrants. Many schemes that operated between Britain and Australia were run by non-government organisations. Even though many of these records are not held by the Archives there are records that reveal how these organisations operated and how successful they were. To learn some amazing history about child migration to Australia a free public seminar was organised on 15 and 19 June 2013 at National Archives of Australia, 16 Corporate Drive, CANNONHILL, QLD 4170



(530 British children aboard the Fairsea eager for a look at their new home)

## Bangladesh

Friends of Archives celebrated the International Archives Day on 9 June 2013. They organized a seminar on the importance of Archives Day and Right to Information for the young college and university students. On this occasion, they published articles in the daily newspapers and also persuaded the daily newspapers to arrange a roundtable on the importance of Record Management in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects.

#### Japan

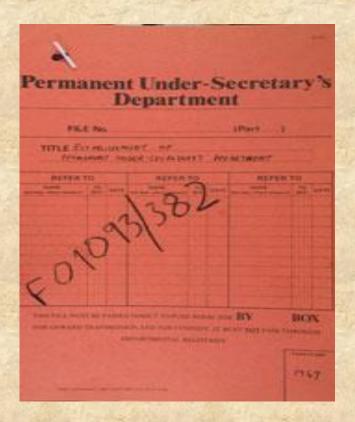
Mr. Takeo Katoh, took over as President, National Archives of Japan on 3 June 2013.

#### **United Kingdom**

Hundreds of previously secret files concerning the role of British intelligence in the World War II and the early cold war period were released. In 2005, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) released the first tranche of records from the Permanent Under-Secretary Department (PUSD), the department responsible for liasioning with the UK's intelligence agencies. Further

463 pieces have now been released in to the FO 1093 series, covering the period 1939-1951, as well as 17 pieces from 1903-1913.

In addition, a collection of more than hundred files from the Cabinet Secretary's miscellaneous papers have been released for the first time into a new series, CAB. The papers, which cover 1936-1951, deals with the organisation and funding of British intelligence. A selection of newly released files can be viewed online.



#### **United States of America**

Founders Online, a website was created through a cooperative agreement between the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and The University of Virginia (UVA) Press. This website promises to be of immense value for the public's ability to understand the world and intentions of the nation's founders. It also provides a bold economic, educational, and technical model that will provide important lessons to we plan future efforts for online publication of historical material. Altogether, some 1, 75,000 documents are projected to be on the Founders Online site.

To commemorate 6th International Archives Day, the International Council on Archives has produced a poster in French, English and Spanish.

# INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES DAY

9 June 2013



# Patron

# Mr. Pramod Jain, IAS, Director General of Archives Editorial Desk

Mr. Rajmani, Assistant Director of Archives

Dr. K. C. Jena, Archivist

Mr. J. K. Luthra, Microphotographist

Mr. Sanjeev Thingnam, Assistant Archivist

Mr. Deepak Ahlawat, LDC

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