in Albany who advises the archivist to initiate the search for EDP system documentation as early as possible in the development of computer systems — "by waiting until after a record, file or program has served its immediate goal, the archivist who seeks documentation provokes adversary situations with valuable resource personnel." Even the three national archival contributions from London, Washington and Ottawa are hesitant in predicting very positive progress (the Public Record Office was a jot more optimistic than others, curiously enough) in identification and inventorying, let alone acquisition and processing.

Geda's volume contains a number of pieces devoted to quantitative research. Allan Bogue (University of Wisconsin-Madison) tries to see problems of availability and access from the client's viewpoint and raises some important concerns about the tension between computer data bank generation and disappearance of significant social data through attempts to preserve privacy. And Meyer Fishbein, who is always worth reading, lays out never too many times what appraisal of machine-readable records is all about. If he errs, it is on the side of caution — "archivists are justified in requesting the continued retention of the files and related documentation until a reasonable discussion is reached." To which one might reply, the archivist can certainly request but who will make sure it is done?

In 1970, Jay Atherton saw what he wryly observed as "the dignity of the archivist" as the main drawback to understanding and using automation. A decade later stuffiness has been tossed out of the shop. It is the absence of the opportunity to learn that is the present obstacle. Michael Cook, Carolyn Geda and their colleagues have done much to extend that opportunity.

Gordon Dodds
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Selected writings of Sir Hilary Jenkinson. Edited by ROGER H. ELLIS and PETER WALNE. London: Alan Sutton in collaboration with the Society of Archivists, 1980. 380 pp., 21 illus., ISBN 0 904387 52 6. £14.

This 380 page compendium consists of 25 texts written by Sir Hilary Jenkinson at various times between 1915 and 1960 dealing with a wide range of topics, such as tallies, diplomatic, palaeography, the profession, arranging records, seals, wartime measures and so on. The book's purpose is twofold, according to the editors: "as biographers to indicate from his writings the development of Sir Hilary's thought and the range of his experience as an archivist, and as archivists to offer to their colleagues, collected and accessible, the best of those papers relating to archive practice which are still valid and basic to the archivist's equipment."

The effort to rescue, if not from oblivion at least from the dusty pages of bygone issues of learned journals, examples of Jenkinson's works is laudable indeed. It is surprising that a full bibliography of his works (such as that published in the 1957 Festschrift compiled in his honour) was not included. Such a full bibliography would have indicated those periods of activity in Jenkinson's life and enabled the reader better to appreciate the significance of individual items in the work under review. The selections would, as it were, then be seen in context, whereas at present they appear more like random samples, which they are surely not.

Some commentary on the background to each selected article would have heightened the intrinsic interest of the book. How many times did Jenkinson visit Italy before, during or after the Second World War? How active was he in the Jewish Historical Society? Did he actually work on their collections? How receptive was he to the establishment of the professional

Society of Local Archivists by Holworthy in 1946? Biographical notes on the life and work of the master would also have lent much to this volume.

The editors have done well in handling the formidable task of selecting what they consider to be the most significant writings in the context of their dual objectives. The cross section reflecting Jenkinson's catholic interests in various fields of his profession is impressive. His intellectual examination of a variety of topics, his methodology, presentation and conclusions stand the test of time well, providing exemplars for later generations of archivists. The numerous antiquarian themes based on mediaeval and early modern archives may have little practical use to most of today's and tomorrow's archivists, but the methodology is invaluable. Perhaps one minor critical observation may be offered. In a book of 380 pages, was the allocation of 62 pages and 8 plates (out of a total of 21) to mediaeval tallies really justified? The 35 pages of the article itself are excellent, but was it necessary to reproduce all 23 pages of the third appendix, which is a transcript and analysis of private tallies? Would not a page or two of this remarkable table have been sufficient to indicate to present day archivists the apparatus expected of them as regards setting out supportive evidence? Incidentally, it appears that although the appendix's table required a double page spread, it appears with the righthand matching page on the dorse of each leaf, making it extremely difficult to follow. Was the original in *Archaeologia* like this or was something lost in the conversion to the present book under review? One would have welcomed an explanatory note from the editors.

Apart from this, the only other criticism is, of course, that Jenkinson's style of writing is at times very hard to follow. It is a matter of opinion whether it is a good example of classical English or not. However Jenkinson's written emanations may have been valued in his working lifetime, they would fare badly in a present day assessment by the "communications" generation. Indeed, the rambling sentences (admittedly beautiful and correct from a grammarian's viewpoint) are irksome and frequently tend to obscure his thoughts. Even if Jenkinson's ornate classical style may have been acceptable to his contemporaries and peers, it must be recognized that it is now alien to most English-speaking archivists and not conducive to a ready understanding of the subject.

The book has some usefulness to students but it would appear to belong to the "desirable" rather than the "must" category. Practising archivists may dip into it on occasion with profit, but it is unlikely to be in constant demand.

A.D. Ridge

The Making of a Code: the Issues Underlying AACR2. Edited by DORIS HARGRETT CLACK. Chicago: American Library Association, 1980. vii, 256 p. ISBN 0 8389 0309 6 pa. $15.00

> *In the library cataloguers come and go*
> *Talking of rules U.S. and Anglo*

Like its predecessor first edition (1967), the second edition of the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (1978) has been the subject of several post-publication conferences, dozens of workshops throughout North America, and numerous articles and interpretive monographs. The essays in this book, a theoretical examination of the rules and their complex development, were presented at one such conference held in Tallahassee, Florida, between March 11-14, 1979. Among the participants were several key figures in the creation of *AACR2*, including Michael Gorman, a joint editor, and Ronald Hagler, a professor in the