

While he was Under-Secretary of State, there was a sub-division in his Department and under his supervision which dealt with historical and official records. This Records Branch was under a special official called the "Keeper of the Records". (Mr. A. Audet). It was utilized not only by students and researchers, but as an information source for other government departments, and in the preparation of replies to questions asked in Parliament. Pope took a great personal interest in it and its ultimate re-organization. In letters which he wrote to Mr. Mulvey in 1912, concerning books exchanged between the two Departments, Pope used to refer to the library in the Secretary of State's Department, "which I founded".

In the calendar year 1901, the number of requisitions for documents and information was some 252, and Mr. Audet reported / the researches thereby necessitated amounted to 1,289. Of the printed documents asked, 531 were found and 243 were not in the Office. The classifying and indexing of old documents progressed "in spite of several adverse circumstances," and some 10,794 papers and documents were dealt with, forming 2,244 new files. (1) The work continued in the following year, 1902; "the searches were not quite 68 per cent of the number made the previous year but in reality they require more time and work on account of the increased quantity of demands for information anterior to the year 1841." (2)

(1) Annual Report of the Secretary of State, 1901.

(2) Ibid. 1902.

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trained clerks to index, decipher and preserve the documents. Hence the profession of archivist arose, and with it the science of palaeography - the science that is, of verifying and deciphering ancient documents. These two occupations were, until late in the seventeenth century, called "res diplomatica" or "diplomatic business", namely, the business of dealing with archives and diplomas. (Harold Nicolson: Diplomacy.)