

OCTOBER 1966

## FINDING AIDS

531

*Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits*, comp. by Sylvia Meagher. (New York & London, Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1966. iv, 150 p. \$4.)

For both the archivist administering them and the researcher seeking access, the records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy—some 300 ft. constituting a part of Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions, and Boards, in the National Archives—are best viewed through the Commission's *Report* (Washington, 1964; xxiv, 888 p.) and *Hearings* (26 vols.; Washington, 1964). The *Report* carries its own index (p. 880-888), confined to personal and other proper names; each of the first 15 volumes of *Hearings* is supplied with a contents list of persons whose testimony is printed in the volume; in vol. 15 (p. 753-801) there is a name index to the testimony in all 15 volumes; and vols. 16-26 of *Hearings* each list in numerical order, and in their several series, the exhibited documents or objects they reproduce or portray. Personal name or subject relationships between the *Report* proper and the testimony and exhibits, however, cannot be discovered through any combination of indexes or lists; this deficiency Mrs. Meagher has corrected in her most useful work.

The Meagher *Subject Index* classifies "all elements in the assassination and subsequent crimes as well as the background and history of the principals" insofar as the *Report* and *Hearings* reveal those elements, and most conveniently it incorporates and even extends the citations to exhibited documents given in appendix 18 of the *Report*. This reviewer marvels at the ease with which he has been able to turn to a passage of the testimony or to find a par-

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4, OCTOBER 1966

532

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

ticular exhibited document through Mrs. Meagher's aid, and he is especially grateful for her revelation of facets of unexpected information. As though this assistance were not enough, she presents separately a name index, intended to supplement the index on p. 753-801 of vol. 15 (the last volume of testimony) by adding exhibit numbers, the names of persons present when witnesses were examined, and references to persons whose names were omitted in the vol. 15 index. Inclusion of the exhibit numbers relieves the researcher of the task of finding an exhibit reference in the text of *Hearings* if he wishes to see a particular document; and the listing of Commission members and counsel and of observers present when testimony was taken provides the possibility of ferreting out such minute detail as the interventions by Commission Chairman Earl Warren. Finally, in a "Key to Name Index by Descriptive Category," Mrs. Meagher groups the approximately 550 names that figure in this most extraordinary investigation. One may turn to this key to discover, for instance, whether an obscure name is categorized among "Witnesses of the Assassination," "Associates or Acquaintances, General Walker," "Witnesses of the Tippit Murder," "Press and Other News Media," or elsewhere.

It is of interest to note that recently published allegations about the manner of the investigation—in Sylvan Fox, *The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's Assassination*; Harold Weisberg, *Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report*; Edward Jay Epstein, *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*; and Mark Lane, *Rush to Judgment*—may now be checked with less trouble. Léo Sauvage, in the "American Postscript" included in the English translation of his *L'Affaire Oswald*, p. 418, deems Mrs. Meagher to be "the only person in the world who really knows every item hidden in the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits."