

Foreword

THE HISTORY of UNRRA was prepared jointly by all members of the history staff. Ascription of specific chapters to specific individuals would, therefore, be incorrect.

Under the direction of Dr. Grace E. Fox, the work of preparation started practically with the start of UNRRA. From the formal creation of an "Office of the Chief Historian," the staff fell into two groups: the secretaries, and the senior staff. The secretaries were all good. They were not only, mechanically, good secretaries; they were interested in the work, and all have made a most valuable contribution. I should like to take this opportunity to express my very great appreciation of their work, devotion, and good humor. They were Mrs. William (Dorothy Clark) Gibbs (United States); before her deserved promotion to the research staff, Emily E. Jack (United States); Mary Orringe (United Kingdom); Sonia Cohen (United States); Audrey McLean (Canada); and Mrs. Frank (Cecilia Walker) Dwyer (Canada).

The senior staff, as is the way of large organizations, were assigned to positions with different names (purely fictional) and different grades. These positions are not worth recording. The members were as follows:

	<i>Period of Service on the History Staff</i>
Roger Carter (United Kingdom), M.A., Cambridge University	January - August 1947
Dorothy K. Clark (United States), Ph.D., Radcliffe College	September 1946 - May 1949
N. M. Ekserdjian (United Kingdom), B.A., London School of Economics	August 1947 - March 1949
Grace E. Fox (United States), Ph.D., Columbia University	September 1946 - March 1949
E. Jay Howenstine (United States), Ph.D., Ohio State University	March 1947 - July 1948
Emily E. Jack (United States), B.S., Simmons College	August 1948 - May 1949
Fritz G. A. Kraemer (United States), LL.D., University of Frankfurt; Pol.Sc.D., University of Rome	February - July 1948

- Thomas J. Mayock (United States), M.A., Bucknell University, January 1947 – December 1948
- Lola Mayer (United States), M.A., University of Washington, November 1947 – June 1948
- K. Rosemary Miller (United Kingdom), Barrister, Gray's Inn, March 1947 – March 1949
- Hansi P. Pollak (South Africa), M.A., Witwatersrand University; Dip., New York School of Social Work, October 1947 – June 1948
- Harry B. Price (United States), M.A., Yale University, February – August 1948 (part time thereafter through March 1949)
- Mrs. James (Edith) Wellwood (United Kingdom), October 1946 – July 1947
- George Woodbridge (United States), Ph.D., Columbia University, September 1946 – March 1949

Of these individuals, Roger Carter and Edith Wellwood worked for the History Office only in London; Harry Price and Lola Mayer, in China as well as in Washington; N. M. Ekserdjian, K. R. Miller, and I, in London as well as in Washington; the others, only in Washington. Various members of the staff, such as Dr. Fox and Dr. Clark, had worked on the History project before the formal establishment of the Office. Dr. Clark, furthermore, undertook the onerous work of supervising the final preparation of the manuscript for presentation to the publishers, the reading of proof, and the preparation of the index.

Some of the members of the staff were recruited particularly to work on the History; others had held operating positions in the Administration before they joined the History Office. Among these, one was attached to the Relief Services Department, European Regional Office; one was Chief Executive Officer of the Italy Mission; one was Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Supply, European Regional Office; one was Deputy Chief of Welfare, British Zone, Displaced Persons Operations, Germany; one was Assistant Director of the China Mission; and another was Special Assistant to the Personal Representative of the Director General, European Regional Office.

Although any number of articles in newspapers and periodicals and some sections of some books have appeared about UNRRA, there have been, to date, few that can be considered serious studies of the work of UNRRA, with the possible exception of the health (see *Report of the Director General for the Period July 1947 to 31 December 1947*

and *Summary of Operations 9 November 1943 to 31 December 1947* [Washington, D.C., 1948], pp. 355-358) and welfare fields. The use of such published materials is clearly indicated in the footnotes.

The United Kingdom Foreign Office and the United States Department of State kindly permitted us to use their files dealing with the formation of UNRRA. The Canadian Government equally kindly supplied us with copies of their documents dealing with this subject. The use of this material, principally in Part One, Chapter I, is shown in the footnotes. I should like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the many officials of these Governments who assisted us in this aspect of our work.

The main reliance, by intention and necessity, was on the vast mass of UNRRA documents. This material falls into two distinct groups.

It was planned that, throughout the entire organization, monographs should be prepared by experienced members of each division in each office and mission. Appropriate instructions were distributed throughout the Administration. It was understood that the position of the writers would be fully protected. The response was, on the whole, gratifying. Over 600 monographs were prepared, more than 100 by the China Mission alone. One from the Greece Mission ran to 697 single-spaced, typewritten, foolscap pages. The monographs varied, of course, in quality and usefulness but did supply an immense amount of important material. They have been and will be kept together as a separate part of the UNRRA files, when these are deposited with the United Nations for preservation. Throughout the History we have indicated our use of this material by prefacing the word "monograph" to all references to these documents. I should like to express our deep gratitude to the many authors who made a most important contribution to the History. I am afraid they may feel that we have not done them justice or given them sufficient credit. If this be true, it is not a result of any lack of appreciation on our part of the valuable nature of their contribution to our work. It should be remembered, by anyone else who may in the future have occasion to consult these monographs, that they were not prepared by trained scholars, but by individuals familiar with one particular aspect of the work of the Administration and often quite ignorant of other aspects. They must, therefore, be checked against other sources and considered against a background of wide knowledge of the Administration.

The other and, of course, larger and even more important group of UNRRA material consisted of the mass of working documents accumulated by the Administration during its nearly five years of active existence. Some of this material has been printed or mimeographed and distributed to libraries. We have listed such material (Appendix Two) if it was given fairly wide distribution and have tried, wherever possible, to use such material for reference purposes.

The material, as a whole, included Council documents, Committee documents, agreements with governments and other organizations, the Director General's reports, financial reports, special reports, periodic reports prepared by divisions, bureaus, missions, offices, and other administrative units, cables, letters, intra-administration memoranda, invoices, bills, bills of lading, and many other types. Documents which had accumulated in several hundred offices in nearly fifty countries were ultimately all shipped to Washington. It has not been easy to use this material. The filing systems, if any, differed from one office to another. Documents were scattered, poorly arranged, and unindexed. The culled records which will be deposited with the United Nations will alone, it is estimated, amount to more than fifty million sheets of paper. We have received immense help from Cyril Paquin, Chief Records Officer, and his staff. Without their ever-willing assistance we could hardly have accomplished anything. Our gratitude to them is immeasurable. When they complete their work, about nine months after we have finished ours, the documents will have been arranged in a more logical, usable manner; we, however, worked and finished long before any such results were achieved.

We have indicated in the footnotes the nature of this miscellaneous material by using in our references the words "cable," "letter," "memo," etc.

The Council and Committee documents present no difficult problem. They were all carefully numbered, with an appropriate symbol indicating the Council or Committee. The First Council Session used a numbering system peculiar to itself, its documents being labeled "Reception" followed by a number and then a further symbol indicating to which particular part of the Council the document related, such as plenary sessions, committee meetings, etc. The Reception numbers were never repeated and, therefore, by themselves give complete identification. In the other five Council Sessions a standard system was used.

Each paper was given a Council number and a document number, such as, "Council II Document 38" or "Council IV Document 138." This number, which gives complete identification, was likewise followed by symbols indicating the particular part of the Council to which the document related.

Committee documents were recorded by committee, by year, and with continuous numbers. Thus a Central Committee document was labeled "CC(44) 11"; a Committee of the Council for Europe document, "CCE(45)7"; and a Committee on Financial Control document, "CFC(46) 23." These numbers give complete identification. We have sometimes added, however, when we believed it would be a convenience to the reader, an indication of the date and nature of the document, such as, "minutes 12th meeting," or "letter, Lehman to Hull, 12 February 1944." For such cases the date given is the operative date, that is, the date on which the meeting was held or the letter dispatched—not the date appearing on the document when it happened to be registered in the committee series.

Cables have been listed as they are actually filed, that is, by the sending office to the receiving office with the serial number and date of dispatch, thus "Washington to Rome 47, 2 February 1946," or "Athens to London 542, 27 August 1945."

Letters, memoranda, and reports have been identified by showing the sender and receiver (with positions given if the individuals are not very well known) and date and sometimes, when it seemed appropriate, the title.

Periodic reports have been indicated by the issuing office and a date except that, in the case of a chapter dealing with a particular mission, we have merely indicated the type of report (monthly mission report or Health Division report) if issued by that mission. Thus, in the chapter on Greece, a report of the Greece Mission is merely shown as "Monthly Report, August 1945." On the other hand, if in the chapter on Czechoslovakia it is necessary to refer to a report of the Poland Mission, it is shown as "Poland Mission Monthly Report, July 1946."

In general, we have tried to make the footnotes self-explanatory so that no reference to a glossary, or even to this Introduction, will be necessary. Published material has, of course, been indicated in accord with standard practices.

Unless otherwise specifically indicated, all supply statistics are based

on United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, *Bureau of Supply Final Operational Report* (Washington, D.C., 1948). Almost all the tables of this work are given in Appendix Ten, Section III. Likewise, unless otherwise specifically indicated, all financial statistics are based on United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, *The Financial Report of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (Ninth and Final Financial Report)*, Washington, D.C., 1949). Many of the tables of this work are given in Appendix Ten, Section IV. These documents were carefully prepared and are authoritative. Other sources, prepared during the heat of active operations, were necessarily less carefully prepared, sometimes contradict one another, and must be used with caution.

As is true of the authors of any large work, we are indebted to many for help and suggestions, far too many to list. We are grateful to them. It should be made clear that none of them is in any way to blame for our errors.

GEORGE WOODBRIDGE

Washington, D.C.
March 1949