

PRESERVING THE CHURCH AND BERNAYS TYPESCRIPTS:
A CASE STUDY

HENRY KORMIN

Modern Logic Publishing
2408 1/2 Lincoln Way, Upper Level
Ames, IA 50014-7217, USA

In the "Personal Opinion" column of the August 1993 issue of the Mathematics Association of America's newsletter *Focus* (pp. 11–12) and in *The American Mathematical Society Notices* 40 (1993) (pp. 847–849), Albert C. Lewis asked the question: "Why Archive?" As historians of logic, most of us need little convincing of the value of archives; most of us have needed on many occasions to utilize archival materials, and all of us appreciate the value of archives for the work they do in making their materials available for our research. In his short piece, Lewis pointed out why we would wish to preserve more than publications. From lecture notes, manuscripts of papers, correspondence, and other types of unpublished materials, he noted (p. 11; p. 847), we can gain insight into "why and how mathematical discoveries are made, received, and taught." Those of us who have frequently used archival materials as part of our research are aware that we are not ordinarily given access to the originals, but to photocopies or microfilms of the documents which we require. We may not have given much thought to the originals themselves, and, if we have, we may well have assumed that while *preservation* of these documents is the purview of the archivist, ours, as historians, is with their *use*. This raises the question of whether historians need to concern themselves with preservation as distinct from use. Rather than answer that question, let us ask two others: Did Leibniz's work as chief librarian for the Duke of Braunschweig contribute in any way to his work in logic or the calculus? Did Styazhkin's work as archivist and bibliographer contribute in any way to his own work in history of logic? Without knowing the answer to these specific questions or the extent to which librarianship enhanced research in these or any other specific cases, one might nevertheless conclude that knowledge about this kind of work, even without direct experience in it, can enhance a historian's appreciation for the work of preservation. Christian Thiel has already written eloquently about the consequences for history of logic of lost archives in his paper "Some Difficulties in the Historiography of Modern Logic" (in M. Abrusci, E. Casari and M. Mugnai (editors), *Atti del Convegno Internazionale di Storia della Logica, San Gimignano, 4–8 dicembre 1982* (Bologna, CLUEB, 1983) pp. 174–191). There, as Dr. Thiel has said (p. 182), bibliographic concerns are an issue that ought to directly concern anyone who cares about the history of logic.

For the benefit of others who may find cause in the future to work on preservation and of those who may wish simply to gain some insight into what is involved in preservation, I