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CLASSIFIED FINDING LIST

of the

COLLECTIONS

of the

MICHIGAN PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PREFACE

In 1876 the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan decided to publish their proceedings and other historical material in a series of annual volumes. Altogether forty volumes, under minor changes in title but commonly known as the Michigan Historical Collections, made their appearance between 1877 and 1929. Volume 39 (1915), however, was published by the Historical Commission of the State of Michigan although the Pioneer Society's name still appears on the title page. The last volume, number 40 (1929) is compiled and edited by Dr. George N. Fuller, Secretary of the Commission, and published by the Commission.

In the Michigan Historical Collections there is a wast amount of information of value to the historian, but except for a few volumes devoted to specific subjects, topical material is widely scattered throughout the series. The indexes that now form a part of the set are of some aid in locating material, but these indexes are largely of the author and title type with some subject entries. It is difficult or at least tedious, therefore, to find a list of a man's personal papers, official documents on particular subjects, or reminiscences of a certain period. It was for this reason that a classified finding list was prepared. There are three convenient chronological divisions, and under each is a listing of the type of material arranged topically.

Work on the finding list was begun in 1939 as a WPA project (No. 7798) with Wayne University as the sponsor. Mr. Joe L. Norris of the University's Department of History served as the sponsor's representative, and Mr. Frank M. Powers of the WPA directed the workers in the actual indexing. The first draft was finished the next year, but the funds ran out before the list could be completed in final form. In the fall of 1940 the project was transferred to the Michigan Historical Records Survey and placed under the direction of Mr. Stuart Portner, the state supervisor. Under this agency the final checking and typing was accomplished.

A plan, on the part of the Historical Records Survey, to publish the Finding List became a war casualty and the typescript was given to Wayne University in August 1942. Publication by the University has been made possible by subventions from the Wayne University Press, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Detroit Historical Society, and Mr. Leonard Simons of Detroit.

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