

association members will appear early in June. *La Chronique*, published monthly by a separate committee, informs members of the most relevant archival activities at home and abroad.

After several years of study, the committee on archival training has proposed that an Institut supérieur de la documentation be created. This body, at first under the aegis of the AAQ, would become an independent body upon receiving its letters patent granted under Quebec's incorporation law. The aim of the Institut is to train specialists in documentation: archivists, records managers, documentalists, conservators, museologists, genealogists, specialists in heraldry, and so forth. The first task of this new body will be to prepare a complete inventory of existing relevant courses, and to analyse and evaluate their contents. Thereafter, the Institut will actively publicize such courses to interested individuals and will promote the organization of university-level courses in neglected subject areas. Finally, it will in its own right give a complete course at the post-graduate level (Etudes supérieures). The members of the Institut have promised a full and detailed outline of this course by September, 1977.

The rules committee has been active, revising the by-laws of the association for ratification by the general assembly. Details about this and about the work of the other committees will be found in the proceedings of this year's annual meeting when published.

The 1977 annual meeting took place 12-14 May, treating the theme "L'archiviste, un professionnel?" Papers were presented on this subject, and the theme was further explored in workshops. M. René Dussault, chairman of the Office des professions du Québec, delivered a paper on the evolution of professionalism in Quebec. He encouraged the Association members to adopt the structure of a professional body while awaiting the revised criteria for admissions which his office is currently preparing. The principal requirements, he pointed out, are a specialized training course, a definition of the activities encompassed, and the monitoring of work done by members.

The following executive was elected for the year 1977-78 at the annual meeting: André Martineau, president; Louise Hamel-Minh, vice-president; Claude Minotto, secretary; and Alain Clavet, treasurer. Gilles Héon, as past president, is also an executive member.

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(translation: E. Dahl)

## Survey of Architectural Records in Ottawa

The lack of information about architectural records is the main obstacle faced by researchers of Canadian architectural history, according to delegates to a conference on "Architectural Records and Archives in Canada" held at the Canada Council's Stanley House in 1975. At that time, participants were urged to search in their respective communities for architectural records which have survived even without the protection offered by archival repositories.

In response to the challenge, Heritage Ottawa, assisted by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ottawa chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects, the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada and the Public Archives of Canada, sponsored the compilation of an inventory of architectural records in Ottawa. Four Carleton University students, calling themselves the Architectural Inventory Group (AIG), worked under the supervision of Dr. Harold Kalman, a consultant in the history and conservation of architecture. The four spent the summer of 1976 creating an inventory of drawings, specifications, firms and individuals in Ottawa.

The preliminary stage of the project, preparation of a list of architects and firms which operated in Ottawa, had already been carried out by Peter Ahrends of Algonquin College some years ago. Together with membership lists from the Ontario Association of Architects, it formed a fairly complete genealogy of Ottawa's architectural firms. Letters explaining the project were sent by the AIG to city architects, who were then telephoned for appointments, and subsequently visited. In consultation with archivists at the PAC, the AIG developed an inventory form and designed a cross-referencing system which would allow the retrieval of information by architect's name, location and building type. A brief trial run was conducted on a sample group of plans. This not only tested the form but made the AIG members conscious of the problems of physically handling the plans and acquainted them with architects' terminology, drawing types and cataloguing.

Next the AIG embarked on the most time-consuming and substantial portion of the project. An inventory was taken of the holdings of architectural offices, and later non-architectural groups were approached. School boards, religious institutions, governments at all levels, and private citizens were contacted and their collections surveyed. Initially 1939 was to be the cut-off date; as work progressed it was apparent that a considerable amount of material exists for the period 1940 to 1950, and so the latter date was chosen instead.

Six volumes of inventory forms and three card-indexes to these forms, a manual and a report of the project make up the final product of the AIG's work. Each inventory form is numbered, and gives pertinent information including the name of the architect or firm, the type of building and its location, the types of records which relate to that building and their extent, and when the records were made and where they are held. On each card is the name of the architect or firm, the building type and its location. A card index was organized according to each of these features. Researchers using the indexes are thereby able to refer back to the appropriate inventory form.

Although the objectives of the project were met, the AIG saw several possibilities for further study. Other sources, such as developers, contractors and construction companies could be surveyed. Research could be carried out to determine which drawings actually became buildings. Additional biographical information on the architects could be compiled. This latter project will be carried out this summer, when Heritage Ottawa will engage students to search through old newspapers for references to architects and architecture.

While the members of the AIG saw the potential for expanding their survey, they perhaps underestimated the impact it would have. Besides being an extremely valuable research tool already widely used by researchers of Ottawa's architectural history, the inventory is a model appropriate for adaptation by groups in other communities who are anxious to ensure that the records of their architectural heritage survive. More than this, the AIG's work generated considerable public interest in the project specifically and in the preservation of historical material generally. A few excellent architectural collections have been donated to the Public Archives of Canada by individuals whose sensitivity to the value of their material was stimulated by the inventory.

Martin Weil, President of Heritage Ottawa, has announced the imminent updating and republication of the *Survey of Architectural Records in Ottawa*. It will outline the Ottawa summer project, including how the inventory was organized and what it accomplished, as well as suggesting how the same programme could be undertaken in other areas. The free publication will be a joint effort of Heritage Ottawa and the Public Archives of Canada and will be available from either, in French and English, by early fall.

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