

institutions in North America and the United Kingdom. The appendixes contain a list of twelve repositories in present-day Minnesota which have documents relating to the fur trade, and also a roster of approximately 775 people who were employed in the Minnesota area between 1795 and 1822. Since definitive research on most of the men has not been undertaken, the entries, ranging from two to nineteen lines, will serve primarily as a starting point for genealogists. The guide will enable researchers to quickly track down the papers relating to the various fur trading Companies, such as the American Fur Trading Company, whose records are found in repositories in Detroit, St. Louis, New York, and Ottawa.

Canadian archivists will undoubtedly be surprised to note that Bruce White has translated into English such terms as *Fond du Lac* and *bout*, but then the United States is not a bilingual country. This reviewer was particularly surprised to read that the Public Archives of Canada holds the only microfilm copy of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives since a copy of the records from 1670 to 1870 was deposited in the Public Record Office, London, in 1974.

Despite these quibbles, it is gratifying that a start has been made in compiling fur trade manuscript sources. One can only hope that additional work will be undertaken by Canadian archivists. The fur trade, after all, has more than a romantic connotation. It was a transcontinental business, which coped with many of the geographical and economic problems that still plague business and political leaders today.

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Manuscripts Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society: Guide Number 3.

Compiled by LYDIA A. LUCAS. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, ©1977. ix, 189 p. (Publications of the Minnesota Historical Society) ISBN 0 87351 120 4 \$7.00.

Guide No. 3, which lists accessions received by the Minnesota Historical Society since 1955, is a model of craftsmanship, free of typographical and grammatical errors. The collections are alphabetically listed, adequately described, and their publication, where appropriate, is noted. Particular care has been given to the index although cross-references are sparse. It took a few moments to find military listings; a cross-reference would have guided the reader to "United States—Army." One from negroes to Afro-Americans would also have been helpful.

Since the 1950s, the Minnesota Historical Society, which houses the State Archives, has concentrated on augmenting its collections in the fields of commercial enterprise (especially lumbering, mining and railroads), conservation, politics and government, labour unions, and women and women's organizations. By Canadian standards the Minnesota Historical Society is lavishly staffed and funded, yet it is impressive to read in the compiler's preface that "inventories analyzing and describing the materials in greater detail have been prepared for all of the [1,194] collections in this guide."

Understandably, most of the collections relate to the people and institutions of Minnesota. However, the surprises include an 1802 cargo list of a Spanish brigantine sailing from Cuba to Honduras, the Bagot collection which contains letters written by Sir William Bagot and his brothers as well as a letter written by T. Townson in 1769 describing a trip to Italy and the election of Pope Clement XIV. Records of the Winton Lumber Company, Northern Pacific Railway, Great Northern Railway, and the Quetico-Superior Council relate specifically to Canada.

There are only a few points to cavil about. It is apparent from the description of the Bagot collection that the compiler is unfamiliar with the use of the titles of the nobility; entries 1820 and 2690 are in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, not the Provincial Library, which is a separate entity; and this reviewer frequently wondered how many folios or pages were in a volume.

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Fire Insurance Plans in the National Map Collection. Plans d'assurance-incendie de la Collection nationale de cartes de plans. ROBERT J. HAYWARD. Ottawa, National Map Collection, 1977, © 1978. xxvi, 171 p. ill., maps, port. ISBN 0 662 01609 2 Free.

This volume is the first major listing of Canadian fire insurance plans, those documents essential for research in the history of architecture, growth and changing land use in urban areas. The recent release of many of these plans onto the market as companies such as the Insurers' Advisory Organization have moved out of the map-production business has tended to flood archives and libraries, making bibliographical control imperative. Robert Hayward has done extensive research on the insurance plans and has put a great deal of work into compiling this important list. In the introduction he briefly outlines the history of the companies involved in fire insurance mapping, notably the Chas. E. Goad Company, and describes the growth of the collection in the Public Archives of Canada which consists of two thousand plans (in twenty-nine thousand sheets) of more than fourteen hundred places in all provinces and territories of Canada. Several non-Canadian cities are held as well.

The listing for each plan is very brief and includes the place (arranged alphabetically within the province), date, company that produced the plan, scale of the sheets, volume number if present and number of sheets. Since most sheets are in the same large format, only smaller sheet sizes are noted. If the sheet was revised, the date of revision is given, followed by the date of the original compilation. Much of the complexity of listing the maps arises from the printing of plans of different places on the opposite sides of a sheet. The sheets have been carefully collated and this information is given in footnotes.

The bibliography is generally very easy to use; however, the listing is problematic for the major cities, where a large number of editions and volumes is needed to cover the area. Hayward's strict chronological arrangement of individual volumes—sometimes more than twenty per city—obscures the obvious sets for decades, making it difficult to pick out comparative coverage for a given area for various years. Furthermore, fire insurance atlases, not to be confused with plans in atlas form which show less information for buildings because of their smaller scale, are listed in an appendix. Though the author clearly shows the difference between these and the plans, this separation tends to leave gaps in the coverage for certain cities. A notable example is Toronto, for which all fire insurance mapping before 1900 (is the Boulton atlas of 1858 really an insurance plan?) is in atlas and not plan form. Since researchers are essentially interested in coverage by period, it would have been more useful to incorporate them in the one list and clearly designate them as atlases.

The task ahead now is to produce a union list of fire insurance plans, using this list as a base, since many local institutions hold other plans and other editions and revisions of those listed here. A recent checklist for British Columbia libraries and archives sug-