

Yet it is as if
 you were always there
 on the edge of consciousness,
 your ideas echoing
 in what I write, my thought
 still touching yours.³

Woodcock's thought still touches many people. *Letter to the Past* is the record of George Woodcock among some of those men and women. Readers will anticipate with interest additional volumes telling of the writer's excursion into the "vital terrains" of memory. After all, there is still the story of thirty years of Canadian literature and of travel to be told.

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A Directory of Medical Archives in Ontario. MARGARET DUNN, compiler, MARY BALDWIN, ed. Toronto: The Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine, 1983. 129 p. ISBN 0-9619429-1-9. \$25.00. Available from the Institute, 14 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 101, Toronto, Ont., M5R 1A9.

The Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine is to be commended for funding the compilation, editing, and publication of *A Directory of Medical Archives in Ontario*. The history of the development of medicine and its allied sciences is a new discipline within Canadian studies, and its practitioners will welcome a reasonably priced reference guide to materials available for the study of professional organizations, educational institutions, public policies concerning mental and public health services, and the role of private voluntary groups in the health care field. Archivists will appreciate the publicity which their collections will receive as a result of the *Directory*, and may well use it as a means of encouraging hospitals and other repositories of medical records and artifacts to develop effective records programmes.

The *Directory* contains not only detailed listings of holdings in the PAC and Archives of Ontario but also more limited descriptions of some of the items available in university archives and libraries, county and municipal archives, professional and other associations' head offices, hospitals, religious communities, and church repositories. The various manuscripts, records, publications, and artifacts are listed alphabetically in a standard format designed by the editor. Each institutional entry contains vital information such as the address and phone number of the repository, the nature and extent of the collection, and the conditions of access. All of this data is most useful to students and researchers planning grant applications and should encourage archivists and historians in other provinces to make a similar assessment of their resources.

One of the few problems which the researcher encounters in consulting this work, however, is a certain lack of consistency in covering the material. For example, in one of her references to the Canadian Medical Association collec-

3. *Ibid.*, Box 31, Woodcock typescript, undated.

tion in the PAC, Ms. Dunn notes the register of attendance, the general meetings minutes book, the executive council minutes, the membership files (1926-28), and a variety of miscellaneous material. (p. 4) She neglects to mention that scattered records pertaining to specific sections within the national medical organization, including groups like the military medicine and public health advocates, exist in the PAC collection, and does not note that the membership lists only include individuals whose surnames begin with the letters A-L. In contrast, her coverage of RG 10, the Ontario Ministry of Health holdings in the Archives of Ontario, is extremely thorough, perhaps because the collection has been completely catalogued, whereas the CMA material was still being processed when she undertook her survey. Thus, although Ms. Dunn provides a brief description of the major features of the material she has unearthed, at no point does she indicate clearly what criteria have been used to determine whether a detailed or minimal assessment of a particular collection is appropriate.

Also disturbing is the lack of an index. In the section on hospitals, for example, the reader must examine all the data relating to Toronto's hospitals before coming to the realization that the Riverdale Hospital has not been included among the institutions listed in this section but has been included in another section. A limited number of cross-references indicate an attempt to overcome this difficulty but the next edition of the *Directory* would certainly benefit from the inclusion of an index.

As Dr. G.R. Paterson, the Director of the Hannah Institute, notes in his "Preface" (p. vii-viii), the *Directory* has a twofold purpose: to provide researchers with source material and to encourage archivists to develop records retention policies for existing institutions. Both of these goals are highly laudable. But can they be successfully incorporated into a single monograph? Historians, political scientists, sociologists, and other scholars who will make use of this book may well have hoped for more detailed coverage of fewer sources, whereas archivists undoubtedly would have welcomed a more detailed discussion of a standardized approach to choosing and preserving records, manuscripts, and artifacts. Clearly, the *Directory* represents an extremely ambitious attempt to cover a new field as thoroughly as possible. It is a valuable pioneering effort that demonstrates the range of materials available to researchers as well as the challenges and pitfalls of medical history.

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Guide des sources historiques des francophones aux archives de la Saskatchewan. Les Archives de la Saskatchewan Reference Series No. 1. Regina and Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1983. 56 p. ISBN 0-9691445-1-2 \$6.00.

Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan. D'ARCY HANDE. Saskatchewan Archives Reference Series No. 2. Regina and Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1983. 24 p. ISBN 0-9691445-0-4 \$3.00.

Media attention during the Saskatchewan celebration of "Archives Week" (19-25 February 1984) focused on the official opening of the new Regina office