

CONFERENCE COVERAGE: CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION:

Archives Section

1972

The Annual General Meeting of the Archives Section of the Canadian Historical Association was held on Tuesday afternoon, 6 June 1972, at McGill University, Montreal. Forty-five members attended the meeting, which began at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. Ian Wilson opened the meeting with the Chairman's Report. He reviewed the activities of the year. The events in Ottawa on 5 June in honour of the 100th anniversary of the establishing of the Public Archives of Canada were organized by the Section in cooperation with the PAC, and Ian expressed thanks to Lee McDonald for his work in organizing the day. The Chairman represented the Archives Section at the Archives Course, given in Ottawa in July 1971. There had been a meeting of the Archives Section Executive in Ottawa in October 1971, and the Chairman had attended the annual meeting of the Prairie Archivists, held in April 1972 in Saskatoon. Ian apologized for the lateness of the publication of the Bulletin.

Minutes:

The Secretary moved that the minutes of the 1971 Annual General Meeting, which were circulated as part of the Bulletin, be accepted as circulated. Seconded by Mr. Andreassen. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer read his report and moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Dr. Fergusson. Carried. Cash on hand as of 31 May, 1972, was \$3,190.44.

Mr. Allan Turner asked whether the Section had paid the expenses of the Chairman to go to the meeting of the Prairie Archivists in Saskatoon. The Chairman said no, but in future the Section will meet this type of expense.

Committee Reports:

Several of the committees have been very active during the past year. Open meetings of some of the committees were to be held during the CHA conference and interested archivists were welcome to attend. Ian reminded people who might like to join a committee that they should write to the chairman of the committee in question.

1. Copyright Committee

Mrs. Daniells presented this report, which was in two parts: one, a report of the work of the committee on copyright and a bibliography, prepared by the chairman, Miss Ethelyn Harlow; and the second, a report

prepared by Mrs. Daniells, summarizing replies to the questionnaire on copyright. The questionnaire had been circulated with the Bulletin in April, and the many replies received indicated that there was wide interest in the problem. The committee recommended that: (1) legal advice should be sought by any large repository responsible for maintaining public access to all types of materials, whether published or unpublished; (2) the Copyright Committee should seek liaison with and cooperation from other organizations which have copyright committees; (3) membership in the Archives Section Copyright Committee should be increased.

Dr. Fergusson moved and Mrs. Goeb seconded that the committee should draft a statement for submission to the federal interdepartmental committee on copyright. Carried.

2. Committee on Maps

Ed Dahl reported. He has visited several archives in the past year, and has observed that maps and photographs often suffer when the budget of an institution is restricted. The Map Committee has been cooperating with the Association of Canadian Map Librarians.

3. Microphotography

Mel Starkman reported for this committee, which is concerned with standards for microfilm and microfiche. A report will be ready by September. The committee feels that a statement of archivists' concern is needed.

There was considerable discussion following this report. The following points were raised: Reading quality of microfilm has not been given much attention. The cost of a microfilm reader is very high. Eye damage can result from reading microfilm on a translucent screen; an opaque screen is better for the eyes. The possibilities of copyflow and computer on microfilm should be studied.

4. Evidence Act

Mr. Andreassen reported that three groups in Canada are working in cooperation with the American Records Management Association on a uniform statement regarding evidence. A report will be included in the September newsletter.

5. Oral History

Mr. Hugh Taylor read Mr. Delisle's report. There are many oral history projects in process and there is increasing interest in the techniques of interviewing, recording, transcribing, and preserving this documentation.

6. Reference Systems

Mike Carroll reported on the work of this committee. A report will be included in the September newsletter.

7. Training

(a) Mr. Bocking reported on the work of this committee, and on the plan of the Prairie archivists to offer an archives course in Edmonton which might alternate with the course in Ottawa (i.e., the course might be given every second year in Edmonton and on alternate years in Ottawa.).

In discussion it was mentioned that a shorter training session has been requested by business archivists and by the Canadian Museums Association.

(b) Mr. Hugh Taylor reported on the training course at the University of Ottawa. Dr. C. E. Welch, archivist at Churchill College, Cambridge, has been appointed archivist on the teaching staff of the School of Library Science at the University of Ottawa. A course M.A. in archives work is planned (one year and perhaps some summer work). This is not intended to supplant the PAC course.

8. Document Appraisal Committee

A report was published in the Bulletin. There may be Prairie and Maritime Document Appraisal Committees formed.

Report on the Archives Course:

A report on last year's course was published in the Bulletin. Mike Carroll told the meeting that the course this year will be five weeks long (5 Sept. - 6 Oct.). There will be eighteen students.

Canadian Archivist:

Mr. Hugh Taylor apologized for the delay in publication of the Canadian Archivist and said that it would be published later in the summer. At latest count there were 440 subscribers. The cost of publication was discussed. Mr. Taylor asked whether the Section could pay for typing; the Chairman said this could be done. The possibility of publishing two issues per year was discussed.

The Chairman moved and Jim Parker seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Hugh Taylor for his work on the Canadian Archivist.

Report of the Chairman on the Question of the Future of the Section:

A questionnaire concerning the future of the Section had been circulated in the Bulletin. Ian received forty-two replies: twenty people voted strongly against; and eleven voted to work towards separation as a future goal. Ian said he felt the most significant statistic was that only forty-two members replied. He stressed that our relationship with the CHA has been most cordial; we have had no quarrels with the main organization. We should think of what we want to achieve as archivists. A philosophical debate on the relationship between archivists and historians will not resolve the problem.

Lynn Ogden said that he is in favour of separation in the future. However, there would be a number of problems, one being financial. We would need more money for publications, etc. In future, the Union List of Manuscripts might be published by the Section. Training and professional standards should also be regulated by the Section, and we should work eventually towards a permanent secretariat.

It was pointed out that the CHA does not have a permanent secretariat.

Jay Atherton suggested that for the next two years, since we will be meeting in central Canada, we should have a full day of archives work before the CHA meetings.

Hugh Taylor stated that he had originally favoured separation, but he is now impressed by other considerations. The CHA connection is important,

especially for financial reasons. He is impressed by the regional organizations, which he described as "organic, exciting, and right". He feels that growth will arise from the regional organizations. The Society of American Archivists is in trouble because the annual meeting is too big and only the highest-echelon archivists can get there. Archivists in B.C. have started an organization (consisting of twelve members) but very few can afford to come to national meetings.

Mel Starkman said that we must analyze the question: what is an archivist, and what is the relationship between archivist and records manager? Archivists become involved in their own areas and do not have a perspective over the whole field. An archivist should have some time to do his own work.

Ted Regehr said he favoured continuing the association with the CHA. In both the historical and archival fields, there is much self-analysis in process. He suggested a joint session with historians next year.

Mike Carroll suggested that persons of disciplines other than history (e.g., sociology, political science) should be added to the Archives Section.

Harold Naugler suggested a separate meeting of archivists with people of other disciplines, sponsored by the Archives Section.

François Beaudin said that work with historians is only part of our work.

J. Knoppers said he favours separation from the CHA because, if we continue as at present, we will be dealing only with historical archivists.

Mike Carroll suggested associate membership for archivists not wishing to join the CHA.

Mr. Burnham Gill said that, in Newfoundland, the importance of the relationship between archivists and historians is recognized. He said that the ideal archivist has an M.A. in history, plus archival training. Parenthetically, he told the meeting that an Atlantic regional committee had just been formed.

John Bovey said that discussion should cease because it was 5:20 p.m. and many members wished to attend the joint meeting of the Archives Section and the American Records Management Association at 7:00 p.m.

It was decided that the discussion would continue on Friday at 9:30 a.m.

The Chairman reminded members that the Section is trying to collect its own archives. Anyone having material which might be considered part of the archives of the Section is asked to send this material to the Secretary.

New Executive:

The proposed slate of officers for the year 1972-73 was:

Chairman	- A. W. Murdoch, Ontario Archives
Vice-Chairman	- Michael Swift, New Brunswick Archives

Past Chairman	- Ian Wilson, Queen's University Archives
Secretary	- Grace Maurice, Public Archives of Canada
Treasurer	- J. M. Parker, University of Alberta Archives
Editors, Canadian Archivist	- Ian Wilson, Queen's University Archives Anne MacDermaid, Queen's University Archives
Members at large	- J. Andreassen, McGill University Archives Robert Garon, Laval University Archives

This slate was accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was reopened on Friday, 9 June, at 9:30, with the new chairman, Mr. Murdoch, presiding.

Mr. Murdoch opened the meeting by saying that he was glad to meet the group formally. He is particularly interested in the development of regional groups, and in microphotography.

Mr. Murdoch moved a vote of thanks to Ian Wilson for his services to the Section.

Discussion on the future of the Section continued.

Mr. Hugh Taylor asked for representation of the regional groups in the executive of the Section. It was decided that this will evolve, but no change in the constitution will be made at this time.

Mr. Andreassen said that we should meet at times other than the times when the CHA was meeting, so that we could also attend CHA meetings.

Ian Wilson suggested payment of a base fee to the CHA (perhaps \$5.00), and an extra fee for each service (e.g., Archives Section dues, subscription to Canadian Archivist, subscription to Canadian Historical Review and historical papers).

Ed Dahl suggested a full-day meeting of the Archives Section the day before the CHA started.

Ian Wilson suggested brief committee reports at the general meeting, fuller reports to sessions of the committees.

There was discussion of problems that would result from simultaneous committee meetings, when people are on several committees.

Robb Watt suggested that no one should be on more than two committees, but there should be no simultaneous meetings. Priority should be given to our own work, not to attendance at the CHA meetings.

Mr. Andreassen mentioned a meeting on education which he would like to

attend, but will not be able to attend.

Mr. Hugh Taylor said that committee meetings should not be arranged very rigidly in advance, because people become interested through hearing reports.

Lynn Ogden mentioned that some of our committee meetings are announced in the CHA programme and CHA members may wish to attend.

Mr. Allan Turner said that committees are in-house work and we could be overwhelmed by attendance of historians not actively involved in our work.

Mel Starkman said that CHA papers themselves conflict with one another.

J. Knoppers said that other learned societies, besides the CHA, are interested in archives.

Mr. Murdoch said that five days is the maximum time possible for the CHA conference.

Mr. Taylor suggested that people in the institution where meetings are to be held should attend other meetings and report to us.

Ed Dahl moved and J. Knoppers seconded that the Archives Section meet one day before the CHA and for the first day of the CHA meetings, on Saturday and/or Sunday if necessary, for business and committee meetings. Other papers or sessions could be held at other times. Carried.

Alan McCullough said that the number of CHA meetings could be reduced.

Mike Carroll said that this meeting should make definite recommendations for the guidance of the executive. He suggested the establishment of a programme committee.

Mr. Andreassen said that we do not have a member on the CHA programme committee.

Mike said Professor Leith of Queen's is the new chairman of the programme committee. Through him, we could have coordination.

Mr. Murdoch asked what the position of the Archives Section is in the CHA Council. Ian said he is always invited but cannot vote.

Robb Watt said we shouldn't worry about the CHA programme. If we are professionals, we should not have to meet on Sundays.

Jay Atherton said that we must accept realities. There is a limit to the length of time we can be away from our offices. Meeting on Sundays may be a good solution and should not be ruled out.

Stan Hanson and others favoured the idea of establishing a programme committee. Mr. Turner suggested that the Executive could do this work for the time being, because they will be meeting during the year.

Mike Carroll said that the executive might be overburdened.

Mel Starkman said there should be one person in charge of programme,

either the vice chairman or an extra person on the executive. It was decided to leave the issue flexible, the chairman having authority.

J. Knoppers repeated that we could meet with other groups as well as historians.

Betty May said that she works more closely with historical geographers than with either historians or records managers.

Mr. Turner said that we must respect realities. We cannot stay three weeks at meetings.

Mr. Murdoch invited people to write to him, expressing their ideas.

Ed Dahl suggested that the executive keep in touch with Julian Craft of the Education Committee.

Mike Carroll moved and Lynn Ogden seconded that the past chairman (Ian Wilson) should look into the implications of our relationship with the CHA, and other options. Carried.

There was some discussion of internal relationships (e.g., a more formal relationship between the regional groups and the Executive of the Section), but it was agreed that changes could be made informally.

Mike Carroll moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Andreassen and Miss Sandra Guillaume of McGill University Archives for their cooperation and hospitality during the conference.

PRAIRIE ARCHIVISTS' MEETINGS

Meetings of the Prairie Archivists continue to be held and the following is a note on the second from a report which arrived too late for publication last year:

The 1971 meeting in Edmonton was attended by nineteen participants who delivered reports on their repositories and then proceeded to discuss the possibility of a Union List of Western Canadian newspapers. A discussion on the training of archivists ranged widely and included the joint aspects of education and professionalism. It was agreed that the Archives Section should be more active in setting standards and promoting educational programmes.

Other matters raised included the desirability of Union Catalogues on selected subjects, documentary repair on the Prairies and a regional document appraisal committee for the West.

The following is a report on the third meeting, prepared by Mr. D. H. Bocking:

The third meeting of the Prairie Archivists was held in the Saskatoon Office of the Saskatchewan Archives on April 15, 1972. In all, there were