

section was created in May 1973 to ensure that the special needs of an important portion of the membership could be met and be part of their participation in the general work of the association. Similarly, in December of the same year, an historical archives section was created. The association is also divided into regions permitting members to meet more frequently without facing the constant problems of distance and cost. Until recently, Montréal and Québec were the only two regions. In September 1975 a new one, the Outaouais, was formed for the members of the association working in and west of Ottawa/Hull.

From its creation, the association has played a significant role for archivists by acting as their representative in Europe as well as in North America. Members of the association have participated in the meetings of the International Council of Archives in Madrid in 1968 and Moscow in 1972. The president of the A.A.Q., Robert Garon, joined other Canadian delegates for the meeting of the Round Table of the International Council of Archives held in 1974 at the Public Archives of Canada. In October of the same year, the association held a joint meeting with the Society of American Archivists in Toronto where a number of its members presented papers. The A.A.Q. plans to organize, for October 1976, an International Colloquium of French-speaking Archivists to which European archivists attending the meetings of the International Council of Archivists will be invited to join Canadian archivists. The event should take place in Sherbrooke, where the Institut d'Histoire de l'Amérique française will also be holding its annual congress.

Strong in Québec, and consisting mainly of French-speaking archivists across Canada, the A.A.Q. has recently welcomed the foundation of the new Association of Canadian Archivists (A.C.A.) and looks forward to cooperation in various joint projects through the agency of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists. The A.A.Q. has already made plans to hold its annual Congress concurrently with the A.C.A. and other learned societies in order to make possible the organization of a number of joint sessions with Canadian archivists from other parts of the country. Furthermore, informal discussions at the level of the Bureau and between the editors of the journals of both associations has already taken place concerning the possible amalgamation of *Archives* and *Archivaria*.

Marcel Caya
Public Archives of Canada

Archives Course

The English language course on Archival Principles and Administration sponsored jointly by the Public Archives of Canada and the Archives

Section, Canadian Historical Association, was held in Ottawa from September 2nd to October 3rd. Seventeen students attended: two from abroad, seven from the Public Archives of Canada and eight from other institutions in Canada.

Once again the course attempted to cover many topics and media through a variety of formats: seminars, lectures, tours and workshops. While more than half of the sessions were conducted by Public Archives of Canada personnel, the contributions by guest speakers from other archives and institutions were stimulating as well as helpful.

The evaluations by the students were marked by a dual attitude: pleasure from having their appetites whetted, but frustration at finding the meal too skimpy at times. In view of this fact and of the possibility of the creation of graduate level training, the future of this course will be considered carefully in the coming months. Clearly the course has reached a plateau, perhaps even a crossroad. A major modification in purpose and structure would seem to be necessary.

Peter Yurkiw
Course Coordinator

Business Archives Notes

In October, 1974 a conference was held in London, England to consider the desirability of setting up a Business Archives Committee under the auspices of the International Council on Archives.¹ An invitation was extended to the Dominion Archivist to attend, but, unable to be present, he nominated as a substitute the co-ordinator of the business programme at the Public Archives of Canada. The meeting opened with a round-robin review of the state of business archives in the various countries represented. One feature of the Canadian situation that impressed the Europeans was the active part played by governmental institutions, especially the P.A.C., in the preservation of business records. They concluded that this positive role guaranteed the existence of a rich reserve of data on Canadian enterprise. In this they were wrong. Canadians are in danger of losing large portions of their historical heritage through the indifference and omissions of their business leaders. No programme operating within the limited bounds imposed by a state archives can be expected to compensate fully for such widespread neglect.

Denmark seems to be the best equipped to preserve business records. There, some years ago, a consortium of firms established an archives especially dedicated to the preservation of business material. While public funds are now assisting their work, the Danish *Erhvervsarkivet* represents a

1 A decision was made to establish the Committee but no practical steps have yet been taken to do so.