

uniquely successful approach to the independent storage of corporate records. In most other western European countries, individual companies or their designated university repositories undertake archival work on their own, although associations exist to service their needs. The British Business Archives Council and the *Vereinigung Deutscher Werks — und Wirtschaftarchivare* are two such organizations.

Canadian business archivists are, for the most part, left to toil in solitary splendour. A group of Montreal archivists and corporate secretaries attempted to create a Business Archives Council in 1968. An ambitious programme was begun, but, failing to expand its membership or to attract significant corporate sponsorship, the Council terminated its activities in 1973. A subsequent attempt by an academic to launch a similar organization, backed by university historians and business executives, quickly failed because of apathy on all sides.

Some encouraging developments, however, have taken place here. Active archival programmes exist in a number of our largest private businesses, including Distillers Corporation-Seagrams Limited, Bell Canada, Alcan, the Bank of Montreal, and the Bank of Nova Scotia. But advances have been counterbalanced by disappointments and failures. Even the admirable Alcan project may be shelved upon the retirement of the present Secretary unless the company is fortunate enough to find an equally devoted replacement.

The state of business archives in Canada is not overly encouraging. To meet this situation, more is needed than the standard archival prescription of an ounce of education and two ounces of conversion. It might be advisable to urge state institutions to direct their efforts and limited resources toward the provision of advice and practical assistance to firms considering the establishment of an archives. Perhaps tax concessions would act as an incentive for companies to store historical data. This, of course, would require a conclusion by government that such storage was a service benefiting all Canadians. Finally corporate archivists should abandon their low profiles, emerge from their regional enclaves of fellow tradesmen and make themselves known one to another. Communication is a necessary precondition for the effective protection of our business archival heritage.

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SAA Philadelphia 1975

A record number of more than 800 persons attended the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists at Philadelphia, nearly 200 above the

previous record at Toronto last year. This growth, in spite of budgetary restraints, is most heartening especially as a great many of the younger members took advantage of the workshop series which were again a prominent feature. The conference did not have a particular theme, but was none the worse for that. There was something for everyone, including a mini film festival which included "To the Prairies", the film made with so much ingenuity and verve by the Ontario Educational Communications Authority from the Public Archives of Canada immigration exhibition of 1972. The film stood up well and received very favourable comment. "With the Stroke of the Pen", filmed for the Kennedy Library, illustrated a dilemma in presidential decision-making. The film was stopped before the end to allow the audience to decide what decision should be taken, and then continued with Kennedy's choice, concluding an unusual documentary experience.

More than twenty Canadians attended the conference, of whom seven gave papers or chaired meetings. One Canadian presently sits on the Council of the Society and many others serve on committees. We may be reasonably pleased with our impact on the Society, especially in the areas of archival education where the Taylor-Welch draft curriculum for a graduate programme is being considered by the Association of Canadian Archivists Committee on Education; "outreach" (known better in Canada as "diffusion") which for the most part is a type of programme new to our American colleagues — so much so that a new committee was formed to study this field; and archival networks which is related to diffusion and cooperative acquisition programmes. Incidentally, a new committee on ethnic archives was established which will be followed with interest in Canada.

Gordon Dodds, President of the A.C.A., firmly made the point at the Annual General Meeting that Canadians, while acknowledging the friendly and generous intentions of our American colleagues, wished to be considered as "foreigners" rather than be treated as a region of the Society. Only in this way can Canadian national societies be recognized fully and our national archival identity be maintained. The point was quite understood, and will in no way detract from our close relationship with, and involvement in the S.A.A.

The Annual General Meeting was notable for carrying a motion forbidding smoking at any official or social function during the annual conference! This was seen by many as a rather drastic way of making a point and augering perhaps a new puritanism of the left. Will it be temperance next year?

A review of the sessions is perhaps out of place here and would in any case be highly selective, but one experiment may be mentioned which did not work. There was a diaspora of committees in meeting rooms all over

Philadelphia as a means of experiencing other institutional environments. The result was a loss of time and even temper on at least one occasion.

Issues of a domestic nature dominated many of the deliberations, particularly the plenary session on the Public Documents Commission created by the 93rd Congress to explore the problems and issues involved in the location and maintenance of the records of public officials. Nevertheless, the principles at issue had a relevance for Canada even though so far we have been spared a Watergate to bring these issues to a head.

Next year, the conference will be held in Washington at the same time as the International Council on Archives in the 200th year of the Republic, and the 40th of the S.A.A. The theme will be "The archival revolution of our time", and Canadians will have plenty to say about that!

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Architectural Records and Archives

Concern for Canada's architectural heritage is growing across the country. Public interest in the preservation of architectural works has been demonstrated by the recent proliferation of societies and citizens' groups concerned with the rapid metamorphosis of the built environment; the consequent destruction of historic buildings has generated some fierce political and legal battles. Governments on all levels have responded: the City of Ottawa has employed a "heritage planner"; the Province of Québec has new legislation protecting designated buildings; the Federal Government has established Heritage Canada. More examples could be cited.

Recognizing that archivists have a significant role to play in this area, the Canada Council agreed to sponsor a five-day conference entitled "Architectural Records and Archives in Canada". The request for the support came from the Archives Committee of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada.

During the week of August 11 to 15, 1975, thirteen individuals with widely varied professional affiliations convened at Stanley House, the century-old summer residence of the former Governor General on the south shore of the Gaspé Peninsula. Participants included archivists specializing in various media, senior administrators of archives, the President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, a restoration architect, an architectural historian, and two librarians. The mix of professions and experience, drawn from all parts of Canada, and the delightful setting of Stanley House, were conducive to stimulating discussions covering all aspects of architectural records and archives.