

interesting, but the panels themselves do not achieve the unique mix for which I think the conference organizers were looking. They provide information on the types of federal programs being undertaken in American cities and provide insights into the state of urban studies in the United States, but suggest little about broad new uses for archival materials pertaining to urban centers. One wishes that the historians had suggested what types of sources they need, that the archivists had been more comprehensive in providing information on the types of material available, and that the administrators had challenged the problems of use of and access to federal government records. Most disappointing of all is that the "National Archives Resource Papers" prepared for the conference are only listed and not printed. Nevertheless, both the conference and the published essays are a gigantic step in the right direction for disseminating information about and use of government records. I would hope that Canadian archives can benefit from the experiences of the National Archives of the United States.

R. P. Gillis
Public Archives of Canada

Guide to the Reports of the Public Archives of Canada, 1872-1972.

FRANÇOISE CARON-HOULE. Ottawa: Information Canada, 1975.

Pp. 97. \$3.25 (Aussi disponible en français)

One milestone in the history of any Archives is the day on which it becomes necessary to publish a guide to its guides and catalogues. It is an experience which is both heartening and chastening. Although the Archives has been sufficiently active to produce so many publications, it has also made so many changes of course, possibly so many false starts, that the archivist wonders how soon his most cherished plans will be overturned by his successor. There are the proposals which never became anything more than that. There are the publications which never progressed beyond part 1. Worst of all are the nuggets of information or research buried so well in some annual report that someone else has repeated the research without any suspicion of plagiarism arising.

The Public Archives of Canada has at last reached this stage in its history — somewhat later than many similar bodies and with rather less skeletons than most. From 1872 to 1881 the annual reports of the Dominion Archivist appeared only as a section in the *Report of the Minister of Agriculture*. In general they were factual accounts of the work of Douglas Brymner and his small staff. From 1882 onward the reports were also published separately and contained lists and inventories of documents. In 1912 the Public Archives was transferred to the Secretary of State's office and the Archivist's report was published as a separate item. Until 1952 the reports continued to appear annually. Since then they have been published at

irregular intervals and the practice of including lists has been abandoned in favour of separate publication.

It is only to be expected that a great deal of useful information can be found in these reports and with the publication of this *Guide* it can be found with ease. The *Guide* also includes other relevant publications so that in one thin volume is the answer to the question, "Has the P.A.C. published anything about my subject?" Whether the researcher is interested in the first meat coupons in Canada or the dress worn by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother when she visited Canada the reference is quickly found. The calendars and transcripts are arranged according to the Archives in which the original documents are to be found with the appropriate cross-references to the original references as well as the Public Archives' own listings. This is a very useful publication of which the P.A.C. and the compilers may be justly proud.

Edwin Welch
Ottawa City Archives

Captured German and Related Records, A National Archives Conference. Edited by ROBERT WOLFE. Ohio: University Press, 1974. Pp. 279. \$10.00.

This book is Volume 3 of a series, and contains the papers and proceedings of a conference held at the National Archives, Washington, D.C., in November 1968. These conferences were organized to make possible "the exchange of ideas and information between archivists and researchers", and in this case the participants deliver a broad range of perspectives on the unusual business of capturing, organizing, using, and disposing of someone else's archives. The resulting work is in fact a reader's smorgasbord, from which the professional archivist, the historian, and the merely curious can safely sample at random. The serious potential researcher has simply to turn to Appendix B for a list of the microfilmed records held by the National Archives, which has become the institutional heir to the various American civil and military agencies which made use of the original material, copied parts of it, and returned most of it to Europe. Copies of captured Japanese records are, for some reason, to be found in the Library of Congress.

Readers bothered by the distasteful aspects of treating archives as booty will be soothed somewhat by the discovery that the captured material discussed in this book included Italian and Soviet records which agents of the Reich had themselves gathered together in palmier days. Dr. Wolfgang Mommsen, the former director of the West German Bundesarchiv, and himself a wartime records protector in the Baltic States, delivers a paper entitled: "The Odyssey of German Records since 1945: A View from the Bundesarchiv". It is the most essential selection from the smorgasbord for