

For archivists, this volume is an example of an effective checklist; for scholars of North America's urban past it is invaluable since it lists the largest collection of bird's-eye views in North America, and to both these interest groups and to print and map collectors and dealers it gives the information needed to understand the production and significance of these documents.

The publication of *Panoramic maps of Anglo-American cities* has already stimulated the collecting of bird's-eye views of public institutions. Archivists should be encouraged to follow Hébert's example.

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Research in the Administration of Public Policy. Edited by FRANK B. EVANS and HAROLD T. PINKET. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1975. Pp. 229. \$9.95.

This book contains the papers and proceedings of the seventh in a series of semi-annual conferences sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service. The conference took place in the National Archives Building on 19 and 20 November 1970. The purpose of the conferences is to increase communication between archivists and researchers.

Critical assessment of this book is possible on two levels. One can comment on the physical organization, layout, and accuracy of the text, and on the content of the actual conference itself. The book is organized in the same order as the conference, with the texts of the papers presented in full and transcripts of discussions summarized and edited to improve their readability. The index seems adequate and, as an additional aid, a chart of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government is printed on the inside front and back covers. There are also four charts scattered throughout the text but the lack of a list of these makes referral to them difficult. An appendix contains a thirty-six page select bibliography of N.A.R.S. research resources. The footnotes to the papers are grouped together near the end of the book, presumably in the interests of economy. The conference was organized in five sessions, four of which consisted of introductory remarks by the chairman, three papers, and a discussion. The other session (the third, probably in the evening) included only one paper. Nine of the thirteen participants were academics, one a consultant with considerable experience in public administration, and three were archivists on the staff of N.A.R.S.

The first session dealt with the general topic of research into the history of federal agencies and their programs. The Chief Historian of the United States Atomic Energy Commission considered the problems and opportunities available to a scholar working on contemporary problems of public

policy, dealing at some length with the two major difficulties of historical perspective and access to relevant documentation. The author of the history of the U.S. Geological Survey described "problems in writing the history of government science agencies," especially the interesting question as to whether a researcher in this area should be primarily an historian or a scientist. A senior archivist then described the archival sources available for studies in federal public administration.

Session two had as its theme "Dilemmas in Administering Public Policy." It began with a paper by an historian interested in the history of reform in America, especially with regard to public health (he was then working on a history of the Food and Drug Administration). The paper, "Saccharin: A Bitter Regulatory Controversy," was a case study in regulatory history. It was followed by a paper describing the work of the National Recovery Administration in attempting to raise bituminous coal prices during the 1930's and a description of the records in the National Archives that document decisions of independent federal regulatory agencies. Session three concerned the relations between politicians and bureaucracy. The one paper, by a former Administrator of the General Services Administration, was titled "Deepening the Wellsprings of Public Policy." It dealt with the importance of the political leaders knowing how to motivate the top career civil servants to achieve greater effectiveness.

"Efforts at Administrative Reform" was the topic of session four, which began with a paper on "The New Deal and Administrative Reform" by an historian specializing in the Roosevelt presidency, followed by a political scientist's narrative on the various attempts between 1940 and 1970 to reorganize the federal administration, and ended with a description by an archivist of the records pertaining to presidential efforts for administrative reform. The conference came to a logical conclusion with a session on potential research topics and problems. A former Department of the Army historian presented a reasoned "proposal for a government-wide historical office," a specialist in western military frontier history and federal Indian policy argued for new research into the latter subject, and a political scientist with training in public administration and history (the author of the history of the Farm Security Administration) gave an excellent exposition of research opportunities and problems in the area of policy and programs relating to poverty. He proposed new research techniques, such as content analysis, to overcome the problem of sheer bulk of documentation.

The general quality of the papers and comment in this book is good. One is left with a very positive overall impression as to the usefulness of such conferences. Why have similar meetings not taken place in Canada? The Public Archives of Canada has in its custody a wealth of public records and private documentation on the work of federal government departments and agencies. Perhaps a joint conference co-sponsored by the School of Public

Administration at Carleton University would be well received. Similar conferences could be planned in other subject areas as well. Could the Association of Canadian Archivists organize a joint meeting with the Canadian Historical Association or other academic associations at a future Learned Societies get together? The most important quality of this useful book is that it stimulates such questions and ideas in the mind of the reader.

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CENTRE D'ÉTUDES ACADIENNES DE L'UNIVERSITÉ DE
MONCTON. Moncton: Editions d'Acadie, 1975. Tome I. Pp. 526.
\$15.00.

Anthropologues, ethnologues, folkloristes, historiens et autres utilisateurs de documents de première main ne soulignent jamais assez l'importance très grande du rôle des archivistes. Les travaux d'inventaires de sources sont devenus essentiels aux chercheurs qui entreprennent des études générales. Et la tendance actuelle de la recherche a placé de telles études d'ensemble bien avant les particularisations, davantage peut-être dans les sciences humaines.

Le Centre d'études acadiennes nous présente un inventaire des sources sur les Acadiens qui "vise à servir de guide à leur histoire". Les compilateurs de cette somme ont été bien humbles dans leur objectif en le formulant ainsi, et ils ont certainement sous-estimé les multiples utilités et la grande portée de leur travail. Qu'il suffise de mentionner, outre l'histoire, le portrait social ou l'évolution culturelle de ce peuple mis sur notre table à travers les documents qu'il a laissés et que le Centre nous a inventoriés.

Quelle que soit la méthode employée dans l'élaboration d'un tel ouvrage, il se trouvera toujours un quidam pour en discuter un point ou un autre. Celle qu'ont adoptée les compilateurs de cet *Inventaire* a le double avantage d'être simple et d'être expliquée très clairement, en peu de mots. Conséquemment, on retrouve cette clarté dans la présentation des documents; un minimum de renvois servent l'efficacité sans entraîner le consultant dans un bourbier.

Cet ouvrage est un outil qui s'impose déjà comme indispensable à quiconque veut étudier les Acadiens, et c'est avec une hâte non dissimulée que nous en attendons le deuxième tome.

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