

The Society is also envisaged as providing a medium of “communication and cooperation between archivists, the institutions in which they work and the users of archives”; promoting understanding outside the profession of the nature and value of archives; encouraging the efficient and responsible use of archives; and cooperating with other organizations having complementary objectives in such fields as library science, conservation, historical research, and records management.

To achieve the first of these objectives, it was decided that control of the Society must remain in the hands of the archival professionals. There are, therefore, three classes of membership—professional, associate, and institutional. Only professional members may hold office and vote in elections and at general meetings. Associate and institutional members are, however, entitled to all other privileges of membership including the right to attend and speak at general meetings, conferences, and seminars.

The Society publishes a *Bulletin* every two months and will begin publication of its journal in February, 1976. This journal will probably be *Archives and Manuscripts*, the existing journal of the Archives Section of the Library Association of Australia, and negotiations for the transfer are now (October, 1975) almost completed. Regional meetings have already been held in some areas to form local units of the national body.

Any inquiries concerning the Society should be addressed to the association's Secretary, Miss P. Quinn, Bank of New South Wales Archives, P.O. Box 13, Pyrmont, N.S.W. 2009, Australia. Articles for submission to the Society's journal should be sent to the Editor, Mr. A. Lemon, 704 Toorak Road, Malvern, Vic. 3144, Australia.

P. Quinn
Australian Society
of Archivists

International Congress on Archives

The Eighth International Congress on Archives, sponsored by the National Archives and Records Service of the United States and the Society of American Archivists, will be held in Washington, DC, 27 September to 1 October 1976. The theme of the Congress plenary sessions will be “The Archival Revolution of Our Time”. Papers presented in the sessions will deal with records management, technological advances in archives, access, and international archival cooperation.

The Society of American Archivists will hold its annual meeting concurrently with the Congress in Washington. Registrants for either meeting will be able to participate in the program sessions of both

organizations. The advance program for the Congress has been published and is available from: ICA '76, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC 20408, United States of America.

R. Michael McReynolds
Congress Assistant Director

The Maritime History Group

The Maritime History Group was established in 1971 to create a centre of excellence for the study of "fish and ships". To that end it is interested in the study of shipping and fisheries on a world-wide basis. However, because of its Newfoundland location, much of the work is connected with the history of Newfoundland and indeed with many current problems. The basic "resources" of the Group consist of an archive of some 15,000 linear feet of documents and studies concerned with shipping, fishing, and Newfoundland generally. This constitutes one of the largest Maritime archives in the world; indeed, much of the work entails assisting foreign scholars in their own studies of the sea.

A basic objective of the Maritime History Group is to provide an information and research base for scholars and others interested in Newfoundland and, especially, maritime history. To assist in meeting this and other of the Group's objectives, a significant archival collection has been amassed with some material dating back to 1500 A.D.

The collection has been divided into four relatively distinct but intertwined areas: documents relating to Newfoundland, fisheries, shipping, and Devonshire and Dorset. The first of these, Newfoundland history, contains copies of significant documents prior to 1850, approximately 600 research papers prepared by Memorial University students, and 12,000 files relating to the activities of individuals involved in Newfoundland fisheries prior to 1840.

The fisheries documents include: British Customs and Port Books, 1560-1880; Colonial Port Books and Naval Office Lists, 17th-19th centuries, relating to Canada, the American colonies, Newfoundland and the British Caribbean; Portuguese overseas trade ledgers relating to fish, 1794-1973; Canadian government reports on fisheries and various records from private companies engaged in the trade.

The shipping documents include such items as Lloyds List of Shipping, 1741-1826; Canada Shipping Lists, 1867 to the present; Crew Lists, Muster Rolls and Official Log Books for the United Kingdom and British Empire, 1863-1913, comprising the original documentation for some 70,000 vessels.