

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.

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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.

This collection alone totals 11,000 linear feet. Copies of documents in the British Museum relative to shipping in the 18th and 19th centuries, records of the High Court of the Admiralty, 17th-19th centuries, miscellaneous British records and reports from the Canadian federal government are also available.

Among the Devonshire and Dorset records are seventy Anglican Parish registers from Devonshire; Exeter Quay Rate Books, 1600-1832; various business records, diaries; and Plymouth and Devonshire records concerning 17th century Newfoundland trade.

As most of the original and copied documents arrive uncatalogued, a small staff is maintained to list, index, sort and file the records. Most of the indices are on Kardex although some collections have been indexed in the form of publications. Facilities include offices for staff and researchers, several document storage areas and a main reading room equipped with microfilm readers and electronic calculators. During the year 1973-74, two hundred researchers used the archival facilities and 67 research reports were prepared for people from as far afield as New Zealand.

More information on the Maritime History Group and its archive is available from the Chairman, Maritime History Group, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland.

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Maritime History Group

CONSERVATION: Technical Notes and Information¹

A CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY: Service has been defined as doing what you can, where you are, and with what you have. As archivists' and manuscript librarians' budgets across the country succumb to the rigors of inflation, it is increasingly obvious that the desire of many directors to have a full-time conservator at work in their establishment will have to be deferred for some time to come. Yet the need to give more care and attention to archival collections grows daily, and it seems that the curator—the archivist—will be called upon to take certain preventive, “first-aid” conservation measures.

Preventive conservation is a legitimate and pressing concern for the archivist or curator. This type of conservation can be implemented in many areas where a modest investment of time and money can avert serious problems in the future. For example, preventive conservation encompasses

¹ Because conservation is a central concern to Archivists and Manuscript Librarians, *Archivaria* will carry this subsection of Notes and Communications as a regular feature. Comments and contributions should be sent to R. Lynn Ogden, Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8.