

reservations this manual can safely be recommended to the novice—and not so novice—manuscript curator.

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Archivistique Québécoise. Textes choisis et présentés par FRANCOIS BEAUDIN. Montréal: Librairie de l'Université de Montréal, 1975. Approx. pp. 400. \$7.15.

The archivist at the Université de Montréal has for some years offered a course in the history department on "Public and Private Archives" and, feeling the need to gather some resource materials together on his subject, produced in 1974 a *cahier* of selected readings within the Québec and francophone context. *Archivistique québécoise* is the resulting issue, somewhat bizarrely strung on a plastic hinge bearing xeroxed sheets of articles written for *Archives* (the journal of the Association des archivistes du Québec) and pieces from divers published sources. These are shoddily reproduced and almost impossible to distinguish owing to a complete absence of pagination, though green and gold dividing sheets attempt to assist with section and chapter separations. It must be debatable to what extent even M. Beaudin's students find the compilation useful given the very random nature of its contents and the uneven quality of many items. Nevertheless, the compilation has declared itself to be the first tentative synthesis of archival science as practised in Québec and on that basis it deserves notice by Canadian archivists.

Two areas in particular command attention. One is the notion of *archivistique*, defined in the opening glossary as the science of administering records at the various stages of their life. The term ought to be attractive to archivists who refuse to be misled into accepting anything less than a totally integrated records continuum from creation to disposition, current to non-current use, developed and managed by professional archivists. Thus the two administrative solitudes of records management and archives management happily disappear and the management of *archives administratives et historiques* most sensibly prevails. Bisonette and the Frenières do not go quite that far in their snappy article on new concepts in archives management but they rightly hold that the relationships need emphasising. Anglophone archivists outside Québec have no cause to gloat, for the principle so effectively embraced by the term *archivistique* is not widely exercised within their ranks, let alone acknowledged in most jurisdictions. Well indeed might the enterprising editor of *Records Management Quarterly* publish an English version of this article.

The other aspect of note is the informational value of items on the organisation and development of Québec archival agencies. Gilles Héon's description of the regionalisation of the *Archives nationales du Québec* bears consideration as a means of coming to grips with the inevitable centralising tendency of archival provision by suggesting the growth of "research laboratories" focussed on regional communities as specified by the government. Similarly, the Québec City archivist's review of municipal records and François Beaudin's three articles on notarial, ecclesiastical and university archives deserve a reading. Unfortunately, none of these rise much above a statement or preliminary survey and plainly they need further investigation. Critical assessment is missing or lamentably weak—a fact explained by the eagerness perhaps of the Association des archivistes du Québec to declare itself and its concerns without delay. Robert Garon has a few pages on the AAQ's objectives. Lack of analysis and judgement is displayed in the failure to set this publication in perspective, historically and archivally, and in reproducing contributions like Daniel Hickey's on the infamous "L'Affaire des manuscrits" which is distinctly thin and abrupt. The implications of this affair in terms of archival jurisdiction and administrative clout are far reaching enough in and out of the province to engage more than passing registration.

With the appearance of *Archivistique québécoise*, Canada now has two unsatisfactory compilations on archival issues. Though the quality of the summer institute papers from the annual program of the Public Archives of Canada/Archives Section (Canadian Historical Association) is higher, the papers no more constitute a real scrutiny of Canadian archival endeavour in English than Beaudin's volume does for Québec. That they both derive from courses attempting to provide a measure of archival education is both a comment upon the nature of this activity up to the present time and a spur to improvement. Plainly the need is recognised. It is profoundly hoped that the joint endeavour of the two professional archives associations, the ACA and the AAQ, will catapult the preparation of a work comprehensively conceived, deeply researched, critically adept and suitably published. Until that happy day arrives, works of the limitations of *Archivistique québécoise* must be received only with regret.

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Proceedings of an International Seminar on Automatic Data Processing in Archives. Editors: LIONEL BELL and MICHAEL ROPER. London: H. M. Stationery Off., 1975. Pp. 349. £8.50.

At last we have the *Proceedings* of the international seminar on automatic data processing in archives held from 26 August to 1 September 1974 at