

Ottawa in Maps; a Brief Cartographical History of Ottawa, 1825-1973.

Ottawa par les Cartes; Brève histoire Cartographique de la Ville d'Ottawa, 1825-1973. THOMAS L. NAGY. Ottawa: National Map Collection, Public Archives Canada, 1974. Pp. 87. illus. \$2.50
Available from Information Canada.

Winnipeg in Maps, 1816-1972. Winnipeg par les Cartes, 1816-1972.

ALAN F.J. ARTIBISE and EDWARD H. DAHL. Ottawa: National Map Collection, Public Archives Canada, 1975. Pp. 80. illus. \$2.50
Available from Information Canada.

The appearance of *Ottawa in Maps* and *Winnipeg in Maps* is an indication of the recognition that the map, a long neglected member of the family of primary sources is finally receiving. Born out of the Diffusion Program of the Public Archives of Canada in 1972 to disseminate knowledge of our cultural resources, this series of maps on selected themes demonstrates some of their varying uses. Thomas Nagy concentrated primarily on the holdings of the National Map Collection; Alan Artibise and Edward Dahl, on the other hand, have utilized maps not only at the PAC, but in other archives, in published and unpublished works.

In the presentation of the maps, a significant change appears in the volume featuring Winnipeg maps. It seems that for the Ottawa volume a decision was made to favour some aesthetic considerations over clarity. The results from the aesthetic point of view are of dubious merit; the use of a heavy brown tone eradicated important historical evidence to the detriment of users, especially students and teachers. The change to black and white reproductions in *Winnipeg in Maps* eliminated some of these problems.

The thirty-one plates in each volume are well chosen, demonstrating a smooth chronological sequence and variety. An archivist with the bias of a map curator, however, would stress the need for more attention to the contents of each map as a document. For if it is the purpose of these volumes to elevate the status of maps as primary sources, then the total focus should have been on the maps and not on the text and supporting data. The format of *Ottawa in Maps* tends to detract from each map by allotting more space to the narrative, date and title blocks than to the reproductions. While the importance of these elements is not questioned, could not the scale and thus the legibility of some maps have been increased? To accomplish this, I strongly suspect that another format could have been used, judiciously reducing the sizes of the non-map elements and thus permitting the maps to have been better favoured. Although *Winnipeg in Maps* improves on some of these points, both publications at times sacrifice the quality of reproduction to the consuming nature of the narrative on each accompanying page.

In spite of these critical comments, one can recognize the effort the authors have made in the preparation of these volumes. In order to offer the reader and more particularly the user of a map folio an adequate cross-section of historical cartography, it is necessary to connect archival experience with a keen sense of historical and geographical developments. The authors have accomplished this in the fine selection of the plates. Subsequent folios should further contribute towards improving the attitude towards maps as historical evidence by building upon the foundations laid by such publications as *Ottawa in Maps* and *Winnipeg in Maps*.

Roger Nason
Provincial Archives of
New Brunswick

La Ville de Québec, 1800-1850: un Inventaire de Cartes et Plans.
EDWARD H. DAHL, HELENE ESPESET, MARC LAFRANCE and
THIERY RUDELL. Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, 1975. Pp.
413. illus. (Mercury Series. History Division Paper No. 13) \$5.00

For several reasons, this is one of the best publications in the National Museum of Man's Mercury Series and as a published inventory is worthy of the attention of archivists and manuscript librarians.

Although one might quibble over the quality of some reproductions (for example, Map Nos. 77, 208, 288, 289) or question the lack of illustrations of individual properties (for example, No. 65, "Sketch of Mr. Smith's property"), this inventory contains the qualities demanded of archival publications, but too often lacking. There is a brief, helpful historical introduction, a thorough inventory that should satisfy the demands of most researchers, and will refer them to major related collections. And, whether for a casual inquiry or a detailed study, the index and cross-reference system, along with the chronological arrangement, make the information readily accessible. It is also worth noting that this is a cooperative effort, produced jointly by users and custodians. Perhaps this accounts for some of its strengths.

The well documented Introduction gives an historical overview of the commercial, military, administrative, political, religious and cultural trends of the period 1800 to 1850 in Québec City; population growth and physical expansion are also treated. And, to assist in setting the context for what is to follow, a few well chosen plates, plans, and views are included. In forty pages, the authors have provided enough of the critical background to satisfy both the curious and the scholarly.

The main body of the work, the "analytical cartobibliography of the 315 maps of Québec City . . . held by the Public Archives of Canada", is