

conferences. The session which introduced the documentary produced by the Sound Archives on proper recording techniques for oral history interviews was perhaps the most enthusiastically received item in both conferences—partly because this was the first time such a documentary on purely technical aspects of oral history had been attempted and partly because it had a practical value to all forms of oral history projects.

Both conferences supplied examples of individual excellence of oral history in wide-ranging areas. The talk by Charles Hill of the National Gallery on the use of oral history in preparing an exhibition on Canadian painting during the Thirties and the outline by Michael Mullins from Alice Lloyd College of his involvement with a local Appalachia community in rediscovering its own history provided a glimpse of the newer frontiers of oral history. The description by Daniel Reed from the U.S. National Archives of the archival problems presented by the Nixon presidency and journalist Daniel Schorr's parallels of oral historians to journalists with respect to the question of revealing source materials gave insight into possible future controversies. Barry Broadfoot's explanation of his success in oral history and the delineation by Bernard Ostry, National Museums Corporation, of his previous work in the Pearson television biography aptly demonstrated the private enterprise and public traditions that can both now be found in oral history journalism. But perhaps the best statement on the current state of oral history came from Samuel B. Hand, Editor of the *Oral History Review*, on criteria for acceptance of articles in his journal. What is least needed are articles on personal projects defending the legitimacy of oral history because the time for these articles has passed. What is most needed are articles assessing the weaknesses and strengths of existing oral history collections from the perspective of the researcher. The time for these articles, as evidenced by these conferences, is still to come.

Richard Lohead
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Archives and Records Association of New Zealand

The Archives and Records Association of New Zealand was formed 2 October 1976. Forty-five individuals attended the inaugural meeting in Wellington, and adopted a constitution which had been circulated widely beforehand. A council and officers were elected. The officers are: Thomas Wilsted (President); Ian Matheson (Vice-President); Rosemary Collier (Secretary); and Robin Griffen (Treasurer). The Council elected Stuart Strachan to the position of Editor of the Association's publications. Mr. Strachan is the editor of the existing bulletin of the Archives Committee of the New Zealand Library Association, *Archifacts*.

The Association is intended to be an "interest" rather than a professional organization because New Zealand is a small country at an early stage of archival development, with few professional archivists. The objectives of the new Association are:

- To foster the care, preservation and proper use of archives and records, both public and private, and their effective administration.
- To arouse public awareness of the importance of records and archives and in all matters affecting their preservation and use, and to co-operate or affiliate with any other bodies in New Zealand or elsewhere with like objects.
- To promote the training of archivists, records keepers, curators, librarians and others by the dissemination of specialized knowledge and by encouraging the provision of adequate training in the administration and conservation of archives and records.

- To encourage research into problems connected with the use, administration and conservation of archives and records and to promote the publication of the results of this research.
- To promote the standing of archives institutions.
- To advise and support the establishment of archives services throughout New Zealand.
- To publish a bulletin at least once a year and other publications in furtherance of these objects.

Rosemary Collier
Archives and Records
Association of New Zealand

The Manuscript Society

Ottawa has been selected to be the site for the 1978 convention of the Manuscript Society. In choosing Canada, only a few years after meeting in London, England, the Society wishes to emphasize its international character and its growing non-American membership. Its quarterly publication, *Manuscripts*, carries a good balance of learned articles, business reports, organizational information and professional advertisements, and frequently highlights research studies, events and activities which transcend their traditional North American orientation.

The Manuscript Society looks upon itself as an "international society of collectors established to foster the greater use of original source manuscript material in the study, teaching and writing of history . . . to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge among researchers, scholars and collectors. . . ." The Society numbers among its members institutional and private collectors, dealers in manuscripts and other archival materials, archivists, manuscript curators, historians and other researchers. It holds annual meetings, usually during the last week in May, in urban centres which have archival repositories or manuscript collections. The program is divided into sessions at which papers are read, issues debated and topics discussed. Strong emphasis is placed on tours of repositories which often involve visits to historic sites and noteworthy cultural centres. Total membership of the Society is 1,204.

To lay the groundwork for the 1978 Meeting I attended this year's convention in Philadelphia. Because of the unfortunate publicity in connection with the tragic deaths of a number of American legionnaires, the attendance at the Society's meetings was less than expected. Not quite 80 members registered out of the usual complement of 100-150. As expected, the theme of the meetings was the Bicentenary of the American Revolution. Meetings were held at, and tours were conducted of the archives of the American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Presbyterian Historical Society (which incidentally has many Canadian and Canada-related documents), the University of Pennsylvania collections, the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, the Rosenbach Foundation, the First Bank of the United States, the Temple University Library, the Athenaeum, and the Balch Institute with its ethnic archives collections.

The papers which were read and the panel discussions which took place had a very pragmatic significance, and included topics such as "Archives and Manuscript Security," "Current Trends in Collecting Business History Archives and Manuscripts," "Manuscript Forgery Detection," "Collecting Ethnic History Archives and Manuscripts," "Break-through in Conservation," and "Collecting Archival Drawings." Other papers were: "Two Traitors in the American Revolution," "A Rising People: The Founding of the