

United States, 1765-1789," "The Centennial of 1876," "The American Kaleidoscope," "Private Collectors of Philadelphia," and two anecdotal talks on Philadelphia dealers and collectors.

Again, as in the past, there was the members' auction at which manuscripts were sold. The auction is virtually an annual ritual, and an important source of the Society's revenue, for vendors share the auction proceeds with the Manuscript Society treasurer. The majority of auctioned documents sold at prices from \$10 to \$100, although one sold for \$600. Most items went to private collectors. The non-American MSS consisted of A.L.S. of figures such as: Robert Devereux (the second Earl of Essex), Gabriel Faure, Ignace Paderewski, Aga Khan, Aram Khatchaturian, Louis-Cyr Sanson, *inter alia*.

There is no doubt that a meeting which includes archivists, curators, manuscript dealers, and private collectors provides a worthwhile forum for exchanging ideas, comparing professional attitudes, discussing problems of mutual concern and resolving potential conflicts of interest. The Manuscript Society is agreeable that we invite to the 1978 Ottawa convention our Canadian colleagues from the Association of Canadian Archivists, L'Association des archivistes du Québec, and particularly the National Archival Appraisal Board. A committee is now being organized to plan the Ottawa meeting and to make it an interesting and exciting event.

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## ACA Conference

For many archivists, the first annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Archivists at the Learned Societies, Laval University, Quebec, 31 May to 2 June, 1976, was characterized by a sense of maturity. The programme offered stimulating sessions, and participation derived from ideas and concepts, not from rank in the profession or in institutions. Fewer persons than in the past seemed inclined to entertain the debate about the appropriateness of the Association. More archivists were concerned with getting on with the job, with finding the most suitable concepts and practices for meeting the challenge of preserving the national heritage. Everywhere there was a sense of challenge, a sense of crisis in archives, a sense of commitment. As always, dialogue before, during and after sessions demonstrated the essential unity of purpose among archivists, regardless of location, language or level. As ever, the social contacts, aided by events such as the Association des archivistes du Québec/Association of Canadian Archivists cabaret evening, proved that the informal contacts rival the sessions themselves in importance.

A recapitulation of the sessions must always fall short of being an accurate reflection, for there is no substitute for attendance. Nevertheless, it may still be worthwhile at least to identify some elements of a successful conference. Much of the appeal of the individual sessions derived from the orchestration to fit into what I believe will be the overall "theme" of future conferences and the goal of the ACA's activities: improved communications throughout the archival profession. This theme demands a continuing dialogue on issues confronting archivists, leading to a consensus which will be presented to those outside the profession.

The first day of sessions began with "Scratch an Archivist" by Samuel S. Silsby, Archivist of the State of Maine, who looked at problems for archival programmes confronted by efficiency experts in league with budgetary cutbacks. "Local Records: Centralization vs. Decentralization" featured a proposal by Kent Haworth, Provincial

Archives of British Columbia, to follow the second option suggested by the title. Professor Carl Wallace of Laurentian University and Alex Ross, Archives of Ontario, criticized the proposal and offered alternatives to a sharply divided audience. The final item on the day's programme concentrated upon the form and structure of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists.

Day two focussed upon "Freedom of Information" and featured a distinguished panel including Gerald Baldwin, M.P. for Peace River, Professor David Flaherty of the University of Western Ontario, Edward Johnson of the Bureau of Archives and Records Management, State of Florida, and Arthur Maloney, the Ombudsman of Ontario. The day concluded with tours of the Archives nationales, Archives de la ville de Québec, and Archives des Ursulines de Québec. While each archives was interesting, most participants agreed that the Archives des Ursulines provided the most remarkable and engrossing part of the tour.

The third day started with the session "Publishing Archival Sources," chaired by Hart Bowsfield, York University, with a panel including Edith Firth, Metropolitan Toronto Public Library, André Vachon, formerly Archives nationales, and Marie Cordeau, Canada Council. The Canada Council representative was hard-pressed by criticism from an audience which appeared to feel that it had more than its fair share of reasons for indulging in that national pastime of "conking the Council." The sessions continued through "Our Publications, Mirror of the ACA?," chaired by Marion Beyea, Anglican General Synod Archives, with a panel composed of Peter Bower, Public Archives of Canada, Edward Dahl, Public Archives of Canada, and Jack Stagg, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Terry Eastwood, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, and George Brandak, University of British Columbia. This full day was capped by the Annual General Meeting featuring a stimulated audience and an agenda too full to permit a complete airing of the year's activities and future prospects. Nevertheless, a new executive was elected to shoulder some of the burden of leadership during the new and demanding year. The executive is listed on the inside front cover of this journal.

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## **L'Association des archivistes du Québec inc.**

L'année 1976 a été marquée pour l'Association des archivistes du Québec par un travail de consolidation des sections et une augmentation du nombre des régions. En effet, l'A.A.Q. croit que c'est par l'enracinement dans les régions et par l'organisation de cours et de rencontres axés sur les besoins concrets des membres qu'elle saura maintenir leur intérêt. Le congrès annuel, la revue *Archives* et la *Chronique* permettent certes de faire connaissance et d'échanger des expériences mais il faut plus que cela pour intéresser et aider les membres. Depuis novembre 1975, l'Outaouais et le Saguenay-Lac Saint-Jean se sont ajoutés à Québec et à Montréal comme régions de la section des archives historiques. Les membres de l'A.A.Q. inscrits ou intéressés par la section de la gestion des documents sont aussi invités et encouragés à participer aux rencontres organisées par ces deux nouvelles régions.

Au cours du congrès annuel qui s'est déroulé à Québec les 29, 30 et 31 mai dans le cadre du congrès des sociétés savantes, un nouvel exécutif a été choisi et MM. Gilles Héon et André Martineau ont été élus président et vice-président respectivement. La rencontre amicale avec les membres de l'Association of Canadian Archivists s'est malheureusement