déroulée à un moment assez mal choisi puisqu’il s’agissait du dernier jour du congrès pour les membres de l’A.A.Q. Il y aurait lieu d’examiner quel type de rencontre conviendrait le mieux aux membres respectifs des deux associations.


L’automne a été aussi marqué par la célébration d’un événement qui voudrait devenir annuel, la “journée des archives”. Dans l’Abitibi, l’Est du Québec, la Mauricie, l’Outaouais, le Saguenay ainsi qu’à Montréal, Québec et Sherbrooke, l’A.A.Q. s’est efforcée par des conférences, par des entrevues télévisées, par des rencontres, par des articles de journaux et de périodiques, de sensibiliser une plus grande partie de la population au phénomène “archives”, d’expliquer le rôle des archivistes et des gestionnaires de documents et de solliciter le concours des individus et des organismes dans la préservation du patrimoine archivistique.


Françoise Houle
Archives publiques du Canada

Scottish Collections at the University of Guelph

The History Department was established at the University of Guelph in 1965 when the university came into existence, and from its commencement some of the members indicated an interest in Scottish and Scottish-Canadian history. As a result, in 1967 an Interdepartmental Committee on Scottish Studies was established under the supervision of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Since that time Scottish studies have become an important part of the programs of both the Social Science and Arts faculties. Donations of funds from individuals, the Canada Council and the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, Montreal, have enabled the committee to build up a large and qualitatively fine collection of monographs, various series of printed documents such as those published by the Scottish History Society, the Bannatyne Club, the Spalding Club, the Maitland Club, the Wigtown and Ayrshire Archaelogical Society and the British Government, and, of most importance, a number of collections of manuscript muniments.

The first collection acquired was that of the Campbells of Monzie, Perthshire, through the generosity of Dr. Alistair MacRae of Guelph. This group of documents, consisting of some 300 items, covers the period from 1390 to 1806, with the main portion dealing with the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The oldest document is the last will and testament of the Earl of Orkney, but some of the most important deal with the later period.
One is a letter to Lady Grizzell Bailey describing the attempted landing of the Spaniards in Scotland in 1719. A number of documents dealing with the ‘‘equivalent’’ given by the English in compensation for the Scots’ losses in Carien, and the use of the money to establish the North British Linen Company, are of importance to Scotland’s economic history during the period. Besides these, there are numbers of estate documents and other business items as well as family muniments of a more personal nature.

The second major collection to be acquired was presented to the university by Mrs. LeBlanc of Toronto, and consisted of the family papers brought by her grandfather, Rev. John Campbell, to Pictou, N.S., from Kildonan, Sutherlandshire. Mr. Campbell was the first minister of the Free Church of Scotland in Pictou. This collection covers the years 1789 to 1851 and consists principally of personal letters, many of which recount the problems of the Highland crofters in the face of the changing economy of the north of Scotland during the first half of the nineteenth century. Among the approximately 350 documents are also many personal and family items such as notices of deaths and funerals. At times the collection tends to become somewhat lugubrious.

Most important, and the most recent acquisition, is the Ewen-Graham collection consisting of between 12,000 and 14,000 items. They cover the period 1721-1886 and are centered upon Aberdeen. The central figure, and presumably the person who collected most of the materials, was John Ewen, a prominent citizen of Aberdeen, a hardware merchant, jeweller, poet and political reformer. The material is extremely varied in content, consisting of a great number of letters, business and legal documents. Ewen had a wide correspondence not only with business associates, but also with leading artistic and literary figures of his day. He also acted as the agent for the disbursement of charitable donations from the local aristocracy. This collection provides a large amount of source material concerning the history of Aberdeen in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was purchased in 1974 by means of a gift from the Macdonald Stewart Foundation.

Apart from such major collections, considerable numbers of family papers from the Guelph area have been donated to the university, chiefly by families of Scottish origin, thus enabling the university to provide materials for research in both Scottish and Scottish-Canadian history.

W. Stanford Reid
Interdepartmental Committee on
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Recording Techniques for Oral History Interviews

The Sound Archives of the Public Archives of Canada has produced a demonstration tape on the techniques of recording oral history interviews. The tape, which runs for 16 minutes and 30 seconds, offers a basic introduction to oral history interviewing and illustrates some common technical problems encountered. This tape was auditioned at the workshop of the Oral History Association meetings in Ottawa during September, 1976, and is now available free of charge from the Public Archives of Canada. A French-language version is also available.

Persons requesting a copy of this tape should send the appropriate amount of blank tape (1.5 mil open reel tape or 30 minutes per side cassette) to the Sound Archives Section, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, K1A 0N3, Canada.

Ernest J. Dick
Public Archives of Canada