

Such criticisms, however, should be placed in context. Mary Allodi's catalogue is far superior to any of its Canadian predecessors. One can only hope that she and the Royal Ontario Museum will go on to produce volumes cataloguing the prints and oils in their collection and that other institutions will follow suit.

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International Directory of Archives, as of January 1975. **Annuaire International des archives**, à Jour en Janvier 1975. Paris: Presses universitaires de France 1975. 480 p. (*Archivum*, v. 22/23; 1972/73) DM 98 Available from Verlag Dokumentation, D-8000 München 71, Pöessenbacher Strasse 2, Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

The *International Directory of Archives* supersedes one published in 1955 (*Archivum*, Vol. 5) which was supplemented in 1959 (*Archivum*, Vol. 9). It represents 132 countries, a considerable increase over the 55 in the 1955-59 issue. The foreword, questionnaire, and list of contents are printed in French, English, German, Spanish, and Italian. The entries are arranged by country, and for each country by type of archives (for example, federal, provincial, judicial, religious); entries are made in the language of the country where the repository is situated if it is one of the five languages in which the foreword appears, otherwise they are in French with the name of the repository left in its own language. A good feature of the directory is its listing, at the outset of each country's entries, of any national directories and catalogues which have been produced.

The entries provide name, address and telephone number of the repository, hours of operation, annual period of closure, conditions of access, and details regarding holdings, published guides, copying and typing facilities, restrictions, and loan policy. The information is reproduced in abridged form: where it is uniform for a country or category, it appears at the beginning of the entries under a section titled "common data"; in some instances a yes or no answer requires reference back to the questionnaire. Such short cuts are an inconvenience to the reader but they are necessary to keep the directory to a publishable size. Another imperfection is the failure of all entries to provide information on all points.

Any criticism of the handling of entries must be balanced with what I feel are unrealistic and improper expectations of directories of archives: researchers want detailed information on holdings and facilities; archivists want to know about records management operations and other programmes; conservators are interested in repair shops and equipment. Gathering, verifying, and reproducing the most basic information regarding the archives of only a small locality is a difficult task; to do it on an international scale is a formidable undertaking. The foreword to this international directory states that it is not intended to be a world guide to archives but rather a directory of archive services. If there are faults in the presentation of the data regarding these services, it is because the directory has tried to provide answers to too many questions. A directory that merely identifies archival repositories and provides their addresses is a useful tool. The user, be he potential researcher or surveying archivist or conservator, will thus be enabled to seek his own information. National guides and catalogues provide considerable information on holdings and there is no need for an archival directory to duplicate this. Information beyond basics is a bonus and in most cases the user will want to confirm it or request more.

The major fault of this directory is its inconsistency in the inclusion of repositories. The criteria for inclusion, as outlined in the foreword, were extremely broad: institutions open to the public and holding materials of value for historical research were to be described. The coverage varies among countries. The treatment of the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, for instance, is dissimilar: the United Kingdom is the most thoroughly covered, with national repositories, county record offices, university archives, private holdings, and other types included; the entries for the United States touch only federal, state, and municipal archives; Canada falls between with federal and provincial, judicial, city, religious, university and college archives and libraries, historical societies, libraries, and museums represented. These categories are not covered consistently within Canada's entries. For instance, in the case of Anglican Church Archives, in as limited a sphere as Ontario, the Diocese of Ontario Archives appear but not the Diocese of Ottawa or the Diocese of Toronto Archives which have similar holdings and operate on a similar scale. The Molson Archives are the only business archives included with such a leader as the Bank of Nova Scotia Archives noticeably absent. Seventy-one entries, of which one is a composite entry for the Archives judiciaires du Québec, are found for Canada, a severe paring from the 171 repositories reporting to the latest *Union List of Manuscripts*. These omissions detract greatly from the reliability of the work, and if there is good reason for the omission of so many repositories, the reason is neither evident nor explained. The fault probably lies with the international scope of the directory and the dependence of its editor on national correspondents for interpretation and implementation of directions.

The directory will be most helpful on the international level. At least it will serve as a foundation for future efforts which should concentrate on a more limited entry, consistency in responses to the questionnaire, and consistency in the inclusion of repositories. Not until local, regional, and national directories have been produced can we expect a comprehensive international directory, and if such directories appear, the need for one at the international level will be lessened. *Archivum* then might restrict itself to providing a listing of these directories rather than providing a reproduction of their contents. Meanwhile the *International Directory of Archives* will serve as a useful tool.

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Directory of Business Archives in the United States and Canada. SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS, BUSINESS ARCHIVES COMMITTEE.
Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1975. 38 p. Members: \$1.00, Non-members: \$3.00.

Information is what archives are all about, but to bring the records and their users together, archivists must make guides to sources readily available. Despite the fact that business documents are of increasing interest to scholars and that major archives are encouraging companies to maintain their own historical collections, a comprehensive list of business archives in Canada has not yet been compiled. Even the massive *Union List of Manuscripts*, which has among its participants the archives of governments, museums, universities, religious bodies, military units and private foundations, fails to include any business repository. Access to already scarce business records is thereby made even more difficult.

A partial remedy to this deficiency is provided by the *Directory of Business Archives*, reissued in an updated version in 1975 by the Society of American Archivists. Nineteen Canadian firms are found among the nearly two hundred entries. Some of the other repositories listed might also contain material relevant to Canada.