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 judiciaries 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.

Marion Beyea
Anglican General Synod Archives

Directory of Business Archives in the United States and Canada. SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS, BUSINESS ARCHIVES COMMITTEE.

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.
This directory is extremely useful. In addition to a synopsis of the contents of each collection, the address, telephone number and the name of the responsible company officer are given. Restrictions are also clearly stated. All this information is well arranged and clearly displayed. The directory's format is ideal for the itinerant scholar. Its major deficiency is the lack of comprehensiveness for both the United States and Canada. At least ten significant Canadian archival collections, such as those held by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and by James Richardson and Sons, are missing. Certainly the Directory of Business Archives fails to match the extensive indexes provided in Great Britain. It serves, nevertheless, as an example of what can be done with a more limited effort. And until Canadians undertake a similar project to do the job here more thoroughly, this American publication is the best convenient guide to our private business archives.

Peter E. Rider
Business Archivist
Public Archives of Canada


The rapid growth during the 1960s of interest in the historical geography of North America has produced a large number of unpublished academic studies on aspects of the early geography of Canada and the United States as well as a steady production of published literature devoted to the imprint of man on the land. The National Archives of the United States, well aware of the historic geographers' increasing use of archival resources, sponsored in its "user-archivist dialogue" series a conference in November, 1971, focussing upon research in historical geography. Pattern and Process, containing nineteen papers and discussion summaries, follows the five themes of the two-day conference: research on the historical geography of the United States; Afro-American population; exploration, surveying and mapping; transportation, commerce and industry; and, rural and urban settlement. One appendix lists the resource papers distributed at the conference; the other, probably the contribution of most archival interest, is Ralph Ehrenberg's "Bibliography of resources on historical geography in the National Archives."

The papers illustrate well the various research themes explored (for example, population mobility and vegetational perception) and the diversity of methodological approaches employed (for example, statistical analysis and narrative) by historical geographers who are distinguished from other academics, according to one of the conference participants, "by an overriding concern with location, places, areas, regions, territories, or realms" (p. 13). The four essays by archivists describe some of the sources of potential interest to historical geographers.

Historical geographers will undoubtedly find this volume interesting, but archivists will be disappointed by the omission of a discussion of the unique document requirements of historical geographers and a discussion of the government records now ignored by archivists but of special interest to this community of scholars; this dialogue was one of the objectives of the conference. Does Pattern and Process inform archivists of how they can serve better these academics with their particular perspective? In a limited way it does, but so does the periodical literature which is readily available. So we are left with a fine collection of essays in historical geography but little to guide us in our tasks as archivists.

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