

intellectual level only slightly above idiocy, I found some of the passages rather complex and not beyond misinterpretation. If archivists agree with my analysis, then we should make renewed representations to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, as strongly as possible. The archival profession cannot accept a situation in which a large percentage of its daily work is technically illegal.

Grace Maurice Hyam
Public Archives of Canada

Toronto Area Archivists Group

Since its creation four years ago, the Toronto Area Archivists Group (TAAG) has been working toward a greater understanding of the archival profession and the role of the archivist. The group has given those persons interested in archives the opportunity to meet and discuss problems common to all institutions.

The majority of the 120 members of TAAG are from smaller institutions in the Toronto area, although the membership is expanding to other cities throughout the province. Unlike the staff of larger institutions who are able to become specialized in a specific area, most members of TAAG have to be specialists in all aspects of archival work. These range from accessioning valuable materials to dealing with customs brokers to ordering shelving from steel companies. One of the major services TAAG has tried to provide is putting people in contact with those who can help them solve their particular problems.

Courses for people working in the archival field are not readily available at the present time. However, monthly meetings of TAAG, hosted by members of the group, help to generate new ideas and methods of handling specific problems. Those topics discussed over the past six months include the care, handling and storage of maps, the forensic sciences and the forgery of documents, oral history, and methods of caring for photographs, which included a discussion of the collections of the City of Toronto Archives and the Ontario Archives. A particularly interesting visit to the Toronto Star Library stimulated a discussion about the differences between special libraries and archives.

Through liaisons with other organizations in the Toronto area, TAAG is hoping to expand its archival education programme. For the past two years, TAAG has held a one-day workshop together with the University of Toronto Library School Alumni Association (LSAA). This year, for the first time, the LSAA-TAAG committee was joined by members of the Ontario Museum Association (OMA). The aim of the first liaison committee was to further the interests of both librarians and archivists in subjects common to both. With the addition of the members of the OMA it is hoped that a more active workshop programme will be developed to strengthen learning opportunities for people whose professions overlap in certain areas.

This year's workshop, entitled "Creative Approaches to Display," explored the display of books, documents and small artifacts. Held at the University of Toronto Library School, the workshop covered topics such as "Exhibits and Preservation," "Exhibits—Themes and Concepts," "Exhibiting Copies," "Display Cases," "Labelling," "Matting," and "Physical Background of Displays."

The need for special supplies has always been a major problem for persons working in archives, particularly in small organizations which require small amounts of materials but must buy large quantities. In an attempt to alleviate the problem, TAAG began purchasing materials in large quantities from the suppliers and distributing them to members. Although minimum orders of materials, such as Hollinger boxes and acid-free stock, cannot be handled because of the lack of storage space, the centralized purchasing has been very successful so far. An additional difficulty arises with the importing of conservation

materials, which are subject to customs duties. As a result of discussions with members of the Ontario Museum Association, who have similar problems, a committee of TAAG and OMA members is now looking for possible solutions to the many problems of purchasing. It is hoped that the joint committee will be able to establish a service to overcome the variety of obstacles which members are now encountering.

In addition to the various joint committees, a number of TAAG committees have been set up to handle different programmes. For example, the TAAG Advisory Committee, introduced as a result of the increasing demand for information on implementing archival programmes, has continued its work. The Committee has received a number of requests from organizations requiring help in starting their own archival programmes, and in this capacity has visited organizations such as IBM, Simpsons-Sears, National Yacht Club, Consumers Gas and Canadian Pacific Hotels.

The first publication produced by members of the group, *Guide to Archives in the Toronto Area*, has proved to be a useful tool to researchers. Encouraged by the success of this publication, TAAG is now undertaking a long-term publishing project, which, when completed, will be invaluable to persons wishing to study the province's heritage using primary sources. The project, a series of volumes entitled "Ontario's Heritage: A Guide to Archival Resources," is being co-ordinated by Gordon Dodds. The first volume, covering the Peterborough region, is now being compiled and work on further volumes will begin shortly. The series will describe archival repositories throughout the province with each volume featuring a particular geographical region.

TAAG has also undertaken, in conjunction with the University of Toronto Library School Alumni Association, to publish the lecture given by David Larson, Ohio Historical Society, at the Bertha Bassam Lecture in April 1975. The lecture and panel session, entitled "Training in Information Sciences," outlined aims for education in the field of archives.

The Toronto Area Archivists Group constitution states that the aims of the group are "to encourage and foster professional standards among archivists, to promote the preservation of historical records, and to encourage the publication of works conducive to the development of archivists and the archival profession." With these aims in mind, it is hoped that TAAG will continue to undertake projects which will develop the archival profession in Toronto and the surrounding area.

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Toronto Area Archivists Group

Association des archivistes du Québec

During the first half of 1977, the Association des archivistes du Québec has pursued its usual activities while placing special emphasis on training within the profession. The association's sections dealing with records management and with *archives historiques* have met regularly at the regional level and have organized informational meetings on numerous subjects. Within the records management section, a working group has formed to prepare a manual on that subject. As a result of this precedent, it is possible to foresee additional working groups being established in the future to respond to the various needs of specialists in documentation.

The committee responsible for publications has already published two issues of *Archives*, with a third about to appear. The new and more attractive format of *Archives* should help make it the standard-bearer of the association. It may be of interest to people wishing to complete their runs of this journal that back copies are now available on microfiche. The proceedings of the 1976 annual meeting have been published; a list of