

**Seventeenth Report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board for the Period April 1, 1974 to March 31, 1976.** Regina: 1976. 32 p. ISSN 0380 5077 Free.

The *Seventeenth Report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board* will be useful to researchers and archivists for the descriptions of functions and operations and for the long accessions list of which it is essentially composed.

There is, however, much information which would have rendered this report more valuable, even if some of it is found in previous reports. If available, statistical tables for the last decade showing the rate of acquisitions, the number of researchers (this is not even given for the years 1974 to 1976), the backlog of unprocessed collections, and so forth, would place the two years it covers in some context. The report also fails to give a vital perspective on the future: there is no indication of problems facing the Archives or of priorities which it has established. Since the Saskatchewan Archives probably has its share of both, the annual report would seem to be an ideal forum for their publication, destined as it is to inform both the government and the public at large.

James Lambert  
Université Laval

**Annual Report, 1974/1975.** PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA. Ottawa: ©1976. 129 p. Catalogue no. SA1-1975. **Annual Report, 1975/1976.** PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA. Ottawa: ©1977. 134 p. Catalogue no. SA1-1976. Both publications free, available from the Information Services Division of the Archives. (Text in English and French, each with separate title page and pagination.)

Researchers and archivists alike will be pleased to find that the Public Archives of Canada's annual reports are finally catching up with the activities of the venerable institution. The reports for the fiscal years 1974/1975 and 1975/1976, now available, will actually apprise researchers of new developments instead of merely confirming stale rumours.

Introductions to both reports highlight the most noteworthy projects during their respective years. However, while the introduction to the 1974/75 report describes an impressive decade of growth from 1964, that of 1975/76 warns that, at least for the immediate future, additional resources will be minimal and that the year covered by the report was one of "consolidation, reappraisal of objectives and priorities, and emphasis on economy and efficiency." Both introductions mention continued negotiations to establish a site for a new archives building, but the second report does not indicate any significant progress.

The developments discussed in the introduction are treated more fully, along with more mundane matters, in the reports of the various divisions and branches. The uniformity existing between these two reports makes it an easy task to compare progress (or in many cases a regrettable lack of progress) made in the two years they cover, and this is facilitated even further by the presentation of statistical tables which supplement a concise, informative text. The various divisions of the Historical (now Archives) Branch give highly selective lists of acquisitions. It is here that the austerity trend is most evident, with many sections reporting in 1975/76 the temporary abandonment of some projects because of the lack of funds and personnel, if not space. (Given the reported backlog of unprocessed collections for want of staff one might wish to see adopted an old Egyptian proverb: "Shelve papyrus, not programmes.")