

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.")

Finally, both reports have considerably alleviated the tedium inherent in such publications through the use of reproductions of photographs, paintings and drawings from the holdings of the PAC.

James Lambert
Université Laval

Communiqué: Canadian Studies. Urban Studies Issue. Vol. 3, no. 3 (April 1977) ALAN F.J. ARTIBISE, contributing editor. Willowdale: Association of Canadian Community Colleges. 130 p. illus. ISSN 0318 1197 \$3.00.

Inspired by the recent popularity of urban studies, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges has produced a special issue of *Communiqué: Canadian Studies* which, according to the introduction, attempts to provide "an up-to-date and comprehensive listing and critique of sources available for the teaching and study of the urban dimension of Canadian Studies." However, the introduction also notes that each section "is very much a selected listing of available sources" and that "there are certainly areas that have been overlooked." All confusion is removed as one progresses through the sections; selectivity and partialness clearly have triumphed. In such a large undertaking it could hardly be otherwise.

Of the nine sections into which the sources have been divided, those of particular interest to archivists are: IV, "The Public Archives of Canada"; V, "Archives, Libraries and Information Centres"; and VI, "Audio-Visual Sources." Indeed, one counts five archivists among the seventeen contributors, which is encouraging. Rather than attempting to list all the individual collections in the various repositories spotlighted, the compiler is content with general descriptions of the nature and the research potential of their holdings and with providing sufficient information to enable the researcher to make personal inquiries. To have attempted a full listing would have immeasurably fattened the issue and have produced a very partial list, sporting a false air of completeness. In any case, researchers are referred to the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories* for such detailed information. Unfortunately, because of their brevity, these general descriptions often highlight only the more obvious sources.

Similarly, the repositories considered of sufficient interest for inclusion in the *Urban Studies Issue* seems unjustifiably limited to the Public Archives of Canada and several city archives. It is amazing that there is no mention of provincial, university, or religious archives. While it may not have been possible to describe each repository in these categories, it would have been useful to outline the kinds of sources held of interest to urban specialists. This deficiency points to another of a more general nature—the utter neglect of the cultural facet of urban life as compared with the economic, social and political sides.

These criticisms notwithstanding, this is a useful research tool. Other special issues of *Communiqué: Canadian Studies* are now available on native studies, women, labour, fine arts, British Columbia, Atlantic Canada, military studies and multiculturalism.

James Lambert
Université Laval