

ed to the problems of small local institutions, frequently museums or libraries, which hold archival collections. From time to time, as in the case of Victoria City's archives and in approaches to the provincial government, the Association has acted as the voice of professional archivists in the community at large. The desire to extend the work of the Association has meant having to overcome the severe limitations of a small, professional membership, scanty resources and the always formidable British Columbia geography.

The annual membership fee is five dollars; applications should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Miriam McTiernan, c/o BC Central Credit Union, P.O. Box 2038, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3R9.

Terry Eastwood
Provincial Archives of British Columbia

History of Saskatchewan Project

Saskatchewan celebrates its Diamond Jubilee in 1980. In support of a two-volume illustrated history of the province, the Saskatchewan government has made available to the Saskatchewan Archives Board a special grant to administer the project and to commission John H. Archer to research and write it. A noted son of Saskatchewan with a varied career as teacher, archivist, librarian, historian and university president, Archer is being seconded for the period from his present teaching appointment with the University of Regina's Department of History and will take up a full-time position with the Provincial Archives in July 1978.

The Board anticipates that Archer's work will have general appeal, deriving from the wealth of documentation acquired by the Archives since 1945 and reflecting the quality of historical interpretation recognizable in the Board's thirty-year-old journal, *Saskatchewan History*, edited by Associate Provincial Archivist Douglas Bocking. Particular emphasis will be given to Saskatchewan following World War II and to those archival resources which reveal more of the cultural and social fabric of its people and institutions than traditional political history has so far done.

Gordon Dodds
Archives of Ontario

Seventeenth International Round Table Conference

Representing Canada at the Seventeenth Round Table meeting of the International Council on Archives (ICA) were Wilfred I. Smith and Bernard Weilbrenner of the Public Archives of Canada, and François Beaudin of the Archives nationales du Québec. In accordance with decisions made in 1976 at Washington (ICA General Assembly) and Nairobi (UNESCO General Conference), the theme of this Round Table was the "Constitution and Reconstitution of National Archival Heritages."

Four sessions were held to discuss the theme. Two examined the theoretical and legal aspects, including questions of common patrimony, right-of-ownership, territorial provenance, functional identification and respect for the integrity of archival groups. Another discussed practical concerns, especially the time and cost involved in the identification and preparation of records prior to transfer from one nation to another, and the provision of appropriate conservation and storage conditions in recipient coun-

tries. A final session drew up agreements as well as recommendations for international action which were approved by twenty-eight of the forty-five assembled nations, and can be summarized as follows:

1. Full satisfaction with the bilateral negotiations on records transfers between Austria and Yugoslavia, and between Indonesia and the Netherlands.
2. Reaffirmation of the right of each state to recover those parts of its archival heritage now kept outside its territory and of the right of each national community to have, under agreed conditions, access to and the right to copy records belonging to other countries and relevant to its own history.
3. Recommendation that, considering the scope of unresolved archival claims involving colonial systems especially, bilateral negotiations relating to ownership, access and copying should be promoted.
4. Underscoring of the need to recognize the integrity of archival groups as a controlling principle in the settlement of disputed archival claims, though functional significance ought to be recognized in certain cases.
5. Emphasis upon the advantages of using provenance criteria in determining ownership of disputed archives and common patrimony as a regulator in establishing rights of access.
6. Recognition of the legitimate right to information on the history of public authorities and citizens of countries which formed part of larger political entities or were administered by foreign powers.

A final resolve was that coherent international action would facilitate and accelerate settlement of claims and that, accordingly, the International Council on Archives should direct immediate efforts toward four specific tasks:

1. inventorying all archival groups including disputed archives which relate to the history of other countries in the custody of public and private repositories in each country
2. publication of a representative collection of agreements and conventions on the transfer of original records and on access to archives
3. preparation of a treatise on the principles and terminology to be used in a draft model agreement on disputed claims settlement
4. study of the means of financing microfilm operations, perhaps under a special international fund administered by UNESCO

At the invitation of the Kenyan Government, the 1978 Round Table Conference will be held in Nairobi on the theme, "Professional Standards for the Establishment and Organization of Archival Services."

Gordon Dodds
Archives of Ontario

Canadian Urban History Conference

Last May an urban history conference, "Canada's Urban Past," was held at the University of Guelph. Arranged with the city-building process in mind, the conference dealt with urban growth, the role of city planners, developers and builders, and the impact of government at the provincial and municipal level in determining urban form.