

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.

Conference planners deliberately excluded the themes of urban society and reform because of the paucity of sources in archives relating to the city. A rich regional flavour was imparted by nine papers devoted to urbanization in the West and an almost equal number to Central Canada. Ronald Rudin of Concordia examined the dependence of Quebec towns on branch banks to lure industry and capital; David Knight's study of the seat of government question in the Canadas revealed a fierce inter-city rivalry fuelled by city support regions. Perhaps the highlight of the conference was the session devoted to an evaluation of Michael Katz's *The People of Hamilton, Canada West*, a work which has provoked sharp criticism from some scholarly quarters. Nevertheless, the session clearly demonstrated that archivists cannot ignore Katz and his cohorts who have helped open new frontiers in research methodology through the systematic examination of public records.

Archivists properly regard historical research trends from a standpoint not so much of historical discovery as of types and importance of sources used. The historian attempts to recreate the past, but archivists are tempted to examine a book back to front — sources before narrative. Urban history, if this conference is a reliable yardstick, relies heavily on the public record: assessment rolls, census records, town plans and land records. Papers on urban development in the West, for instance, cried out for embellishment and clarification which only the records of that formidable realtor, the Canadian Pacific Railway, could provide. The conference also considered the bureaucratic intransigence of Statistics Canada, census taker and custodian, which appears to have no intention of making the post-1871 census records public on a regular basis. In fact, it was clear that this federal department considers the disclosure of the 1871 census in the 1940s a mistake. Without some acceptable provision for public accessibility, quantitative researchers face the prospect of having their studies seriously circumscribed and limited permanently to the period 1851 to 1871.

In Canadian historical writing, approaches once considered frivolous and trendy have taken on elements of respectability. The Guelph event was a clear indication that in Canada, urban history now shares some measure of that respectability.

Allan J. MacDonald
Archives of Ontario

Canadian Gay Archives

The Canadian Gay Archives constitutes the archives of the Gay Liberation Movement in Canada. In less than fifteen years this movement has grown to include more than ninety organizations stretching from Victoria to St. John's. They range from social, religious, and political groups to periodical publications such as *The Body Politic* (Toronto), *After Stonewall* (Winnipeg), *Long Time Coming* (Montreal), and *Gay Tide* (Vancouver). These organizations produce a considerable amount of material, both interesting and valuable, which is now being systematically collected and preserved by the Archives.

In 1973 Jearld Moldenhauer of The Body Politic Collective proposed that an archives be formed to house and arrange the wide variety of material arriving at the office of the newspaper. It was at that time an unorganized but clearly important collection of documents. During the first year of operation contact was made with gay and lesbian groups advising them of the formation of the Archives and soliciting material from them.

One of the first acquisitions of the Canadian Gay Liberation Movement Archives, as it was then called, was the papers of the University of Toronto Homophile Association (UTHA). Upon arrival, these files were dispersed throughout the main file with its