

world, examples of which are the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London (1665-) and the publications of l'Académie des Sciences, Paris (1666-). In addition to these, the CISTI library contains all the major journals in science, technology, and medicine, together with thousands of minor journals. Published indexes to this material have been collected widely and secondary material on the history of science is well represented.

Until recently, the primary sources in monograph form had not been collected extensively. The situation has changed with the acquisition of a set entitled "Landmarks of Science." This set, comprising thirty thousand sides of microprint containing more than 2.5 million pages of original text, was begun by the Readex Corporation in 1966 and is now complete. "Landmarks of Science" includes first editions from the beginning of printing to the present day, as well as successive editions of works when extensive changes were made in the texts. CISTI has also acquired *The Catalogue of the History of Science Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries*, which is probably the most comprehensive collection of material on the history of science in North America. This catalogue is particularly useful since every title in "Landmarks of Science" appears in the catalogue and is clearly identified as such, and it can therefore be used as a key to the microprint collection.

Several reprint or facsimile editions of collected works have been purchased as they appeared. Examples of these are: Tycho Brahe, *Opera Omnia* (13 vols.); *Voyage de Humboldt et Bonpland* (33 vols.); Leonardo da Vinci, *Madrid Codices* (4 vols.); Isaac Newton, *Correspondence* (7 vols.); and Leonhard Euler, *Opera Omnia* (73 vols.) The Archives of the Royal Institution of Great Britain (1799-) is now being published and volumes are being acquired as they are issued.

The archival material can be consulted in the Special Collections room at CISTI as can "Landmarks of Science," for which a microfilm reader is provided. Many of the monographs can be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan, but journal articles are available only in photocopy form. All requests for borrowing material should be directed to the Interlibrary Loan Department and should come, if possible, through the library serving the requestor.

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Second Annual Symposium Agricultural History of Ontario, October 1977

Sponsored by the Office of Continuing Studies, Guelph University, the Ontario Agricultural History Symposium is a hopeful sign that the neglected field of agricultural history is attracting more attention from the scholarly community. Both the improvement in the quality of the papers and the increase in the number of scholars at this second Symposium indicates that it has become a viable addition to the round of academic conferences. More than one hundred people heard six papers organized around the general theme of "settlement and settlements."

J.E. Hietala's "The Land Survey System" discussed changing methods of land surveying used by the early Crown Lands Department. Of particular value was his explanation of the reasons for government changes in land survey systems.

C.E.J. Whebell's "Effect of Transportation on the Countryside" was a concise, well-organized explanation of the adverse impact of improved transportation on hinterland marketing and manufacturing centres during the nineteenth century. Basing

his argument on transportation economics, Whebell demonstrated that improved transportation made the larger urban centres more accessible to hinterland farmers, thus eliminating the need for local marketing and manufacturing centres.

Fred Dahms introduced his paper "Declining Villages?" with a criticism of the current "central place" approach to the study of villages in the Ontario hinterland, which judges the health and vitality of a local centre by the number of commercial and service facilities it provides for the adjacent rural community: as the number of these facilities decline so also must the village be declining. Dahms argued that previous researchers have failed to examine the possibility that local centres, rather than declining, were undergoing a change in function. Using Wellington County as an example, he suggested that although villages had lost their central place function over the years, they were now experiencing a revival as both residential centres and as functionally specialized centres within a "spacially extensive" urban system bound together by the automobile.

J.J. Talman's "The Reading Habits of the 1917 Ontario Farmer" singled out the two most widely read farmers' papers, the *Farmers' Advocate* and the *Family Herald*, and gave a page-by-page breakdown of the information which could be found in these journals; clearly the Ontario farmer had access to a wide variety of information in 1917. The value of the paper lay in the humorous relief of some of its subject matter as contrasted with the over-all seriousness of the Symposium.

Norman Ball of the Public Archives of Canada introduced the relatively new field of technological history with his paper "Technological Assessment and Upper-Canadian Bush Farming." As a reply to nineteenth-century critics of bush farming methods, Ball argued that early assessments of bush farming technology mistakenly compared the methods used in bush farming with the methods practised by settled farmers. According to Ball, criticism failed to recognize that the methods of the bush farmer had a completely different purpose from those of the settled farmer. While the settled farmer's methods were directed towards the continuation of a farm, the bush farmer was involved in the process of creating one. Although the technology of the bush farmer may have appeared slovenly and disorganized to the early critic, Ball contended that it was actually admirably suited to the purpose at hand. He concluded that what had appeared to be an assault on the environment was actually the workings of a technology in harmony with the environment.

The final paper of the symposium, "Archival Sources for Agricultural History," was delivered by Alex Ross of the Archives of Ontario. His remarks underlined the fact that agricultural history has remained a research backwater largely ignored by academics. Referring to records at the Archives of Ontario, he pointed to a number of sources pertaining to agricultural history which remain unexplored. Specifically, he mentioned the manuscript census for 1842 and 1848, court records, the Imperial Blue Books and the records of government departments (apart from those of Agriculture which are tragically sparse for the nineteenth century). He also pointed out that no one had yet done an exhaustive study of early agricultural legislation available from the provincial statute books.

Ross's remarks indicated that archives as well have ignored potentially valuable sources of agricultural history. Much of the agricultural record still remains scattered and fragmentary, waiting for an archivist to collect and preserve this important segment of the province's history. Although Queen's University Archives has recently acquired the records of the Ontario Federation of Farmers, Ross pointed out that, as yet, the records of the United Farmers of Ontario and the Farmers' Union have not been acquired by any archives. No attempt has been made to collect the records of local agricultural societies and farmers' mutual fire insurance companies. Reference was also made to the records of Dun and Bradstreet, the business credit-rating firm; microfilm acquisition of these records could provide valuable information on farm implement companies.

The papers of the Symposium will be available in published form from the Office of Continuing Studies by late December 1977. Plans for next year's Symposium have already begun and the planning committee welcomes suggestions concerning possible topics and papers. In this connection, contact T.A. Crowley, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

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Revision of the Main Entry Cards at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Researchers working at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA) have undoubtedly encountered the "yellow cards" — the main entry index to all holdings except maps, sound recordings, films, or major photograph collections. Not only did calling them yellow cards indicate a lack of standardized professional terminology; more to the point, the cards clearly needed a major revision since inconsistency in the nature of the information shown and the format in which it was presented was a long-standing source of annoyance to researchers and staff alike. A card might, for example, say only "Alberta Society of Artists — Records" and give the accession number. A researcher had no indication of the nature, extent, or dates of the collection; the reference archivist had no idea whether he would find the collection in the oversize cabinets, on the shelves, or on a reel of microfilm. For researcher and archivist alike, adequate main entry cards are essential, since they are the principal means of access to a collection. This is doubly true when shortages of professional staff delay for some time the preparation of a detailed inventory.

After deciding to undertake the revision, the first step was to ensure that all the cards describing private manuscript collections accessioned after 1 January 1977 were done according to a standard format. (For various reasons, current government records are not included, but the card system adopted is designed so that it can be applied to government records as well). Each card was to include the following information:

1. *Accession Number*. Because all collections in the PAA are stored in the order of their accession number, that number is essential to locate a collection. As well, the same accession number refers to the entry in the accession register where basic information about the collection is recorded, and to the accession file where any correspondence about the collection is kept. In short, without the accession number it is very difficult to locate the collection itself or information about it.
2. *Location Symbol*. Although a collection cannot be located without knowing its accession number, more information is required since its exact location depends on its provenance, size, and format. For example, all government records are stored on the second floor stack area. With only an accession number, and no indication that a collection is in government records, a lot of time could be wasted looking for the collection in various places on the first floor. In addition, small collections (less than 12 cm in extent) are stored in Hollinger boxes placed at the end of the accessions for that year; again the accession number alone is insufficient to locate the collection. Finally, different types of documents are stored separately; for example, a collection containing correspondence, maps, large posters and tape recordings would be located in four places. An archivist was never certain of having located all parts of a collection.

To deal with these problems the following symbols were designed, each representing a different location: B — Blueprints; C — Cabinets; E — End of year; F — Cine film; G — Government records; M — Maps; Mi — Microfilm; O — Oversize; P — Phonotape; R — Rolled; S — Shelves; T — Top.