

Archival Education

Edwin Welch, in his article "Archival Education" in the previous issue of this journal, states that "the University of British Columbia has seriously proposed to train archivists by offering them six courses in history (providing knowledge which should have been obtained before training), six courses in library science (providing knowledge they will never use) and six courses in archives to be taught by any archivist living near the university." Dr. Welch, formerly a member of the Education Committee of the ACA, was presumably referring to proposals for a diploma course in archival studies sent for comment to the Education Committee of the ACA by Roy Stokes, Director of the School of Librarianship of the University of British Columbia, in the summer of 1976.

As the British Columbia member of the Education Committee of the ACA I would like to clear up misunderstandings which might arise as a result of Dr. Welch's brief reference to the UBC proposals. At no time, to my knowledge, was it ever proposed that "six courses in archives be taught by any archivist living near the university." Furthermore, Dr. Welch appears to have confused numbers of courses with numbers of units and failed to distinguish required courses from optional courses, thereby rendering his description of the UBC proposals quite invalid.

More important than the above, however, is the fact that the proposals cited (and inaccurately described) were withdrawn some time ago. In December 1976, I informed the chairman of the Education Committee of the ACA that the UBC Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee had sent the proposals back to the UBC Department of History/School of Librarianship joint planning committee with the recommendation that a two-year master's programme be developed. A letter, dated January 1977, repeating that information and adding that the UBC planning committee was meeting with local archivists and using the ACA "Guidelines," was circulated to all members of the Education Committee of the ACA. In June 1977, the Education Committee of the ACA discussed the *new* UBC proposals and agreed that they followed the ACA "Guidelines," and surpassed them in several areas.

As I reported at the Annual General Meeting of the ACA in June, there is no guarantee that the master's programme in Archival Studies at UBC will get off the drawing board, as it still has to be examined by several committees and be funded adequately. However, it should be emphasized that this programme has been developed in consultation with archivists and more than meets the standards of the "Guidelines" of the Education Committee of the ACA.

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Archival Education — Welch Replies

I was pleased to see that my article aroused interest and some corrections from Laurenda Daniells and Janet Fyfe. I wrote the piece about a year ago and had not seen the latest University of British Columbia proposals. They are a great improvement on the original suggestion and clearly the ACA Education Committee's recommendations have been carefully considered and adopted by the Library School there — an indication of our progress as a professional organization.

I am not quite so sure about Janet Fyfe's comment on my right to criticize the University of Western Ontario programme. I received my academic training as an archivist almost thirty years ago and had "entered the archival profession" before that.