

materials" is no more than a subject approach. It sets a precedent for the creation of similar collecting societies to promote commercial, labour, religious and other kinds of history. And it precludes the capacity of our government archives with their "total" collecting mandates and our religious, business and association archives to provide a rational acquisition strategy that will preserve all records which should be preserved.

The initiative and undertakings of the Society are commendable. The oral tradition of Ontario's ethnic communities was not being preserved, ethnic records were not being sought systematically and thoroughly, relevant records in the immigrants' countries of origin were not being copied, concern was not being given to saving the records of multicultural broadcasting. But why was a new body needed? Was it because the existing archives lack the energy and flexibility to carry out such a programme? Was it that their capabilities are unknown? Was it that they were outdone by the appeal of a new bureaucracy? Perhaps it was simply that they lack the three million dollars that endows the Multicultural History Society's efforts.

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**A Handbook for the Travelling Exhibitionist.** BARBARA TYLER and VICTORIA DICKENSON. Illustrations by DANIEL NORRIS. Ottawa: Canadian Museums Association, c1977. 51 p. illus. ISBN 0 919106 05 6  
Members: \$4.00, Non-members: \$5.00.

Do not be fooled by the drugstore paperback title or the snappy little cartoons that illustrate this book's main ideas. It is a very handy instructive guide to the mechanics of putting together travelling exhibitions. Although the book is aimed principally at the personnel of human history museums, most of what is said applies equally to those working in archives.

Obviously the appearance of such a work reflects the enormous increase in the number of travelling exhibits being created and exchanged by cultural institutions in this country, including archives. I am sure the authors would agree that this phenomenon has not proceeded entirely smoothly. While some very good travelling exhibitions have been mounted, there have been headaches with content, budget, design, security and scheduling. This manual offers a remedy by identifying the various factors to be considered in planning and execution and by proposing a straightforward and systematic approach to the whole question. Their words are given added force in two ways. Delightful cartoons by Daniel Norris dramatize, often very humorously, their ideas. In addition, example and emphasis are provided by developing, in the course of the book, an imaginary exhibition focussed on the beaver as a Canadian symbol.

The book is divided into six major sections: "In the Beginning," "The Budget," "Up the Critical Path," "The Vital Functions," "The Last Hurdle," and "The Verdict." Two further sections provide a bibliography and appendixes, the latter giving sample forms for loan agreements and condition reports. Each of the major sections is split further. As an example, the vital functions chapter discusses interpretative research, design, scheduling, catalogues, publicity, packing and shipping, and installation. The following quote gives a sample of the brisk and informative tone: "Large structural components may enhance your exhibition and go a long way toward locating the proper aesthetic environment, but they will be objects of horror at every other stop on the circuit. Many museums, especially those housed in historic buildings, only have standard single doors, 7 feet high by 3 feet wide, and many have ceiling heights of only nine feet." In several of the sub-sections archivists will miss consideration of archival material as a special class of object. This lack is most noticeable in the discussion of

design and packing and shipping. Expertise and knowledge in this area can however be found within most medium and large archival institutions. It is worth mentioning, as well, that the sections on the basic idea and concept, budget and critical path would be valuable guides for those planning in-house exhibitions.

This book has a good deal to recommend it, particularly as a practical and easy-to-use guide to a subject in which most archivists have very little training. Some archivists and curators might regret the failure to discuss the philosophy behind having cultural material travel, but clearly the authors accept that this travelling will be an increasing feature of our work for the general public. Knowing this, they have tried to provide a guide through the various pitfalls and have succeeded very well, in the process producing something that informs correctly and precisely but with an engaging humour.

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**Care and Conservation of Collections.** Compiled by ROSEMARY S. REESE. Edited by FREDERICK L. RATH, JR. and MERRILYN ROGERS O'CONNELL. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, c1977. viii, 107 p. (A bibliography on historical organization practices, v. 2) Members: \$7.50, Non-members: \$10.00.

This compilation focusses on the need for care of the priceless collections of paintings, documents, books, photographs and other artifacts within museums and archives. The writings selected provide a list of technical resources useful to professional conservators, but also to trustees, administrators, curators and others working with collections. There are helpful background chapters on training, laboratories and instrumentation, philosophy and principles of conservation, environmental factors, and conservation organizations.

Some seminal or definitive references are included, as the compilers feel they are pertinent to the documented progression of research. The citations are chiefly of current literature published since 1945. Books and pamphlets are fully described by title entry and include: number of pages, or volumes; illustrations, including drawings, plans and photographs; and bibliography or bibliographical footnotes. Such full description greatly aids selection of items to acquire for any conservation library. Further, if the title of the book or article does not clearly indicate the subject matter, the compilers have included an annotation.

The appendix provides an alphabetical listing of titles of periodicals from which are drawn the subject-arranged articles within the bibliography. These periodicals are mainly American and British. The full citation includes the year publication began, frequency of issue, status (whether obtainable through subscription or by membership in the society/association), and the full address to which to send enquiries.

The excellent index provides journal titles, article titles in full, and the names of associations and societies, as well as names of authors/editors and of artifacts. Such an index provides many access points, whatever the concerns and experience of the user of the work.

Conservators, archivists and museum workers in Canada are already aware that Canadians have produced very little toward a body of literature on the care and conservation of collections. The only Canadian journal listed in the appendix is the now defunct quarterly *Newsletter* of the Canadian Conservation Institute. Missing from this bibliography are three technical bulletins published by the Institute in 1975 and its *Journal*, an annual first published in 1976. In the training section of the bibliography