

years after the creation of the original negative; Keyes and Brunet suggested changing this to fifty years after the death of the author. The committee feels this recommendation is very complicated, without good reason, and expresses the view that the present law should not be changed in this respect. As far as sound recordings are concerned, the committee recommends that interviewees in an oral history recording situation might be given rather more protection of their rights.

Copying by archival repositories to preserve materials from physical deterioration or theft is strongly advocated by the Committee which gives little room for the impractical Keyes-Brunet reliance on contractual arrangements with copyright holders. Provided that the notion of "fair dealing" is upheld for both unpublished and published material, it also recommends making available copies of entire collections of archival material for use by researchers in other repositories. Some interest is shown in the Keyes-Brunet idea that copyright holders might form collectives to further protect their interests, though the Committee is keen to see a professional archives voice in the operation of any supervising government tribunal. The committee stresses that the holders of copyright on unpublished material are often unaware of, or unconcerned about, their rights, and that the Keyes-Brunet proposals which would allow no exceptions for researchers would inhibit research with no corresponding benefit to anyone. Finally, the committee supports the Keyes-Brunet recommendations in favour of continuing contact among interested parties, but with the proviso that this should not be viewed as a substitute for an adequate Copyright Act.

Grace Maurice Hyam
Public Archives of Canada

Niagara Historical Resource Centre

The official opening of the Niagara Historical Resource Centre on 29 May 1977 marked the establishment of a significant archival operation in the community of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Centre is the result of a co-operative programme between the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and the Niagara Historical Society. Both recognized the advantages of a local research service and, through this programme, facilities and information could be made mutually available to researchers. The Library provided the facilities for the records management file system, reference inventories, microfilm equipment and a separate research area located in the renovated Jail-Keeper's Room of the Town Court House. The Society provided facilities for a community repository, laboratory for paper conservation, and a small depot for acid-free storage materials, located in its museum two blocks away.

The idea for the Niagara Historical Research Centre originates with Peter G. White and Lynne Teather, who laid out the format and stages of development for the Library and the Society by which the Centre could function and expand, primarily as a local educational facility as well as a public service. During the summer months Teather worked with the Library staff to achieve its goals for the Centre. By the end of 1976, the file systems were brought up to date, an inventory published and distributed, and a separate listing made of microfilm for purchase from archives holding records relevant to this community. In addition, the Library acquired microfilm records from the Town, the Niagara Historical Society, Niagara newspapers, the Archives of Ontario, and the Canadian Library Association. A microfilm print-out viewer was ordered, and installed in the research room prior to the opening of the Centre. During the summer of this year, the Library received a government grant to catalogue microfilm and several students matched the cards of the classification file with each reel. A genealogy file was

also arranged, listing names from newspapers and assessment records. Finally, an index was compiled recording the relevant dates and location on microfilm.

During the same period, White assisted the Society in fulfilling its part of the agreement. A grant from the Richard and Jean Ivey Foundation was used to hire two persons to continue the conservation of the Society's records and complete the organization of the Society's remaining documents. Its library was also reorganized and catalogued. The information from this collection and the remaining records are to be filed in the records management system of the Centre by the end of 1977.

Two major projects were undertaken by the Society during 1977. Funds were allocated for the renovation of the document repository, which was completed in March. The addition of proper shelving and adequate space will enable the Society to provide storage for future acquisitions. The other project, "Pictorial Niagara," was funded by a Local Initiatives Program grant and sponsored by the Society. During a seven-month period, fifteen hundred photographs were processed and filed, recording a pictorial history of this community from 1780 to 1930. Both private citizens and institutions assisted by contributing artwork and early photographs for reproduction. A separate inventory compiled for this "pictorial archive" will be published in early 1978.

Since the Centre has not the funds to maintain a fulltime staff, the success of the programme is particularly noteworthy. A handful of volunteers, assisted and advised by professionals, has over the past year compiled information from seven separate collections and disseminated it by a centralized records system. The classification and inventory are complementary finding aids — one lists by types and origin of documents, the other the collections separately by institution and the arrangement of documents within each collection. The inventory also provides background information on the collections, the formation of the Centre, and an outline of the classification file index. The over-all operation of the Centre was designed to give the researcher through simply defined finding aids a comprehensive view of the archival material available in Niagara. The acquisition of microfilm will greatly increase accessibility to some of the records, as well as provide access to information held in more inaccessible repositories.

A programme being prepared for next year will provide for the microfilming of the collections which are registered and were not completed several years ago by the Archives of Ontario. In addition, the Library is designing a schedule of microfilm purchases which will begin early in 1978 and extend over a four-year period.

Since the Centre's opening, several hundred research requests, by mail and direct service, have been answered, a good indication that the Centre is a valuable service in the small community of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Peter G. White
Niagara Historical Resource Centre

Canada's Lost Plays

Recent scholarship in the field of Canadian drama has revealed a wealth of material which remained uncatalogued ten years ago. Taken together, Dorothy Sedgwick's invaluable study, *A Bibliography of English-Language Theatre and Drama in Canada 1800-1914*, and the *Brock Bibliography of Published Canadian Plays in English 1900-1972* provide a preliminary outline of English-language plays written by Canadians. Edouard G. Rinfret's recently published *Le Théâtre canadien d'expression*