

America, the impact of the trade on Indian culture, the social and labour history of the fur trade. Historians appear to be playing a diminishing role in this work, the impetus in fur trade studies now being with the geographers, anthropologists, ethnologists, conservationists. Our current interest in northern resources and native land claims has provided an incentive to look at old records with a new purpose. The opening of the post-1870 records of the Hudson's Bay Company has extended our view in such traditional areas of interest as the relationship between settlement and railway routes, and invited exploration into new areas such as the land business of the Company and the development of capital investment in the west. The beginnings of urban development in the West will have to be re-written in the light of the Company's land records.

Fur trade correspondence, journals and reports can tell us more than the story of a business activity. Sylvia Van Kirk's (University of Toronto) pioneering study of the role of women in the fur trade represents the use to which the records may be put as new approaches to a broader interpretation of history and other disciplines are undertaken. Through some of the fur trade records can be traced the territoriality of individual Indian hunters, the composition of Indian groups, and residence and kinship patterns—all of interest to the anthropologist. The Hudson's Bay Company's shipping registers, which record the British firms from whom trade goods were purchased, might inspire a researcher to undertake a study of the association between the fur trade and the growth of the British industrial and manufacturing community. The great number of Grants, Rosses, Simpsons, Hargraves', Mactavish's, and so on, in the fur trade and the tendency of sons and relatives to enter the trade suggest the possibility, perhaps for a sociologist, of a study of the Victorian family unit living in isolation from "civilized" society. The Hudson's Bay Company archives' extensive collection of employees' wills, contracts and accounts, and biographical files would be of great assistance in such a study. One project already underway based on the Company's records involves the study of deviant behaviour, personality disorders, and the effect of isolation on behaviour patterns and personality.

As the approaches to history and other disciplines change, and as new techniques within the disciplines evolve, so will the use to which fur trade records will be put. Computer technology makes manageable the statistical data in the records and will lead to studies in quantitative history. The only limit to be placed on the use of the records is the limit of the researcher's imagination. The fur trade conference indicated how that imagination has been broadened in the last few years and led participants to express a feeling of anticipation for the results of this new research at future conferences. [*Editor's note:* Papers of the conference will be published in 1979.]

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International Military History Colloquy

Representatives of twenty five countries met in Ottawa, 19-29 August 1978, for a session of the International Military History Colloquy. This gathering, held at irregular intervals and sponsored by the International Commission for Military History, took for its theme "Armed Forces and Colonial Development". Papers from a distinguished group of academics and official historians ranged in time from imperial Rome to the policing of modern Palestine and in extent across the globe. The strongest impression left by the conference is that military history, long a highly specialized and distinct area of study, is rapidly moving into the historical mainstream while at the same time intensifying its emphasis on comparative studies.

A number of contributions dealt with established considerations like strategy and

tactics but the most notable pieces attempted to incorporate the techniques and findings of intellectual history, demography and social structure analysis. Indicative of the trend was John Sly (USA) whose provocative paper on the North American colonies of France, Spain and Great Britain hypothesized that the military development of these colonies provided the central dynamic of their growth. Several Canadian papers were presented: S.F. Wise on "The employment of Indians during the American Revolution. British military attitudes", Fernand Ouellet on "Military officers and the social structure in Quebec, 1662-1812" and R.A. Preston on "Military dependence and political independence. The case of Canada". It is not surprising that discussion among such a group as this was stimulating. Wise's paper, for instance, sparked a discussion on the general use of native auxiliary forces and of colonial attitudes to them while Ouellet initiated a controversy over the comparability of social and military structures in France to those of the colonies. Conference proceedings are to be published and archivists might do well to note from them the character of military historians' widening interests.

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ICA Round Table

The eighteenth International Archival Round Table Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-13 October 1978. It was the first meeting of the Round Table in a developing country. Indeed only two other conferences, those in Jerusalem in 1970 and in Ottawa in 1974, have been held outside Europe. Sixty eight archivists from 42 countries participated in the conference. This included 13 observers from Kenya and is somewhat below the attendance at recent conferences. As a federal state Canada had three representatives, Wilfred Smith, Bernard Weilbrenner and François Beaudin. The meetings were held in the splendid new Kenyatta Conference Centre.

The single theme of the conference was "Standards for the establishment and organization of archival institutions." Prior to the conference a "plan of inquiry" was sent to 226 archival institutions requesting the submission of draft standards on aspects of such subjects as security, transfers, appraisal, disposal, arrangement, description, staff and budget. Participants in the conference were provided with an analysis of the replies from 38 institutions (including 5 in Canada) and an Archival Statistical Model developed by Erik Katelaar of the Netherlands for UNESCO.

The theme was discussed in four sessions entitled maintenance (buildings and equipment), mission (appraisal, arrangement, description and access), means (staff and budgets) and archival statistics. There was a consensus that standards are useful as well as evidence of professional maturity, that they will be difficult to develop because of great differences in repositories and practices, that they must be flexible. Much discussion centered on the location of archives buildings, on the number of staff needed per metre of records, on the significance of standards: should they state ideal or minimum conditions or should they indicate a reasonably good level that all institutions should try to attain? No firm conclusions were reached. In resolutions the delegates recommended that the International Council on Archives in collaboration with UNESCO, work toward the definition of professional and technical standards on all aspects of archival work, including conservation and access to users; singled out more specific tasks: a survey on impediments to freer access, a study of the possibility of creating an international reader's card, and the preparation of a multilingual glossary of archival terms. A pilot project on archival statistics will be carried out early in 1979 since the