

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

continued development of archival statistics has a high priority in the General Information Program of UNESCO. The last session on the morning of 13 October was devoted to the business of the Round Table and the approval of resolutions.

In addition to the formal sessions there were as usual several events which can be listed under ceremonies and hospitality: the official opening of the conference by the Minister of Housing Social Services, the presentation of a Kenyan sculpture to the Director General of UNESCO by the new President of Kenya, Daniel Moi, the laying of a wreath on the grave of the late President Kenyatta, a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Nairobi, a trip to Lake Nakuru in one of the national parks, a visit to the Bomas cultural centre and the Nairobi animal "orphanage." Delegates were also given an opportunity to examine the plans for the new building for the Kenyan National Archives.

A meeting of the ICA Committee on Archival Development was held prior to the Round Table Conference, 8-9 October, and there was a short meeting of the Section for Archival Associations.

The next Round Table conference will be in November 1979 in Santa Maria, Brazil. The theme will be the importance of archives in modern government administration.

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## **SAA Conference**

Preserving the past and access for the future were joint themes of the forty-second annual conference of the Society of American Archivists at Nashville held October 1978. Once known as the "Athens of the South" and more recently as "Music City"—country music capital of the world, Nashville, with its dual image, served as an appropriate milieu for the pursuit of this year's themes.

Leading off on a cautious note, preservation for the future was the subject of a key-note panel session. Faced with the enormity of the conservation problem Howard Lowell of the New England Document Conservation Centre concluded that archivists are "scared off", an assessment apparently shared by many. He urged a radical re-orientation of conservation thought from the individual document to the mass level, through education of institution administrators and public officials led by archivists. Few new nostrums were offered, yet a salutary balance was struck between Fraser Poole's generally unrelieved pessimistic overview of the American situation and Edward Gilbert's positive exposition of the successful Illinois programme, undertaken with clear purpose and strong conviction. If it is true that as keepers of the record we have lamentably little control over the quality of our documentary media, then we should discover the closest possible contacts with conservators and their professional organizations even though they alone cannot solve our conservation problems. The paper and tape explosion years ago removed the possibility of solution from the technicians' laboratory: conservation must be a management responsibility and a top priority in institutional programme planning.

Although billed as a session on the potential conflicts between social research and individual privacy, the "Use of Institutional Case Records" was wider and emphasized the New York State Archives' recent survey and appraisal of lunatic and criminal case files since 1843. Recognizing the inestimable value of these records as sources for studying social control and the complex relationships between demography, immigration, cultural conventions and institutional development, archivists in New York and other jurisdictions have begun at last to tackle the maze of problems related to the appraisal, accessioning and use of an enormous volume of case files. Papers by Tom