

declined in value, and the buyer is warned that it is not usually easy to sell a collection or pieces of it quickly. Finally, we are reminded that to the collector who knows his field, be he archivist, curator or hobbyist, careful examination and determined searching can still yield marvelous treasures.

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Documenting Urban Society. FREDERIC M. MILLER, issue editor. Philadelphia: Graduate School of Library Science, Drexel University. 126 p. (*Drexel Library Quarterly*, v. 13, no. 4; 1977) ISSN 0012 6160 Single copies: \$5.00, outside of Canada and U.S.A.: \$7.50.

"The United States was born in the country but has moved to the city." Richard Hofstadter's observation is being reflected in one dimension at least by the growing public awareness of the need for urban archives. The eight essays of this issue of *Drexel Library Quarterly* review the embryonic and diversified methodology by which Americans are seeking to preserve their record of urban history. Not only is urban archival material itself scattered among libraries, private foundations, university, municipal and state archives, but the collecting policies, storing procedures and finding aids systems are far from uniform.

In *Documenting Urban Society* the entire spectrum of policies and institutions handling urban records, is examined. The authors, among them archivists, librarians and historians, make a cogent plea for further development and standardization of policy, a plea this reviewer wishes to echo as a Canadian urban archivist.

The importance of urban archives became apparent, to the academic world at least, when 'the crisis of the sixties' began to inspire documented urban studies. Unfortunately, the probe from an historical perspective was limited due to the unavailability of municipal records, which had often been destroyed outright or shunted into basement vaults and forgotten by disinterested clerks. Even today when disposal schedules for current and semi-current material are becoming common, many important non-current records are slated for the shredder.

As an integral part of civic government, municipal archives are a rare phenomenon. As Allen Weinberg, the City Archivist of Philadelphia, points out in "the Philadelphia Paradigm", his is the only major American city with a municipal archives that functions on principles similar to a state archives. Some cities, particularly smaller ones such as Bridgeport, Conn., examined by David W. Palmquist in "Documenting the Smaller City" turn their archival material over to public libraries where archives sections are established. Other cities prefer to use private research institutions such as local historical societies or state and university institutions with urban archival programs. In the northeast, university affiliated urban archives have been established in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit and Baltimore. Their collections relate to all aspects of urban society, although the Manuscripts Collection at the University of Illinois-Chicago Circle and the Urban Archives Center at Temple University are devoted exclusively to non-public records. In the midwest, four states Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota—have developed regional archival repositories which especially in the highly urbanized state of Ohio, have effectively become urban archives.

In Houston and San Diego two special urban research centres have been established which might be an indication of things to come. The Houston Metropolitan Research Center was founded in 1973 and was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was intended to function as a complete archives, including public and

private material, but also to take a more active role in the community, sponsoring seminars and publishing a journal. However, when the initial funding ran out, the scope of the project was reduced and the institution has now been taken over by the Houston Public Library where its activities are purely archival. The San Diego History Research Center is a part of San Diego State University and is actively involved in the community with displays, seminars and publications. Although its holdings on business, labour, religious, cultural and social history are extensive, it has yet to begin collecting public documents.

The variety of urban archives is discussed by David E. Kyvig in "Documenting Urban Society: A Regional Approach", while the nature of the documents and the variety of collecting policies are addressed by Virginia R. Stewart and Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler in "the Constituencies of Urban Archives", and by Frank A. Zabrosky in "The Records of Urban Society". With such diversification of institutions and policies, it is only natural that some confusion has arisen, especially as to the proper custodian of certain archival spoils. On this subject, the authors are agreed that the ideal multi-institutional situation exists in Philadelphia where the City Archives and Historical Society of Pennsylvania combine with the Urban Archives and other smaller bodies to provide the city with an excellent record of its past. Conflict of interest has been minimal, even though there is little direct co-ordination between the institutions. It is this model which is proposed as the ideal for cities seeking to establish comprehensive archival programmes in the article by Ronald D. Cohen and James Bhane "Establishing a Program: The Calumet Regional Archives".

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Autographs and Manuscripts: A Collector's Manual. Edited by EDMUND BERKELEY JR. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1978. xviii, 565 p. illus. (The Manuscript Society) \$31.95.

Professional literature relating to archival discipline is still in a developmental stage. While there are many first-class articles dealing with specific problems, comprehensive treatment of multiple subject areas in definitive manuals and text books is slow in forthcoming. Those that are available were written by seasoned archivists and manuscript curators. It is therefore refreshing and enriching to find a new addition to our professional literature which was written by a consortium of dealers and collectors of *archivaria*, as well as by allied curators of MSS. This co-operative effort proves that the three "solitudes"—dealers, collectors and archivists/curators—have more in common than just love and care of manuscripts and autographs. All three are integral parts of the archival profession, all dedicated to the orderly flow, preservation and research utilization of *archivaria*. Their distinct professional methodologies, sometimes at variance with each other, are nonetheless valuable contributions to the advancement of popular appreciation of our historical and cultural heritage.

It would be a mistake to assume that the *Collector's Manual* is for collectors only. Fundamental issues, such as authentication of MSS (detection of forgeries), appraisal of fair market value, descriptive terminology of various archival and manuscript materials, classification, care and organization of collections, are only a few of the subjects which interest the amateur as well as the professional.

Definitive and highly professional studies on the development of writing, the media (papyrus, parchment and paper), the instruments (inks, pens, typewriters), duplication (printing, mimeograph, photocopying) and the characteristics of script make this volume an important reference tool for all who buy, sell, care for or research manuscripts and