

become, through its valuation procedures, an integral part of it remains to be seen.

Archivists have a real part to play in ensuring that the Act is fully and correctly used. The future of our acquisition efforts may well depend upon it. There are substantial sections of this book which will not be of direct relevance to archivists. The authors are as dedicated to the rights of the creator as they are to those of the consumer, but even the sections on obscenity and censorship are good reading. Even with its extensive references to American law and practice, *The Art World* is still overwhelmingly concerned with things Canadian. Its publication should be applauded by every person involved in creating or collecting our national identity. You'll still need to know a good lawyer, but to read this book is to realize, in this area at least, that a little knowledge is not nearly as dangerous as none at all.

Anthony L. Rees
Supervisor of Archives
City of Toronto Archives

The Preservation and Restoration of Sound Recordings. JERRY McWILLIAMS. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1979. xi, 138 p. index ISBN 0 910050 41 4 \$7.00 pa. Members, \$8.95 Non-members. (Available from AASLH, 1400 Eighth Avenue S., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, U.S.A.)

Until recently, sound recordings have been shunned by many professional scholars as nothing more than entertainment trumpery. That attitude, fortunately, is gradually disappearing and recorded sound is gaining respect as an essential source in documenting our society. Educational institutions, libraries, archives and museums are increasingly becoming interested in collecting and safeguarding recorded sound in its many forms. Since the development of the technology, the subject of preservation of sound recording has been fraught with controversy. To a large extent sound archivists had to rely on hearsay and advice by ill-informed "experts". Jerry McWilliams' book is a substantial attempt to expose the reader to the practices that have evolved from the experience of a number of American institutions. The author has also succeeded in collecting information on the preservation and maintenance of sound recordings available only in specialized and sometimes obscure publications. McWilliams utilized these sources to construct a well-written and concise manual. Accompanied by a historical narrative of technological advances in the field, the book provides instruction on the restoration of discs, cylinders and magnetic tape.

In a convincing manner, McWilliams succeeds in dispelling a number of needless and ill-conceived practices that have brought much anxiety to sound archivists. Institutions have often been advised that in order to relieve tension and lessen the possibility of print-through in tapes held in long term storage, they be rewound at playing speed once a year. Unless the entire collection consists of no more than a couple of hundred tapes, carrying out such a procedure on a regular basis is impossible for most institutions. McWilliams argues that the process is quite superfluous for good quality mylar-backed tapes. Older acetate base tapes may benefit from rewinding, but their inherent instability renders them unsuitable for long-term preservation in any event. Another area of concern has been that of accidental erasure of the magnetic imprint on tape. The problem, however, is one that almost never arises. The author explains that a magnetic field of 1,500 oersteds is reduced to only 50 oersteds at a distance of less than three inches. He points out that a magnetic source of 50 oersteds, placed directly beside a tape recording, will have no discernible effect on the tape. Caution, nevertheless ought to be exercised. Storage areas near high-voltage lines or transformers must be avoided.

Institutions have hesitated to venture into the field of sound documentation largely because of the costs and labour involved in maintaining such collections. Regretfully,

the popular, but incorrect notion that sound recordings do not possess qualities of permanency, has also been a negative influence. McWilliams explains that if cared for properly, sound recordings possess long-range preservation properties superior to modern printed materials which require costly and labour intensive measures, such as acid deacidification. Appropriate storage requirements for sound materials are discussed, including environmental conditions, handling and use, packaging, disc washing and repairing.

While the book is successful in fulfilling its objectives, the reviewer has a few minor regrets. Although McWilliams provides the reader with a good historical sketch of the development of sound recordings since the mid-nineteenth century, he barely touches on the recent developments in the industry, namely those in digital recording. A fuller discussion of this technology and its ramifications would have been very useful. In the section on tape equipment a number of solid recommendations can be found, but the author bemoans the scarcity of tape decks having the ability to play both $1/2$ -track and $1/4$ -track recordings, and mentions only the Revox A-700. In fact, $1/2$ -track recorders with built-in $1/4$ -track playback heads are now quite common. They include the lower priced semi-professional TEAC A-6100MKII, the professional TEAC Tascam series and the AMPEX ATR-700.

A bibliography and two directories, one of manufacturers and suppliers of sound equipment and the other of North American sound archives, are included in the book. The latter, however, is very disappointing as it consists of a mere nine entries, one of them Canadian. With little effort, one can list twice as many institutions worthy of recognition in the United States and, at the very least, another three or four in Canada. Nonetheless, McWilliams' handbook is an indispensable item and should remain within arm's reach to all established individuals in the profession and those beginning to organize collections of sound recordings.

Krzysztof M. Gebhard,
Saskatchewan Archives Board

The Canadian Military Experience, 1867-1967: A Bibliography. O.A. COOKE.

Ottawa: Ministry of Supply and Services, 1979. ix, 244 p. (Ministry of National Defence Occasional Paper No. 2) ISBN 0 660 504359 \$5.95 pa., Other Countries \$7.15.

This volume is a basic "no frills" reference tool of considerable value. The want of an introductory bibliographic aid to Canadian military history has long been felt by researchers but finally from O.A. Cooke of the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence we have a compilation covering the first one hundred years of Confederation. Students and researchers interested in earlier periods will have to look elsewhere although of course some titles do touch upon pre-1867 topics. *The Canadian Military Experience* is divided into five parts: Bibliography, Defence Policy and General Works, Naval Forces, and Forces, and Air Forces. Part four on Land Forces is by far the largest portion of the work with one hundred and forty pages devoted to the army and militia. This is as it should be for despite the importance of the RCN and RCAF, Canada's land forces have been the largest and most studied of the Dominion's armed services. The list of regimental histories alone should impress even the sceptic with Canada's military heritage. Perhaps the most striking feature of this bibliography is the preponderance of official reports and histories. Canadians have been well served by their official historians, but what we do lack are civilian researchers interested in military subjects.

Only one caveat can be filed against Cooke's patient efforts, and that is the lack of an index. Aside from this one oversight, archivists and other historical researchers will find *The Canadian Military Experience* a very useful basic reference tool.

M Stephen Salmon
National Ethnic Archives
Public Archives of Canada