

The Public Archives of Canada, 1948-1968

by WILLIAM G. ORMSBY

When W. Kaye Lamb arrived in Ottawa late in 1948 to take up his appointment as Dominion Archivist, the Public Archives of Canada had been operating under strict financial restraints for almost two decades. During the Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War, the period of growth over which Arthur Doughty had presided gave way to one in which it was difficult even to maintain the *status quo*. Very few new professional appointments were made after 1930 and clerical appointments were scarcely numerous enough to fill vacancies as they occurred. The volume of accessions declined; the range of Archives' activities was curtailed; and the number of scholars engaged in research diminished. Not surprisingly, two decades of restraint had a deadening effect on the attitude and morale of the Archives' staff. Though a few fondly recalled the golden age of Doughty when great things had been possible, the general attitude was one of resigned acceptance. But a new age of development and progress was about to dawn.

Kaye Lamb's familiarity with archival practices and recent developments in other countries made him fully aware that the Public Archives' development had been arrested before it had achieved its full potential. Before long he was enthusiastically discussing with members of his staff the role the Archives could play in Canada and outlining imaginative projects. His enthusiasm was infectious and a new spirit of excitement and anticipation began to develop.

In his first *Archives Report*,¹ Dr. Lamb stressed the necessity of transforming the Archives into a full-fledged public record office. This was "a project of long standing," but for several reasons it had remained dormant for many years. Since the Archives' building was too small to function as a record office, vast quantities of dead and dormant records remained in the custody of individual government departments and agencies while the Archives' limited post-Confederation holdings were inadequate for most areas of research.

As a basic initial step, Dr. Lamb proposed the construction of "a large halfway house" on the outskirts of Ottawa where land was inexpensive. The halfway house would be staffed by Archives' personnel and all dead and dormant departmental records stored in various locations in Ottawa would be transferred to it. The staff of the depository would manage these records and provide reference service on them

1 Canada, *Report of the Public Archives For The Year 1949* (Ottawa, 1950).

for the departments concerned. Archives' staff would also examine the records for permanent research value and designate them for transfer to the Archives proper, or for destruction, when they were no longer required for administrative purposes. It was a proposal that would provide "an orderly solution of the public records problem at minimum cost." It was also one that would give the Archives an important new role. The Dominion Archivist was already Vice-Chairman² of the Public Records Committee which advised the Treasury Board on departmental requests for authorization to destroy records no longer required for administrative purposes; and to guard against the destruction of documents of historical value, each request was investigated by Archives' staff. As the transformation of the Archives into a public record office progressed, its role in records management would be an ever expanding one.

In his first *Report* Dr. Lamb also predicted that micro-photography would soon have a significant impact on archival practices. Microfilm could obviously be used to produce copies of valuable documents in a fragile state, but it was the prospect of substituting microfilm cameras for hand copyists in London and Paris that promised the most dramatic results. Extensive copying programmes had been under way in the Public Record Office, the Archives nationales and other repositories in England and France since the earliest days of the Archives. Handwritten transcriptions of whole series had gradually been acquired, but progress had naturally been very slow. Now it was estimated that 280,000 pages could be microfilmed each year! Clearly the Archives' holdings would soon be growing at an astonishing rate and new techniques for service and control would have to be devised.

The expansion of holdings and functions that Dr. Lamb planned entailed sizeable increases both in budget and in staff. During his first four years as Dominion Archivist, the Archives' staff increased from thirty-seven to sixty-four and the Estimates grew from \$163,000 to \$262,000. As the staff grew, Dr. Lamb was anxious that the archivists should become familiar with the latest archival techniques and practices. Starting in 1950, each year an archivist was sent to Washington to take the archives course offered by the American University in co-operation with the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

After taking this training, William Ormsby proposed that the Manuscript Division adopt a modification of the "group system" used in the National Archives of the United States. The proposal was adopted and the Division's holdings were reorganized to form record groups and manuscript groups. All official records of the Government of Canada and its predecessors were arranged in Record Groups, each of which consisted of the records created by a well-defined government agency, usually a department. Non-record materials such as private papers and transcribed, photostat, or microfilm copies of documents in other institutions, were classified as "manuscripts" and were organized in Manuscript Groups.³ Some Manuscript Groups were composed of units of paper relating to a given period, or to a particular subject; others consisted of copies of documents in the custody of

2 The chairman was the Secretary of State, but normally the vice-chairman presided over meetings.

3 This represented a new departure. Dr. Solon Buck had proposed that private papers in the custody of the Library of Congress be organized in Manuscript Groups, but this was still under discussion when the Public Archives adopted the Manuscript Group concept.

another depository, for example, the Colonial Office records in the Public Record Office in London.

Plans were also made to publish a preliminary inventory for every Manuscript and Record Group giving concise descriptions of each series in the group, including inclusive dates, linear extent, and the general type of documents in the series. When the first inventory was published in the autumn of 1951, an announcement circulated with it indicated that the purpose of the proposed series of inventories was to "make it possible for research workers at a distance to ascertain with some precision what papers were preserved in the Public Archives and to judge with some accuracy whether the department has in its custody significant material relating to any particular topic."⁴

The use of the "group system" made it possible to assign responsibility for a number of related groups to one individual. Archivists were given an opportunity to develop a specialized knowledge on the various subjects to which their groups related as they processed new additions and prepared finding aids for extensive series. As specialists in their fields, they were able to provide valuable assistance to researchers. Some archivists became interested in developing more fully insights they had gained while working on their groups. As a result, a history club was formed which met in members' homes in the evening to hear original research papers presented by archivists and visiting scholars working at the Archives.

Intent on increasing the Archives' post-Confederation holdings, Dr. Lamb personally followed up all leads and established many influential contacts with prospective donors. His efforts soon began to achieve important results. During his first four years at the Archives, he acquired the papers of four Prime Ministers: J.J.C. Abbott, John Thompson, Robert Borden and Arthur Meighen. With a definite sense of accomplishment, he informed the Canadian Historical Association that, with the exception of the R.B. Bennett Papers, the Archives now seemed "assured of possession of the major portion of the papers of every prime minister of Canada since Confederation."⁵ There had also been significant accessions of the private papers of prominent political figures, soldiers, farmers and businessmen.

As Dr. Lamb had anticipated, microfilm soon began to play an important part in the Archives' activities. By 1953 microfilming had virtually replaced hand-copying in the Public Archives' operations in London and Paris. Because of the speed and low cost of microfilming, a programme was formulated to obtain complete microfilm copies of all the major series relating to Canada in both the Public Record Office in London and the Archives Nationales in Paris. Even series which had already been copied by hand were included in the microfilming programme both for the sake of accuracy and also because, in some instances, restrictions in force when the transcriptions were made had prevented the copying of informative marginal notations made by officials in the Colonial Office.

Because of the great importance of the records of the Hudson's Bay Company to the history of Canada, Dr. Lamb was anxious to see the company's archives

4 W. Kaye Lamb, "The Federal Archival Scene," *Canadian Historical Association Report*, (1953), p. 62.

5 *Ibid.*, p. 65.

microfilmed as a safeguard against accidental destruction. Taking the initiative, he proposed that the extensive task of microfilming the complete archives be undertaken jointly by the company and the Public Archives. The agreement arrived at in October 1950 had a double purpose. As a safeguard, the master negatives were to be stored by the company in a vault in Canada but, before the negatives were placed in storage, a positive print was to be made for retention by the Public Archives. Scholars would be given access to the positive print on the same terms that governed the use of the original documents in the company's archives in London. Within three years of the signing of the agreement, the Archives had received more than 650 reels of positive film containing copies of over 450,000 pages and it was expected that by the end of 1954 all the records covering the company's first two centuries, from 1670 to 1870, would be filmed.

In Canada microfilm was becoming ever more widely used. Vital records and manuscripts were filmed as a safeguard against accidental loss. Microfilm was used to make important documentary sources available in more than one depository, and also to save wear and tear on original documents occasioned by frequent use. As the Public Archives' microfilm holdings increased, a new archival service was envisaged. If positive prints were made from the Archives' master negatives, libraries and other research institutions all over Canada could be permitted to borrow the positives on behalf of their clientele. The master negatives would be retained as a means of making new prints should those in circulation become lost or damaged. Through the interlibrary loan of microfilms, the Archives greatly expanded the services it offered. It would still be necessary, in many cases, for researchers to visit the Archives but, by utilizing the interlibrary loan service, they would be better prepared when they arrived and would be able to reduce the length of their stay.

The Manuscript Division accounted for a major portion of the Archives' activities, but other divisions were also encouraged to expand their activities. The Map Division planned to develop a new classification system and to publish a catalogue of its holdings — the first since 1912. In the Picture Division, plans were formulated to publish a series of catalogues to make the Archives' collection more widely known. The first of these was a catalogue of the Division's forty-one pictures by Alfred Jacob Miller. A decision in 1950 to discontinue the practice of publishing calendars, catalogues and miscellaneous materials as appendices to the *Public Archives Report* meant that the Publication Division could look forward to a wide range of interesting special publications. The first of these, an index to the voluminous *Confederation Debates* compiled by a graduate student at McGill University, was an indication of the active role the Archives intended to take in assisting Canadian scholarship. In 1957 two more important publications were issued: *Sixteenth Century Maps Relating to Canada: A Check List and Bibliography* and a *Guide to Canadian Ministries Since Confederation*.

A further indication of the Archives' readiness to extend its activities was given when the Brome County Historical Society appealed for assistance in arranging its holdings and publishing a descriptive guide to them. An arrangement was worked out whereby the society organized its holdings and produced a detailed descriptive inventory of them in accordance with guidelines and direction provided by the Archives. The Archives, in turn, edited the inventory and it was issued as a joint publication of the Archives and the society. The Archives also microfilmed the

society's holdings in order to make them available to a wider range of scholars. The success of this co-operative venture led to similar arrangements with the Norfolk Historical Society and the Lennox and Addington Historical Society.

Important advances had been made under Dr. Lamb's direction, but the Archives could not function as a full-fledged record office until it acquired the halfway house, or records centre, to which he had referred in his first *Archives Report*. After some initial disappointments, when space designated for records centre use was reallocated, a building was designated and built specifically for use as a records centre at Tunney's Pasture in Ottawa West. The Archives took possession of the Records Centre on 3 January 1956, and it was formally opened on April 10. In addition to stack areas capable of housing sixty-two miles of shelving, the Centre contained receiving, cleaning and sorting rooms, a fumigation chamber, offices, reference rooms and a research room. It was, as Dr. Lamb reported, "a fully-equipped branch of the Public Archives."⁶

Having finally acquired the halfway house, it was important that the Archives impress upon government departments the advantages of using it both in terms of economy and reference service. Under the able direction of Abraham Willms,⁷ the first Head of the Records Centre, an efficient system was established for accessioning, listing and storing dormant records and accurate statistics were maintained showing impressive savings in filing equipment and rental costs for storage. Equally important, a reference service was developed that prided itself on delivering any file to the department requesting it within three hours of the receipt of the request. From the outset, the Records Centre fully proved itself and both its popularity and the volume of service it was providing to departments steadily increased.

While dormant files remained in the Records Centre, they were systematically examined to identify those that would be designated for permanent preservation in the Archives because of their research value. Dr. Lamb made it a basic principle that the assessment of records for disposal, or permanent retention, should be made by archivists in the Manuscript Division who were continuously in contact with research scholars and were thus familiar with their needs. He recognized that the original professional staff of the Records Centre had all had experience in the Manuscript Division, but he foresaw that in time the Centre would be directed by experts in records management, and he remained firm in his insistence that "the final decision on disposal must rest with the archivist."⁸

In 1957, at the request of the Treasury Board, the Records Centre took on the assignment of assembling, sorting, culling, filing and providing reference service on all personnel records of former civil servants no longer employed by the Government of Canada. This complicated task involved integrating files created by the Civil Service Commission, the Superannuation Branch of the Department of Finance, and departments that had employed the individual concerned. The

6 Canada, *Report on the Public Archives for the years 1955-1958*, p. 7.

7 Previously a member of the Manuscript Division's staff.

8 W. Kaye Lamb, "The Changing Role of the Archivist," *American Archivist*, 29, no. 1 (January, 1966): p. 7.

efficiency with which it was executed was a convincing demonstration of the role the Records Centre could play in records management.

In his presidential address to the Canadian Historical Association in 1958, Dr. Lamb pointed to the opening of the Records Centre and the transformation of the Public Archives into a full-fledged record office as the most significant development during the ten years he had been Dominion Archivist.⁹ Other important developments were the rapid expansion of the Manuscript Division's post-Confederation holdings and the extensive utilization of microphotography. In recognition of the close relationship between microfilm, archives and records management, the federal government's Central Microfilm Unit was transferred from the Department of Public Printing and Stationery to the Archives in 1956 and housed in the Records Centre.

As extensive microfilm holdings were acquired and the volume of interlibrary loans of microfilm increased rapidly, frequent requests were received from universities and other institutions to purchase copies of the Archives' films. But Dr. Lamb felt that "in many instances the sale of private collections to all and sundry would be a breach of trust and a violation of the clear intention of many donors."¹⁰ Private donors generally expected the Archives to exercise some supervision over the use of their papers, but this would not be possible if numerous microfilm copies were sold. The filming privileges granted to the Archives at national depositories in Great Britain and France did not include the right to make unlimited positive prints for sale. Dr. Lamb stated the Archives' position on the sale of microfilm quite plainly to the Canadian Historical Association:

We are not interested in making a business of supplying prints of our films, and in particular we are not interested in furnishing them on a wholesale scale to institutions that have no special interest in their contents, but are simply seeking large blocks of unexploited raw manuscript material from which students can quarry sufficient unprinted matter to secure a Ph. D. degree.¹¹

On the other hand, when an institution had a legitimate interest in a specific body of material and there were no restrictions to prevent duplication, the Archives made every effort to provide a microfilm copy at minimum cost. It was the individual scholar, however, who was the Archives' main concern and who was given every possible assistance including response to inquiries regarding the extent and character of source materials, the interlibrary loan of microfilm, use of the search room twenty-four hours a day, and the assistance of archivists who had developed expertise in particular areas.

The rapid rate of expansion of the Archives' holdings and responsibilities during Dr. Lamb's first ten years as Dominion Archivist was continued during his second decade. Between 1958 and 1968 the Archives' staff grew from 107 to 263 and the budget increased from \$500,000 to \$2.25 million. Such increases were due to a marked expansion in all the services provided by the Archives and the addition of many new ones. Growth of such dimensions necessitated additional coordination,

9 W. Kaye Lamb, "Presidential Address," *Canadian Historical Association Report*, (1958), pp. 1-12.

10 *Ibid.*

11 *Ibid.*

planning and direction, and, as a result, three functional branches were established in 1966: the Records Management Branch, the Historical Branch, and the Administration and Technical Services Branch.

The most significant development of Dr. Lamb's second decade as Dominion Archivist was the extension of the Public Archives responsibilities in the field of records management. From the outset, it was recognized that the Records Centre must do more than store dormant records and provide reference service on them. If it was to function as intended and not become clogged with obsolete files, it had to take the lead in developing methods for the planned disposal of records no longer required for administrative purposes. Thus, a second major function soon began to develop — that of providing direction and assistance to government departments in the preparation of schedules for the orderly disposal of their records. A separate Disposal and Scheduling Section was established at the Records Centre in 1960 to provide this service. As a basic step, the section prepared the *General Records Disposal Schedules of the Government of Canada* which was published in 1963. The *General Schedules* authorized the destruction of a large volume of routine records and also provided an introduction to the concept of scheduling for many departments. The decision in 1964 to accept only scheduled records for storage in the Records Centre had a double effect: it eliminated the danger of the centre becoming clogged with obsolete unscheduled records and it encouraged departments to seek the assistance of the Disposal and Scheduling Section and to start on the task of producing comprehensive schedules for their records.

A natural outgrowth of the Archives interest in records scheduling was the gradual development of a comprehensive records management programme for the Government of Canada. An important step in this direction was taken in 1959 when a Records Management Survey Committee was established with the Head of the Records Centre, Abraham Willms, as chairman. Under Willms' direction, the committee surveyed the volume of records held, and the quality of records management practised, by various government departments. On the basis of the committee's findings, a report was submitted to the Public Records Committee in February 1960 containing proposals for a full records management programme. The report attracted favourable attention and was soon used by the Royal Commission on Government Organization (the Glassco Commission) as the foundation for its investigation of records management in the public service.

The Glassco Commission's *Report* fully endorsed the Public Archives' role in records management and suggested that it be expanded considerably. It recommended that the Records Centre continue to be "the focal point of any records management programme." The objective of such a programme was stated as follows:

...the maximum economy in the flow of records from the department or agency of origin through the Public Records Centre to the Public Archives, with proper screening along the way to ensure the elimination of useless records and the retention of all valuable historical records.¹²

12 Canada, *Report of the Royal Commission on Government Organization* (Ottawa, 1962-63), p. 571.

It involved "a process of selective disposal" in which "the responsibility of the Public Archives must be paramount." Departmental records schedules should be scrutinized by the Public Archives and no permission to destroy records should be given without the Dominion Archivist's approval. Ultimately, when "a sound records disposal programme based upon statute" had been established, it would be logical to make the Dominion Archivist (rather than the Treasury Board) the final authority for records destruction. The commission was very favourably impressed with the Records Centre and recommended the establishment of regional federal records centres in areas where their operation was economically feasible. Accordingly, regional records centres were opened in Toronto in 1965 and Montreal in 1966.

As the Glassco Commission had suggested, the Public Records Committee was reorganized in 1961 and the role of the Public Archives was expanded. The Dominion Archivist became Chairman of the committee and the Archives was to provide the committee's secretariat. In practice the secretariat was drawn from the senior staff at the Records Centre. All records schedules, microfilm proposals and applications to dispose of records were examined for archival value, records management practices, and technical considerations by members of the Archives' staff and their reports formed the basis of the committee's recommendations to the Treasury Board.

With the promulgation of the Public Records Order¹³ on 9 September 1966, the final stage was reached in the development of a comprehensive records management programme. As the Glassco Commission had proposed, the Public Records Order gave the Dominion Archivist a significant role in the operation of the programme. His responsibilities included

...the provision of advisory services, staff training, the establishment of standards and production of guides, the promotion of the use of records centres, complete control over destruction and transfer of public records, and technical responsibilities in regard to microfilm, in addition to the traditional archival responsibilities for preservation and research facilities.¹⁴

The Public Records Order required the Dominion Archivist to report annually to the Treasury Board on the state of records management in the federal government and to notify departments in which unsatisfactory records management practices were found to exist. Under the provisions of the Public Records Order, the Public Records Committee was replaced by an Advisory Council on Public Records over which the Dominion Archivist presided. The council was to advise the Dominion Archivist on any records management problems he referred to it and also to serve as a forum for discussion among records managers and representatives of the Treasury Board, the Privy Council Office, the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Political Science Association and the Records Management Association of Ottawa.

In anticipation of the increase in activities and responsibility that the Public Records Order entailed, the Records Centre was reorganized in September 1966 as

13 PAC, P.C. 1749, 9 September 1966.

14 Canada, *Public Archives of Canada Report, 1959-1969*, p. 2.

the Records Management Branch of the Public Archives of Canada with three divisions: Accessions and Reference, Advisory Services, and Regional Records Centres.

Most aspects of the Dominion Archivist's responsibility for establishing and maintaining a high quality of records management in the public service related to functions performed by the Advisory Services Division which examined and reported on all departmental records schedules, microfilm submissions and disposal applications, and was also responsible for scheduling the disposal of the Record Centre's holdings of obsolete departmental records. After the Public Records Order came into force, the division made an inventory of records held by federal government departments and agencies throughout Canada and computed the cost of storing and servicing them. This information was invaluable in formulating future policy. Through publications, directives and training courses, the division endeavoured to establish standards and improve the quality of records management. It advised and assisted government departments (and, on occasion, provincial governments) with the preparation of records schedules and other records problems. In cooperation with the Public Service Commission, the division endeavoured to ensure that the most qualified personnel were appointed to new records positions and vacancies as they occurred.

Although less striking than the advances in records management, important developments also occurred in other areas of the Archives' activities during the second decade of Dr. Lamb's administration. Accessions in the Manuscript Division increased at such a rate that acquisitions during the decade almost equalled the total extent of holdings acquired since the inception of the Archives in 1872.¹⁵ As a result of the rapid influx of public records, a separate Public Records Section was established in the division in 1965. There was also a significant increase in the various services the division provided and a number of new activities were begun. The series of preliminary inventories was continued with another twelve being published. In response to numerous requests, check-lists of census returns and parish registers in the Archives' custody were compiled and distributed. As an aid to genealogists, a pamphlet, *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*, and a French counterpart, *À la piste de nos ancêtres au Canada*, were published in 1966.

The Manuscript Division was also involved in two special projects that resulted in publications. For some time, Dr. Lamb had wanted to see a Canadian equivalent of the Library of Congress's project to create a National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections in the United States. In 1961 he was able to arrange for the Humanities Research Council to provide financial assistance for such a project in cooperation with the Public Archives. Under Dr. Lamb's direction, R.S. Gordon began a survey of all the institutions in Canada that had archival materials in their custody. With the cooperation of archivists, librarians, curators and custodians throughout the country, a separate return was made for each manuscript and record unit. The completed returns were collated and edited in the Manuscript Division and were published in 1968 as the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories*.

Similarly, Dr. Lamb's ready response to a request from the Canadian Historical Association in 1965 led to the Manuscript Division assuming responsibility for

15 *Ibid.*, p. 1.

maintaining a register both of graduate theses in history and related disciplines in progress in Canadian universities, and of dissertations pertaining to Canada that were being written for history departments in foreign universities. From 1966 the Division compiled and edited on an annual basis the *Register of Post Graduate Dissertations in Progress in History and Related Subjects* for publication by the Canadian Historical Association.

In the mid-1960s, the Manuscript Division undertook a survey of prominent individuals, families and corporate bodies as a basic step in developing a systematic programme for the acquisition of private papers. It was also during these years that a method was developed for the application of electronic data processing techniques to the mechanical production of finding aids for large manuscript collections and, as a result, significant savings in time and money were achieved.

The transfer to the Map Division in 1965 of 150,000 foreign topographical maps from the Geographical Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys transformed the nature of the division's holdings and suggested the concept of a comprehensive national map collection. All foreign maps received subsequently in accordance with various department's agreements and conventions with other nations were to be added to the collection. To enable the division to perform its increased responsibilities, two sections were established within it: the Canadian Section and the Foreign Section.

An increase in the holdings of the Picture Division led to the creation of a Paintings, Drawings and Prints Section and a Historical Photographs Section. The task of surveying government departments and agencies to ascertain the nature and extent of government photographic records was an important assignment undertaken by the Historical Photographs Section. With the transfer of the Department of National Defence's huge collection of photographs of the two World Wars and the Korean War, the holdings of the Section were increased to more than a million items.

The Public Archives had a major role in the development of archives management standards and formal training for archivists in Canada. Through his active participation in the Society of American Archivists, the British Society of Archivists and the British Records Association, Dr. Lamb kept abreast of world-wide archival developments and encouraged other Canadian archivists to do so as well. He assisted in the formation of an Archives Section within the Canadian Historical Association and suggested projects for the section that would lead to the exchange of information and, possibly, the development of accepted standards. For a number of years he lectured on archives management to students in the Library Science programme at the University of Ottawa and, when the Archives Section of the Canadian Historical Association became interested in an archives course especially designed to meet Canadian needs, he gave it his full support. In 1959 Carleton University offered, for the first time, a Canadian archives training course which was designed and, for the most part, taught by Public Archives' personnel. The course was very well received and was repeated frequently during the next ten years. Through the Records Centre, the Archives also took the lead in developing formal records management training. In cooperation with the Civil Service Commission, a full-scale records management course was offered each year from 1961 to 1967. In 1968 full responsibility for the course was delegated to the Records

Centre and to meet the increasing demand the course was offered three times during the year and twice the following year.

In the early months of 1967 when the Archives moved to the new Public Archives and National Library building at 395 Wellington Street, it marked the completion of the plan that Dr. Lamb had formulated shortly after taking up his appointment. The opening of the Records Centre in 1956 made it possible for the Archives to assume the role of a full-fledged public record office, but lack of space and outmoded facilities in the Archives building on Sussex Street (now Drive) had limited its effectiveness. The new building, with stack areas capable of housing one hundred miles of shelving, made it possible to reassemble under one roof archival materials that had previously been stored in various locations around Ottawa. The new building was equipped with air conditioning which made it possible to maintain ideal temperature and humidity conditions for the preservation of documents, photographs, paintings, films and tapes. It also contained search and study rooms that could comfortably accommodate 117 researchers — a great improvement over the crowded conditions that had prevailed for more than a decade in the old building. The interior of the new building was enhanced by four large murals painted by Charles Comfort and Alfred Pellan, and by impressive glass etchings, the work of John Hutton of England.

Throughout his two decades as Dominion Archivist, Dr. Lamb took a keen personal interest in every aspect of the Archives' activities. His enthusiasm and his imaginative approach to new projects and new ideas made working under his direction both a stimulating and a satisfying experience. As Canada's centennial approached, he eagerly contemplated special projects the Archives might undertake to commemorate the event. He was especially interested in publishing a *Directory of Parliament* containing a biographical sketch of every Member of Parliament and every Senator during Canada's first century. He also wished to commence publishing a series of volumes of prime minister's papers. It was primarily to initiate these centennial projects that the Publications Service was reorganized early in 1964 with Keith Johnson in charge as Editor-Historian. The first volume of the prime ministers' papers series, *The Letters of Sir John A. Macdonald, 1836-1857*, was published in 1968, as was *The Canadian Directory of Parliament, 1867-1967*. Another important volume, *Nouveaux documents sur Champlain et son époque*, was published in 1967, the result of collaboration between Robert LeBlant, a distinguished French jurist and historian, and Father René Baudry, C.S.C., the Archives' representative in Paris.

When Dr. Lamb retired in November 1968, he had earned the respect and gratitude of Canadian scholars both for his inspired direction of the Public Archives during the most expansive and challenging two decades in its history and also for his own important contributions to Canadian scholarship. It was a measure of the high regard in which Kaye Lamb was held by his peers that during his career he was chosen to be president of every learned and professional society to which he belonged and was awarded honorary degrees by eleven universities.