

Letters to the Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Four additional Letters to the Editor may be found in the Special Feature section of this issue, addressing as they do the debate over history and archives. Letters to the Editor is a new section of Archivaria; letters for future issues are invited, and should be short rejoinders to previous articles, letters, or reviews; comments, corrections, or criticism of earlier items; or new information on any topic featured in Archivaria (see inside back cover).*

From W. Kaye Lamb

Thank you very much for your letter and for sending me the copies of *Archivaria* 15. I had not seen it until your parcel arrived, but I knew it must be available, as one or two people had mentioned it to me.

I am really quite overwhelmed by the kind things people have said about me, yourself included. I have never looked upon myself as being much more than an industrious plodder, and to find you and other good people hoisting me up on a pedestal is somewhat of a shock — though I cannot deny that it is a pleasant one!

You may have heard that after long and persistent coaxing, Dr. Smith recently succeeded in persuading me to write an account of my career as an archivist, and particularly my experiences during the 20 years in Ottawa. I am now well launched on the project, and must confess that I am finding the years more crowded and interesting than I anticipated. Fortunately I have notebooks that cover most of the period, and they are a great help when I need to jog my memory. I hope all this may make a useful supplement to the *Essays*.

Thank you again for your expressions of respect and affection, which I appreciate very much.

W. Kaye Lamb
Vancouver, B.C.

The Dominion Archivist on Archivaria 15

Thank you for the complimentary copies of *Archivaria* No. 15 and the offprints of the introduction. You should be congratulated on the issue. The format and layout

are good and the photographs are an attractive feature. Members of the ACA should be delighted with this special issue, authors should be pleased with the quality of the publication in which their essays appear, archives and library professions should welcome a contribution to the sparse joint literature, and friends and admirers of Dr. Lamb will be pleased at a tribute to his remarkable career.

In regard to contents critics can point out that there is little on archives/library relations — and we know that was not for lack of trying — and also that the concept of heritage is rather weak although one can rationalize that the two sections with the bibliography reveal it as a continuous thread in Kaye Lamb's career.

I am sure that Dr. Lamb will be very pleased with the ultimate product of the ACA's proposal for a suitable tribute to him.

W.I. Smith
Dominion Archivist

The National Librarian on Archivaria 15

Thank you for your letter of July 7th and for the issues of *Archivaria* and offprints which I just received.

I am delighted with the result of our collective efforts, and I trust that Dr. Lamb will also be pleased with it. I had read most of the text beforehand and I must say that their presentation is of very good quality indeed. I am grateful to you and to Dr. Smith for having made it possible for me to participate in this tribute to my predecessor who has done so much to promote the development of archives and libraries in this country.

Guy Sylvestre
National Librarian

Archivaria 15 Praised

It was a most pleasant surprise to open your package early this week and find the complimentary copies and reprints of your dedication issue of *Archivaria* — honoring Dr. W. Kaye Lamb.

I am very pleased with the publication and I am sure that the contributors — and Dr. Lamb — will be delighted. You have produced an excellent volume, carefully edited and pleasingly formatted. I must say too that the quality of the contributed articles and their content should be well received by the professionals and their users in both the archival and the library communities.

We waited a long time for this presentation. There is a satisfying note of fulfilment in the realization that the young journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists had the honour of the final work of achievement. Dr. Lamb would like that — and I am sure all of us in the library community will join in a consensus of congratulations,