

Notes and Communications

First Annual Winner of the W. Kaye Lamb Prize

The General Editor and Editorial Board of *Archivaria* are pleased to announce that Ian E. Wilson has been awarded the first annual W. Kaye Lamb Prize for his article, "‘A Noble Dream’: The Origins of the Public Archives of Canada," which appeared in No. 15, the Winter 1982-83 issue. The Prize is given each fall to the author of "the article which by the quality of its research, reflection, and writing most advances archival thinking and scholarship in Canada." The Prize was established to honour the stellar contribution to archives by Dr. Lamb and to promote excellence in scholarly writing on Canadian archival matters. The winner is chosen by ballot by some twenty-five archivists across the country.

Based on thorough research and careful reflection, Ian Wilson's "A Noble Dream" traces the history of the Public Archives of Canada from its origin in 1872 until the arrival of Dr. Lamb in 1948. While all the administrative changes, related studies and commissions, and influential personalities are well detailed by Wilson, he also transcends such concrete events to search for the collective soul, the motivating vision, which animated Canada's national archives during its first seven decades. In so doing, he demonstrates again the adage that an understanding of the past is a necessary precondition in comprehending, for better or worse, the present and in anticipating the future. It is hoped that Ian Wilson's example will stimulate others to probe into the history of archival jurisdictions, institutions, and personalities.

It does no discredit to Ian Wilson to say that there are two official "honourable mentions" in this first year's awarding of the Prize: indeed, there was almost a three-way tie for first place. George Bolotenko's "Archivists and Historians: Keepers of the Well," a provocative, thoroughly researched analysis of the nature of archival work, the archival profession, and the archivist, and Michel Duchéin's "Theoretical Principles and Practical Problems of *Respect des fonds* in Archival Science," a detailed probing of the subtleties of a cardinal archival principle, both of which appeared in *Archivaria* 16, are also cited for the major contributions which they make to archival writing and thought.

The second W. Kaye Lamb Prize will be awarded in the fall of 1984 for the best article in Numbers 17 and 18.

Terry Cook
General Editor