

recording of the broadcast as well as the script held in the collection. Fink's radio drama bibliography does indicate whether a sound version exists but does not provide the particular reference/location number as it does for scripts.

The claim of the introduction to the bibliography that radio drama represents Canada's first national professional theatre initially takes one somewhat aback. However, even a cursory examination of the indexes and the frequent appearances of authors such as W.O. Mitchell, Earle Birney, Morley Callaghan, Harry Boyle, Merrill Denison, Lister Sinclair, and many others soon establishes the claim on a solid footing. Howard Fink's demonstration of the vitality and abundance of Canadian writing for radio drama should stimulate archivists to look at other dimensions of Canadian broadcasting. Broadcasting continues to be an active and creative component of the Canadian experience in the twentieth century. Though archives have proclaimed an interest in and a responsibility for broadcasting, they have only begun to undertake its preservation.

Ernest J. Dick
National Film, Television and
Sound Archives
Public Archives of Canada

The Loyalist Guide: Nova Scotia Loyalists and Their Documents. JEAN PETERSON, compiler, assisted by LYNN MURPHY and HEATHER MACDONALD. Halifax: Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1984. 272 p. ISBN 0-88871-044-5 \$11.95.

The recent past has been an exciting time for Loyalist studies in Canada and the United States. American scholars have been discarding the stereotype of the Loyalist as Tory foil to the triumphant new nation and more frequently looking at the American Revolution from the perspective of those who opposed it. Scholars in Canada had dismissed the old Loyalist myth, and this dismissal had developed a tendency to dismiss the Loyalists themselves. More recent historians have accepted this lesson in the dangers of hagiography, but have gone beyond debunking and in their studies have awakened a new interest in these people, their experience, and their contribution.

A recent spur to interest in and research on the Loyalists has been the awareness fostered by the bicentennial of the Loyalists' arrival in British North America. Genealogical interest was expanded by the celebrations; communities founded by the Loyalists had the memory of their Loyalist pasts refreshed by the celebrations; and general public awareness of the Loyalist tradition and contribution was greatly increased. One specific example of the interest fostered by the bicentennial in Nova Scotia and by those who worked so diligently to make it a success is this particular work.

The *Loyalist Guide* attempts to organize and describe, in one volume, the primary and secondary sources in the holdings of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia that relate to the Loyalists. The study contains more than fifteen hundred entries on the Loyalists, each of which has a brief, helpful description of the material that it contains. It is divided into two parts: the first is a description of the secondary material held by the archives; the second is a description of the manuscript sources. Each part is then subdivided into at least sixteen general subject chapters. A similar dichotomy is used in the index, divided as it is between persons and places.

Since this is a research guide, one thing that becomes critical, and is almost always difficult, is the organization of the many entries into some coherent order. The particular organization of this publication seems to work well in most cases. The researcher can use either the index and the detailed table of contents to find quickly whether a particular source is held by the archives, or he can dip into a certain classification to find what does exist there.

There are anomalies. The fact that the secondary sources are not always in alphabetical order can lead to confusion. An article by one author, which appears originally in *Acadiensis*, is placed under the section on secondary sources while another article by the same author, having appeared in *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, is found under the section on primary sources. There is a surprising number of articles that originally appeared in journals listed without explanation under the section on primary sources. Moreover, although the chapter headings and subheadings, along with the index, are very useful in most respects, certain items are difficult to find. For example, this reader never did locate the three volumes of the letters of Surveyor General Charles Morris despite working through both chapter headings and index. And with the index one fears that items which are neither persons nor places can be lost in the crevice between this division.

What is written above does not denigrate the publication as much as caution readers in the use of it. Overall, it is a very useful guide for those with an interest in Nova Scotia or Loyalist history. It allows a reader far from the Public Archives in Halifax to discover quickly and conveniently what the Archives contains in his area of interest.

Neil MacKinnon
St. Francis Xavier University

Documentary Evidence in Canada. J. DOUGLAS EWART, Agincourt: Carswell Legal Publications, 1984. xxxvii, 389 p. ISBN 0-459-35950-9 \$40.00.

Evidence law in Canada can be a trap for the unwary. Not only are there a large number of federal and provincial statutes and an unofficial "Uniform Evidence Act," but there is also the whole of the uncodified common law of evidence with which to contend. Added to this is the perplexing fact that the majority of evidence law consists of statutory or common law exceptions to basic principles which may or may not be codified. Fortunately few archivists have need of a complete understanding of evidence law but most archivists have in their collections documents which could potentially be evidence in a legal proceeding. Aside from a ritual bowing to "evidentiary value" as an indicator of the importance of such records, only a small number of archivists have an appreciation of their records as legal evidence. Several papers in the special "Archives and the Law" issue of *Archivaria* (number 18) dealt with documents in the courts, but *Documentary Evidence in Canada* provides both background and detail which will be of interest to archivists.

J. Douglas Ewart's book is written for lawyers and contains the usual legal shorthand, tables of cases, and concordance of statutes. Fortunately it is also well written, so that it is readable by those outside the legal profession. It is also understandable without the numerous case citations on almost every page.

The basic evidentiary problem about documents is that, so far as evidence of the truth of their contents is concerned, they are hearsay and are usually not admissible without