

archives which are not open year-round or on a five-day-a-week basis? Not only is it misleading to compare archives to all other heritage institutions, it is also rather pointless to generate crude averages, as this report sometimes does, to describe an archival community which encompasses institutions as large as the PAC and as small as local archives which might be staffed by volunteers and open only one or two days a week.

The nine tables in the report do attempt in some cases to group archives into categories based on a variety of criteria. Perhaps the most meaningful of these tables are the last two. One illustrates the types of services provided by archives across the country and the types of programmes pursued. As would be expected, most archives provide for public research activities and many provide reprography services. The final table in the publication illustrates that when all Canadian archives are viewed together, the majority operate on annual budgets of less than \$20,000. It would seem that much of what is presented in this report tends to reinforce general impressions of archives in Canada. It might be most useful at this stage if a more textured and precise analysis of some basic data could be undertaken. After all, is it meaningful to compare the budget or service provided by a religious archives to those of a regional or municipal archives? It might make more sense to compare archives within classes rather than across classes, as long as the confidentiality of the specific archives analysed could be insured. Such an exercise would, of course, require time and money. The document at hand was generated for a specific planning exercise at the Public Archives. It is perhaps unreasonable to expect such a degree of detail here, although the authors of the report hope to undertake a more comprehensive analysis of the data gathered by Statistics Canada for publication at some future date. It does nonetheless lead one to question the initial purpose of the publication of this report. How useful is the information contained to the archival community at large?

Nancy McMahon
Federal Archives Division
Public Archives of Canada

Guide to the Smithsonian Archives. ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. Number 4. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983. xxxiv, 431 p.

This is the third edition of a guide which first came out in 1978. It covers two distinct types of holdings: the records of the Smithsonian Institution itself and the personal papers of Smithsonian administrators and curators. The first part provides a fairly detailed description of the record units of the Smithsonian Institution including those of the Board of Regents, Office of the Secretary, other administrative bodies, the various national museums (Natural History, History and Technology, and American Art) along with each of their subdivisions, and the smaller bodies associated with the Smithsonian. Each unit is described by an inventory giving a brief administrative history, the main function of the particular unit, a very short list of major sub-series in the record unit, a brief description of the finding aids available, and any special conditions such as access restrictions or microfilm copies. The *Guide* also has a useful history of each subdivision or record unit. Any large government organization such as the Smithsonian, which has existed since 1846, has undergone numerous administrative changes which are difficult to retrace. This guide helps to make sense of these continual changes.

The second part of the *Guide* covers the collections of individuals and some organizations, again in the same format. Most of the individual collections are the personal papers of Smithsonian administrators and curators. Their papers often complement what is available in the official record. Most of the collections document the work of naturalists who were busy recording the flora and fauna of the Americas during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The records of organizations which have donated their papers to the Smithsonian also relate mainly to the natural sciences. There are a few collections that deal with other subjects such as the pure sciences, technology, American history, or culture. The appendices at the end of the book list the record units (collections) by media, by discipline (very useful), by a chronological bar graph (less useful), and by an index to names and organizations.

At first glance, there may seem to be nothing of relevance to Canadian readers in the *Guide*. A close reading reveals, however, that the field notes and drawings of Leslie Gale Saunders, a University of Saskatchewan professor who studied *Diptera* (two-winged flies), are in the Smithsonian. The Smithsonian sent Robert Kennicott to collect natural history specimens in the Mackenzie River area in 1859. He came into contact with Roderick Ross MacFarlane and Bernard Rogan Ross (both Hudson's Bay Company employees) and inspired them to collect specimens too. Though very small, their papers now form part of the Smithsonian's holdings. The institution had a particular interest in the Canadian North as well as Alaska. Researchers interested in the Canadian North would do well to check what is available in Washington.

Researchers should be aware that the *Guide* covers only a portion of the Smithsonian's archival holdings. The collections and manuscripts gathered by Smithsonian curators are to be found in the National Anthropological Archives, the Archives of American Art, and the National Museum of American History. The Archives Center of the latter, formed in 1983, already has 142 collections. The remaining collections are still in the hands of its individual curators.

The *Guide to the Smithsonian Archives* is a very valuable research tool. Very few archival institutions, even the very large ones, produce guides to their collections. Canadian archives could do more to follow the Smithsonian example. It is not necessary for every archives to publish a guide the size of a book. The effort put into such a guide would save researchers and even the institution itself considerable time and energy by providing adequate information about collections. Researchers are often forced to depend on the miniaturized descriptions of collections that are found in the *Union List of Manuscripts*. A guide such as the Smithsonian's fills the gap by providing a fuller description of individual collections and an overview of an institution's holdings.

Larry McNally
Manuscript Division
Public Archives of Canada

Justice in Early Ontario, 1791-1840: A Study of Crime, Courts and Prisons in Upper Canada. CHARLES K. TALBOT. Ottawa: Crimcare, 1983. xviii, 450 p. ISBN 0-919395-02-3 \$45.00.

This volume should be of interest to archivists not for what it is but for what it could have been. Every archives contains collections which have immense research value but whose