The essays, which are excellent and very informative, are documented with copious footnotes; many also have charts, tables, maps, or photographs. Readers will find, however, that the volume is marred with annoying typographical errors and errors in syntax. The Carleton Library Series has enjoyed a fine reputation over the years. It is unfortunate that the editors were not more diligent with their red pencils during the compilation of this otherwise fine and instructive volume.

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In 1961, the Public Archives of Canada began the task of compiling a list of manuscript collections held by Canadian repositories. The purpose of the project was to provide the researcher with a guide to archival sources, together with a brief description of their significance and location. The initial version of the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories was introduced in 1968 and appeared in revised form in 1975. At that point, the decision was made to create occasional supplements to the main edition. The current publication represents the fourth such supplement.

The size of this particular supplement confirms the general success of the PAC's canvass of archival repositories throughout Canada. The number and size of the volumes which make up the Union List of Manuscripts also indicate the publication's major flaw. In order to find listings of manuscript collections relating to a particular individual, for example, a researcher must check through five volumes. The editors of the guide are aware of this problem, and, as well as collecting information for future additions to the Union List, they are researching new ways of presenting the data which may involve microfilm production and computer transmission.


This publication represents a collection of articles taken from the quarterly journal Manuscripts. The American Manuscript Society, which was founded in 1948, has published the journal since 1953. Most of the articles are aimed at the collector rather than the archivist. The first section of the book is devoted to suggestions on how collectors should assemble documents or related items. The emphasis here is on autographs. The second section of the book deals with areas in which to collect. Other sections discuss historical documents and penmanship. A final section attempts to link collecting with the broader pursuit of historical understanding. In general, however, the tone of the articles is antiquarian and, in general, geared to an American audience.