

outside collections, 3 355 metres of records (accumulated by 1981) would be scattered in bits and pieces across the country or, more than likely, lost. There is also the more convincing argument that university records are not as exciting or prestigious as the records of Dorothy Livesay or the Liberal Party of Ontario. In spite of any deficiencies which may exist, the guide remains useful, and one would hope more are produced in the future.

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A Guide to Labour Records and Resources in British Columbia. LOUISE MAY, compiler. GEORGE BRANDAK, ELAINE BERNARD and MARK THOMPSON, co-investigators. Vancouver: Special Collections Division of the University of British Columbia, 1985. 197 p. free of charge.

The resurgence of the academic study of "labour" which accompanied the rising ferment and eventual rebirth of activism in the 1960s has generated unprecedented demands for archival sources which capture the whole of working class historical experience. No longer content with an understanding of labour's past as confined to formal trade union structures *per se*, the new social historians largely abandoned this institutionalism as it proved itself to be totally inadequate to the task of explaining the successive waves of "wildcat" labour actions which had arisen throughout Europe and North America. Following in the new pathways cut by historians such as E.P. Thompson in Britain and Herbert Gutman and Gregory Kealey in North America, these scholars have instead sought to explore the larger socio-historical reality outside the world of official unionism.

In recent years, archivists charged with collecting labour records have found themselves increasingly besieged with requests for documentation concerning the behaviour of labour's rank-and-file, including women, blacks, and virtually all ethnic groups — many of whom had as yet remained untouched by the formal unionization process. Given these influences upon the course of labour historiography, historians have begun to integrate much of what the new social history has unearthed into a far richer and more sophisticated understanding of unionism than had been possible under the rigid institutional approaches of the John R. Commons school. As labour history has begun to come full circle, archivists find that the demand for both newer and older forms of documentation continues unabated. But whether a researcher is more oriented to one of these forms or the other, the one enduring problem is that of access to the more local records, precisely the geographical focus of intensive research that has so far informed much of the best of those studies rooted in the Thompson/Gutman tradition.

This guide, compiled under the direction of Louise May, takes us several giant steps forward in providing the fullest possible forms of documentation essential to current research of the local/regional scene. In addition to records pertaining to the various trade union leaderships and organizations, one finds an abundance of source material in the form of company records and those of governmental authorities which will allow researchers to investigate the complex roles assumed by capital and their counterparts in the state, at both the municipal and provincial levels of intervention. Records pertaining to a full range of social historical subjects also figure prominently in the collections surveyed. Yet for anyone expecting this guide to stand as definitive, it must be stressed from

the outset that the compilers in no way meant it to be. As Louise May states in her introduction, the guide "is a product of our work to date...this is an ongoing project." While this guide is concerned with the records of the lower mainland of British Columbia, the team has already formulated plans to enlarge the geographic scope of the next survey to the remaining areas of the province.

Work on the present guide began in May 1982, under the auspices of the University of British Columbia Special Collections Division, with initial funding provided through a Summer Canada Grant, and continued with a SSHRC Tools Grant, which allowed the survey team to expand its search beyond the records already brought into public archives to those still retained in union offices. The guide is organized into three sections, beginning with a "select bibliography" on British Columbia labour, followed by labour records in public archives, and labour records in union offices. An examination of the bibliography reveals the strong influence of the new social history on this generation of compilers. Thus, along with the "classic" trade union histories, there are entries for journal articles, and monographs dealing with such subjects as the unemployed, women, the labour process, conceptualizing class, the rank-and-file movement, and important works on left-wing activism and influence. Other selections include union-produced and scholarly publications concerning more contemporary labour history, including the "new unionism" of the service and white-collared sectors. A final subsection of the bibliography is devoted to a highly useful listing of labour newspapers and journals. Given the wide variety of resources available here, the compilers may wish to subdivide and regroup these materials by type of publication with an industry/periods of development organizational scheme as found in Dorothy Swanson's recently published bibliography on American workers, especially should the quantity of material in this section be expanded in future editions.

Part Two, concerned with records housed in public archival institutions, comprises over one hundred of the total 197 pages of the guide. Entries here include data on collection size, record type (i.e. microfilm, originals, etc.), range of dates, location, terms of access, and the availability of inventories. Often included in the collection content note is a more extensive historical description than one usually encounters.

Part Three, holdings in union offices, essentially follows the format of Part Two. Arranged alphabetically, these entries quite naturally lack the more inclusive data of the processed collections. As with the entries in Part Two, the compilers were careful to include non-textual record types, such as sound recordings, video tapes, and films.

While devoted to British Columbia, this guide will be of value to scholars concerned with the more current aspects of the internationalization of labour within the North American context, especially those pursuing studies in such areas as the timber and wood products industries, as well as the plethora of maritime-related occupations still so integral to the economies of the Northwest border regions. The only other North American regional survey that has accomplished nearly as much as has May's team is the Ohio Labor History Project's guide, produced in 1980. For archivists and scholars in the United States and Canada, this new guide stands out as a first class model which future regional surveys of similar scope and purpose should strive to emulate.

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