

control mechanism, perhaps an agreement not to reveal individual identities, should be in place to deal with patient information that may be discovered in any collection. Such a policy decision is beyond the author's jurisdiction, but it is a matter for those responsible for the Medical Archives to consider seriously.

Although the project did not include photographs, the *Guide* contains occasional reference to them. In the McLennan Papers, for example, mention is made of photograph #104 LMC BW of the 1898 McGill University graduating class being transferred to the photograph collection, but there is no indication of how it can be located. A brief appendix noting the existence of non-textual records would be a useful addition, particularly for novice staff members or researchers using the *Guide* independently. The only other notable omission from the *Guide* is a subject index. Given the scope of the project, the preparation of a comprehensive index was clearly impossible, and its absence is compensated for by the careful organization of the *Guide* which permits efficient provenance-based research. However, consideration should be given to the creation of an index before the collection grows much larger.

Despite the occasional criticism, the *Guide* is an excellent example of what can be achieved by a carefully planned and executed project of limited scope. It sets a high standard for future staff members of the Medical Archives and it should serve as a model for similar projects. Indeed, this reviewer used the *Guide* when establishing a similar system for legal archives. If the current projects undertaken with funding from the Canadian Council of Archives produce finding aids of the quality of *A Guide to the Medical Archives of British Columbia*, then the archival and research communities will be well-served indeed.

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"Archives and Public History: Issues, Problems and Prospects," **The Public Historian**, **A Journal of Public History** 8, No. 3 (Summer 1986). BRUCE W. DEARSTYNE, Guest Editor. Berkeley: University of California Press. 124 p. ISSN 0272-3433. Students \$3.50, Individuals \$5.00, Institutions \$6.50 (US).

According to guest editor Bruce Dearstyne, this special issue of *The Public Historian* explores and analyses recent developments in the archival world for the benefit of the public history community. Six eminent American archivists and one distinguished Canadian professional portray archival developments in their respective countries over the past decade and delineate the boundaries establishing archival endeavours as separate from, but related to, public history.

Larry Hackman, State Archivist of New York, takes the reader through the recent past and present situation in "A Perspective on American Archives." He implicitly sets up 1974 as a watershed year for archives in the United States: the hiring of the first executive director by the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the formation of the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators (Government was later substituted for State, making it known as NAGARA), and the creation of the records programme of the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Hackman discusses the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National

Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC), the National Information Systems Task Force (NISTF), which along with the SAA and Library of Congress "fostered" the development of the MARC AMC format, and initiatives taken by the SAA for the advancement of the profession. In dealing with the present, he analyses four critical reports: *The Report of the Committee on the Records of Government*; *The NAGARA Study of the Preservation of Records in State Archives*; *The SAA's Study of Opinions of Archival Resource Allocators*; and *The SAA Task Force on Archival Goals and Priorities*.

Having read this survey, the public history professional is faced with Richard Cox's polemic, "Archivists and Public Historians in the United States." The past relationship between the two areas of endeavour is carefully considered, with attention to factors affecting both parties. Cox stresses the benefits of promoting the value of archives for public history and the value for archives of having allies. One of the most important points made is that public historians "have an extremely important stake in the preservation of archival records." Other themes include the role of archivists and public historians in preserving modern records, challenges for education in both disciplines, and the future relationship of the two groups.

"Chinatown Revisited: The Status and Prospects of Government Records in America" by Edie Hedlin takes its title from a scene in the renowned Nicholson/Dunaway movie where documents are stolen from a local government records office. Hedlin details local and state government records problems before turning to the National Archives. She discusses in a detailed fashion aspects of NHPRC, NAGARA, the American Association for State and Local History, and other groups. Giving some consideration to models for progress, Hedlin examines the key role which the public history community has to play in archival development. In "Archival Issues and Problems: The Central Role of Advocacy," Page Putnam Miller traces the development of the National Archives and Records Services (NARS) from an independent executive agency, through its languishing existence under the General Services Administration, to its revitalization and restoration to independence in 1984. Of particular importance is her description of the development of the NCC and the very clear benefits of the single lobby representing a number of groups with a common goal, including archivists and public historians.

In an incisive article, Terry Eastwood examines the Canadian archival landscape. "Attempts at National Planning for Archives in Canada, 1975-1985" tells the familiar story of life before the Association of Canadian Archivists, its founding and cooperative relationship with Quebec archivists under the Bureau of Canadian Archivists, and the impact of the Symons Report. In what is probably one of the best analyses to date, Eastwood unravels the mystery of our recent past, focusing on the Wilson Report, ACA's response to it or lack thereof, the attempted National Archival Records Commission (NARC), the role of the National Archives of Canada, developments at SSHRCC, the involvement of the Dominion-Provincial-Territorial Archivists and the formation of the Canadian Council of Archives. A forward-looking presentation is given in a second article by Larry Hackman, "Toward the Year 2000," which touches on positive developments and factors affecting the archives of the future. Limiting by standards, increased emphasis on appraisal, and a comprehensive approach to documenting society are considered. Finally, twenty-three pages of book reviews concentrate on recent American publications related to archives.

If there is a weakness in the volume, it is the over-representation of government records. One of the major goals of public history is "to relate an understanding of past events to the formation of contemporary public policy." The fulfilment of this goal requires an understanding of public records, but records of other sectors should be considered to give a balanced perspective on comprehensive documentation.

With that one consideration aside, the volume stands as a solid contribution to archival literature in its analysis of contemporary issues and their background. Eastwood's article in particular is a must for Canadian archivists, particularly those who joined the profession after 1975. This special issue of *The Public Historian* should provide Canadians with a good example of what can be accomplished through communication with other disciplines. In educating others on archival matters we are forced, as the contributors to this volume were, to drop our jargon and look for the simple yet eloquent turn-of-phrase which will attract support to our cause. A similar special issue of the *Journal of Canadian Studies* could prove most useful on this side of the border.

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A Narrow Vision: Duncan Campbell Scott and the Administration of Indian Affairs in Canada. E. BRIAN TITLEY. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1986. 256 p. ISBN 0-7748-0261-8. \$24.95.

Brian Titley makes clear in his introduction that he has not set out to write a biography of Duncan Campbell Scott, valuable as that work might be. Rather, the author has chosen to make Scott the focus of a study of the policies of the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) during a "particularly turbulent and eventful era." Yet Scott, because of his long service with the department — nearly twenty years of which were spent as its top civil servant — is not a benign observer but an active participant who, Titley would have us believe, was in no small part responsible for the turbulence.

The book does not claim to be a comprehensive administrative history of the DIA and Indian policy during Scott's period of influence. Neither is it the "only study of Indian policy in the early 20th century" as the dust jacket comments suggest. It is, however, a most important study. The inter-war period in particular has received less attention by Canadian students of Euro-Indian relations than have the decades immediately following Confederation. A significant proportion of what has been written too often takes the form of unpublished reports to native organizations or relatively unavailable research documents commissioned by the DIA itself. Titley's work will certainly help redress this imbalance.

A Narrow Vision is an admittedly selective analysis of DIA activities. Titley has chosen to focus on issues which, he argues, not only reflect the peculiarities of Indian administration in different regions of Canada, but also have a wider national relevance. Titley begins with an introduction to Indian policy and the Indian Department prior to World War I, a summary which serves to highlight the range and depth of scholarly work that has been published in the field of native studies in the past fifteen years. He then focuses his attention on the treaty-making process, the civilization/assimilation policy (and its