

## Notices

**Through Scholarly Eyes: Queen's University Archives Lectures 1983-1991.** ANNE MACDERMAID and GEORGE F. HENDERSON, eds. Kingston: Queen's University, 1991. x, 147 p., illus. ISBN 0-88911-615-6.

This slim volume may not occupy much shelf space but it certainly demonstrates the power of archives to purvey information to a wide array of users. The nine lectures printed here are the product of the Queen's University Archives lectures, first started in 1983 and running continuously to the year of publication, 1991. As co-editor Anne MacDermid notes in her forward, the series was established to demonstrate the "eclectic riches of archival resources at Queen's" (p.v). It was also intended to display the holdings through a multi-disciplinary approach stressing both the range of original material and the participants' commitment to the development of archives.

This book is proof of the success achieved by the series' founders. Essays explore history from architectural, political, and regional perspectives. There are papers about literary figures, lawyers, and public servants, many of whom are connected in some way to Queen's University through either its archives or staff. While a number of the papers have a local focus they are complimented by others which deal with broader topics of national and international scope. Fred Gibson on the Winnipeg Free Press, Norman Mackenzie on the Monk Gibbon papers, an important figure in Irish literature, and Donald Swainson's "Corruption, Irresponsibility, and Elections in Nineteenth Century Canada" are examples of wider themes addressed. Of particular interest to the readers of *Archivaria* are the biographical notes about the contributors revealing that many have a long association with the Archives Advisory Committee at Queen's.

The work captures the special fusion of high level professional scholarship and the ambience of what appears to be a very comfortable relationship fostered between speaker and audience. The continuity of the format also engenders an interplay between lecturers who refer back to previous years and the speakers before them. Fortunately for those who have been unable to attend in person, the book offers a permanent testament to a valuable lecture series.

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