

The Québécois have developed a particular affinity for the home-grown serial dramatic programming inventoried in this project. The most successful US dramatic programming these days such as "Seinfeld" or "Roseanne" wins an audience share of thirty per cent. Last year's Super Bowl was considered the biggest television audience ever and had an audience share of sixty-six per cent. In Quebec the current SRC dramatic series "Blanche" is now achieving a seventy-five per cent share, with almost three million of the French-speaking audience in Quebec tuning in regularly. This is not unique and simply follows on the success of "Les filles de Caleb" (average audience of 3,207,000) in recent years (currently being broadcast on CBC television in a dubbed version under the title, "Emily").

"Restez à l'écoute" is a delightful television retrospective on Québécois dramatic programming broadcast last September by the SRC for television's fortieth anniversary. This retrospective is a video version of this *Répertoire* and was predictably popular with Quebec audiences. Even when it was repeated this past December, "Restez à l'écoute" still averaged a million viewers per episode (twenty-five per cent audience share).

Hopefully, this *Répertoire* will become a model for many more inventories/encyclopedias of broadcast programming in Canada. Indeed, the most common question already being asked of the compilers is how and why they defined what programming would be included and excluded. Their answer can be to wait for the next *répertoire*.

Broadcasting has been a most fertile and popular medium for Canadian expression of the imagination. However, published literature tends to have a higher profile in critical, academic, and archival circles. Publications such as this *Répertoire* go a long distance to correcting that deficiency for the Québécois. We need many more such projects.

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Beyond the Printed Word...Newsreel and Broadcast Reporting in Canada/Au-delà de l'écrit...actualités filmées et reportages radio et télé-diffusés au Canada. RICHARD LOCHEAD, ed. Kingston: Quarry Press, 1991. vii-397 p. ISBN 1-55082-01401.

Beyond the Printed Word is a remarkable exception to an easily verified rule of thumb: the published records of conferences usually rank alongside sleeping pills as certain cures for insomnia. Published with the best of intentions to spread information from a conference to a wider audience, such publications are often ignored by everyone except the participants.

The reason for the general antipathy to such volumes is easy to spot: the presentations they contain lose a great deal in the translation to the written word. The excitement and even the meaning conveyed by a speaker is often lost outside the context of the conference setting. And the task of converting what may have been a dynamic speech into seemly print is often beyond the abilities of an editor. Translating the event into the written word is often a task deemed the worst sort of unrewarding drudgery.

Beyond the Printed Word escapes the general fate of such volumes through a number of clever decisions presumably made by its organizers at the National Archives of Canada. Volumes such as this are notoriously difficult to illustrate, and the decision here to include photographs of virtually all of the presenters with the text of their presentations, is a good one. While not a revolutionary idea, the photography is uniformly good, taken at the time of the presentation, and manages to convey some sense of each author as presenter.

The decision to include major questions from the audience and responses from the speakers gives a sense of vicarious participation to the reader. This is an effect difficult to achieve, and is aided by the fine transcription of these unprepared remarks. This achievement is perhaps not so surprising if one considers that the volume's chief editor and a major conference organizer is Richard Lohead, himself a noted oral historian. The choice of an oral history format for these appended remarks might not have been made by many archivists or historians, and it works very well indeed.

Beyond the Printed Word is the record of a 1988 conference sponsored by the National Archives of Canada in conjunction with an exhibition that celebrated nearly a century of newsreel and broadcast reporting. Perhaps the current volume succeeds best because it is not the verbatim record of the symposium, but rather a carefully prepared revision of major papers with an eye to a much wider audience. Thus Lohead has managed to capture the feel of conference interaction while translating the proceedings into a much more accessible format.

The study of television news and its impact on public perceptions of reality is both important and current. This volume follows into print such others as Marc Raboy's *Missed Opportunities: The Story of Canada's Broadcasting Policy*, and Paul Rutherford's *When Television Was Young: Primetime Canada, 1952-1967*. Because of its careful focus on broadcast news and the contexts within which it was created, grew, and evolved in Canada, it extends the reach of current scholarship on the topic.

Especially notable for archivists is the presentation of Hugh Taylor, who examines the place of news documents as historical evidence, and presents his colleagues (and the broadcasters) with a series of questions that bear directly upon the appraisal dilemma faced in selecting material from this immense, ubiquitous, and unorganized source. Linda Malenfant's comments, from the point of view of an archivist at a private television station, give additional perspective to this dilemma.

An attractive feature of the symposium that makes its way into print quite effectively is the use of two "media forums" to bring members of the press and electronic media directly into the action. The forum that investigates the role of the news anchor as reporter or entertainer is a particularly useful addition to the mix.

Despite its very Canadian focus, the volume should have wide interest in the United States as well. While the construction of Canada's national broadcast policy is quite different from developments south of the border, much of the analysis of broadcast news and its role in forming (and reflecting) of public opinion is equally relevant elsewhere. And there are many caches of information important to those charged with the task of appraising broadcast news.

The editor's careful work makes the most of each presenter's central points, thus increasing the value of the whole product. *Beyond the Printed Word* provides historical framework for the study of television news, and important context for its analysis and appraisal. In this it realizes the prime objective stated by Lohead in the introduction—to acknowledge the significance of Canada's broadcast news heritage, and provide a starting point for further research. It does all that very well indeed, and more.

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Archival Strategies and Techniques. MICHAEL R. HILL. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1993. 88 p. ISBN 0-8039-4825-5.

This small volume is number thirty-one in the Qualitative Research Methods Series published by Sage Publications Inc. which advertises itself as an "International Educational and Professional Publisher." The volumes in the series are geared to social science research topics, short (under 100 pages), priced under \$10 for the paperback and under \$20 for the hardcover edition. Presumably, these dollar figures are U.S. dollars and the authors are apparently largely U.S. scholars, although the institutional affiliations listed include institutions of higher education in Canada, Wales, the Netherlands, and England.

Michael Hill writes from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research advice is systematic and thorough, and could easily serve for other researchers than socio-biographers, his target audience. In eighty-eight pages, Hill has managed to pack not only this sound research advice, but a critique of archival practices and a six page bibliography. He writes from an American perspective, thus comments on taxation, copyright, etc., are not necessarily applicable elsewhere.

The archival critique is nicely done and not entirely unfair. Acquisition is referred to as sedimentation, a somewhat random procedure. Noting that archival appraisals are in part based on sponsor institution interests and archivists' prejudice, he finds arrangement and description tend to serve historians and humanists' needs (e.g., chronological arrangement) rather than those of social scientists. Reference services seem almost to be designed to frustrate the fulfilment of researcher requirements. Everything from inadequate training of archivists through unwritten rules which researchers must obey, slowness to computerize and downright misleading information or getting caught in intra-staff feuds is commented upon—virtually any inadequacy resulting in restricting legitimate access by researchers. The book left me feeling that seeing ourselves as others see us is not precisely a gift!

The book is certainly worth a read and the accompanying bibliography could give archivists an opportunity to broaden their sociological horizons.

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