

NEW BRUNSWICK

Dr. George MacBeath, director, tendered his resignation in September, 1964, in order to accept the position of director of the Ontario 1967 Centennial Project. Prior to his appointment as director of the Museum in January, 1963, he served as curator of the Department of Canadian History. Dr. MacBeath's association with the museum spanned a period of 15 years.

Further staff changes occurred in February with the resignation and departure to Toronto of the assistant archivist and administrative head of the Archives and Library Section, Jean Sereisky-Dickson.

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Recent accessions include an original minute book of the Court of Quarter Sessions for Saint John covering the period 1801-11, and a collection from the Robinson Estate dealing with personal, business, military and estate matters of this Loyalist family from the last quarter of the 18th Century. Among shelf additions was a collection of manuscripts and papers of the historian and author, James Hannay. Correspondence, mortgages, deeds, bills, receipts, sketches, account books, ledgers, and commissions and military appointments made up the bulk of the Otty Papers which, sorted and processed, measured 9 feet, 3 inches on shelving.

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The next-to-final phase in preparation for publication of an inventory of archival holdings was launched with the compilation of descriptive data and transcribing the listings in the form of a preliminary draft. Expectations are that the catalogue describing archival collections will be published this year.

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Successful experimentation with the use of a humidifying device prompted addition of a second installation in recent months. Originally a humidifier (floor-model) was tested in the document room; close observation showed an improvement in moisture content in a space that formerly registered as dangerously dry. Another humidifier has been placed in the Ganong Room to increase moist-air circulation for the preservation of documents, maps and books in that area.

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A project nearing completion in the first quarter of 1965 was transcription of a series of historical accounts relating to the United Empire Loyalists who settled in New Brunswick (including considerable genealogical information available in no

other form) from original manuscripts by a 19th century New Brunswick historian, D.R. Jack. One copy of the completed work will be retained by the Museum while the second will be turned over to the Saint John Free Public Library which has participated in absorbing costs in the project. The manuscripts were bequeathed to the library many years ago and were discovered to be in a seriously-deteriorating condition. Purpose of the undertaking was two-fold: to preserve valuable historic information and to extend usefulness of this reference source by making the material more readily accessible to researchers. It is hoped that another group of unpublished manuscripts by Jack will be similarly transcribed in the future.

NOVA SCOTIA

Recently there have been two changes in the personnel of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The former binder-photographer resigned to accept employment elsewhere and another young man has been hired to do photography mainly. In the case of the other position, a research assistant has been hired for the term of one year, after the completion of which another appointment will be necessary.

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Bruce Fergusson still continues on a part-time basis as Associate Professor at Dalhousie University.

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In 1964, two bulletins were printed. Bulletin No. 20 bore the title, "The Labour Movement in Nova Scotia before Confederation". Bulletin No. 21 was entitled "The Inauguration of the Free School System in Nova Scotia." The latter was also printed in the October issue of the Journal of Education of Nova Scotia as a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Free School Act. Both of these were written by the Provincial Archivist.

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As secretary of the provincial centennial committee (Confederation Centenary Celebration Committee) and as a member of the National Committee and the National Conference on the Centennial of Confederation, the archivist has been quite involved in centennial planning.