

scripts (no 17 - Archives religieuses) publié par les Archives Publiques du Canada, on trouve, aux pp. 2-4, la nomenclature des transcriptions de notre dépôt conservées à Ottawa.

Inventaire de la correspondance de Mgr Bourget pour 1848 dans Rapport de l'Archiviste du Québec pour 1967, Ministère des Affaires culturelles, Québec.

En février 1967, l'Archiviste a donné une conférence aux étudiants en archivistique, à l'Université Laval, sur "**Les Archives de l'Archevêché de Montréal**". En décembre 1967, à Toronto, il a donné une conférence intitulée:

Prêtres de Montréal en mission aux Etats-Unis (1836 - 1876) au Congrès de l'American Catholic Historical Association.

L'Archiviste a donné, au printemps 1968, à l'Université Laval, un cours de 30 heures sur "**les archives religieuses**".

L'Archiviste a fait un voyage en Europe en septembre 1967. Il a visité plusieurs dépôts d'Archives à Paris, Londres, Rome et Bruxelles. Et aussi l'Archiviste en a été élu Vice-président de l'**Association des Archivistes du Québec**. On peut s'adresser, pour de plus amples renseignements, à: Association des Archivistes du Québec, a/s M. Jacques Mathieu, secrétaire, Archives du Québec, Parc des Champs de Bataille, Québec.

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NEW BRUNSWICK

Provincial Archives: Although New Brunswick was the last province in Canada to establish its own Provincial Archives, progress has been very rapid since there is now a general realization that an Archives and Records Centre is essential to the proper understanding of the nature and evolution of government and, therefore, the government itself. As soon as an Archives became a practical possibility, a large body of experience was available in the Dominion and the report and recommendations of the Dominion Archivist were of outstanding value in this respect. However, without energetic local initiative, advantage could never have been taken of this more enlightened attitude towards records preservation. The importance of this initiative must be stressed.

For many years there has been a number of significant repositories in the province steadily building up their manuscript collections, notably the Legislative Library, University of New Brunswick Library, and the New Brunswick Museum. The older government records were maintained by departments only as well as was necessary for day to day business with the exception of the Lands Branch which developed a model repository for its crown lands records dating back to the very beginning of the province in 1784.

Although the federal-provincial centennial project for New Brunswick consisted of a building for government offices, a provincial archives had been mooted as a possible alternative, and there is some evidence that Lord Beaverbrook had at one time contemplated pre-

senting such a building to the province. However that may be, the movement of government records which would follow on the transfer of government departments to the new Centennial Building and the possible danger of loss during the transfer caused a fresh look to be taken at the possibility of a Provincial Archives. In February 1966 Wendell Fulton, then Executive Assistant to the Minister of Youth and Welfare prepared a short paper on "archival material in New Brunswick: proposals" which drew attention to the state of affairs and the general neglect of old records. This paper led to action being taken and, in the estimates for 1966 - 1967, a separate appropriation of \$26,000 was set aside for the salary and operations of a provincial archivist. Unfortunately, the new position was not firmly located within a department of government which could foster its growth and no further action was taken. Meanwhile it became increasingly clear that the New Brunswick Museum would like to have seen the Provincial Archives within its own jurisdiction. At this point Dr. W. Kaye Lamb the Dominion Archivist was invited to make a report and recommendations upon the general situation and he accordingly accepted the invitation and spent a week during July of last year in Fredericton and Saint John.

Dr. Lamb's report was submitted to the Minister on the second of August 1967 in which he recommended that a Provincial Archives and Records Centre should be established at one and the same time since each was complimentary to the other; that there should be a moratorium on the destruction of all departmental records; that the Department of Public Works provide emergency storage for all records no longer active to await review by the archives staff; that machinery for the review of all records from a historical and long term point of view be incorporated in an Act of the Legislature; that efforts be made to establish the archives in the Bonar Law-Bennett building which had housed the old library on the campus of the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. The report and recommendations were extremely well received in all quarters and formed the basis for all subsequent negotiations. The Bonar Law-Bennett building was duly secured as the Provincial Archives and the transfer of records from the attic of the Legislative Building began in May, 1967.

This attic had by common consent become the limbo for departmental records, both trivial and important, and the problem which faced those who had the job of moving the material reached staggering proportions. Under the direction of Dr. George MacBeath, the Historical Resources Administrator for the Province, a small group of dedicated people led by the Archives Assistant set about the task pending the appointment of a Provincial Archivist. The records were crammed into a forest of beams and joists that covered an area of about three thousand square feet. Almost the entire floor area was deep in paper. First the transfer cases had been stacked on joists and then even the intervening spaces had been filled until it was almost impossible to get into the attic at all. There was very little semblance of order although some areas could be said to be occupied by certain groups with strays scattered elsewhere. The problem was to box these records and move them to the new Provincial Archives in such a way that some kind of control was maintained over their contents and the pattern of the various series built up as the material was reboxed.

The attic was reached from the first floor by means of seventy-six steps of a broad spiral staircase which was virtually useless for moving the boxes. These had to be lowered by means of a block and tackle through the well of the staircase and off the roof of the building.

At this point a very helpful report was made by a member of the staff of the Public Archives of Canada who briefly assessed the relative value of such classes as were readily accessible and this report was slightly modified by the future Provincial Archivist, at that time acting as consultant. From then on most of the organization depended on the Archives Assistant who, with two students from the University, arranged for a remarkably smooth flow of boxes so that the shape of the accumulation began to emerge even in the early stages. At the height of the summer, the forest of beams became a tropical forest with very high humidity and a temperature of one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit, but over a period of five months three men packed and dispatched twelve hundred boxes up to the campus. Undeterred by bats squealing in the rafters and school kids from conducted tours bent on self destruction they worked steadily on.

Although this kind of situation is fairly familiar to archivists starting up a new archives, there is not too much information readily available on the problems involved in handling vast accumulations of this kind. Most of the handbooks designed for a beginner anticipate that only a small number will be initially handled but this may not be true, and many archivists today are probably in the debt of untrained predecessors with a flare for solving this kind of problem requiring a bold and imaginative approach.

The arrival of most of the boxes in the Archives coincided with that of the Provincial Archivist, and the next stage began. The old library stacks could be used at once but a new air conditioning plant had to be installed. In the midst of this familiar kind of upheaval a task force of twelve part-time students began a primary sorting of the various record groups by year. This phase is now being completed and the next stage of arrangement in chronological order within classes is now being undertaken.

The Provincial Archives contains the following main groups: Justice Department including Supreme Court; Provincial Secretary Treasurer; Surveyor General (supplementing the main series in the Lands Branch of the Department of Natural Resources); Legislative Assembly. Concurrent with this work of sorting, records of various county councils of the province have been gradually transferred to the Archives following their abolition in 1966. Their arrangement should be completed this year. Negotiations are going forward with regard to probate records which may well result in the earlier series being transferred to the Provincial Archives from the local registries.

In support of the purely archival operation there is a fully equipped camera room, dark room, and the nucleus of a bindery and repair section. The establishment at present calls for a Provincial Archivist, his deputy, a junior archivist, an archives assistant and a clerk-steno with part time help from students. The Records Centre with a staff

of five is already offering a limited service pending the passage of a comprehensive Provincial Archives Act; a microfilm section with a staff of six works closely with both the Centre and the Archives. All these services are under the direction of the Provincial Archivist.

Good relations have been established with the other repositories in the province to which reference has already been made. In this field the Provincial Archivist is primarily concerned to know where provincial records and manuscripts can be located.

It is hoped that the official opening of the Provincial Archives will take place in the spring of this year when the main series of records will be in sufficient order to offer a reasonable service to the public, bearing in mind that these are very early days in the new repository. As an aid to students a hand-list of secondary sources for New Brunswick history is being prepared which will be published to coincide with the opening.

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New Brunswick Museum Archives, Saint John: Recent accessions include a second group of Ganong papers, consisting of certificates, degrees and appointments of Dr. William Francis Ganong, 1882 - 1940; correspondence of Dr. W. F. Ganong, 1891 - 1941; Field Journals of A. H. Pierce, 1903 - 1908, 1910, 1912; papers of William and Sophia Mary Carman, Bliss Carman, Jean Murray Carman, 1823 - 1899. This material has been incorporated in the Ganong Manuscript Collection.

An inventory of the holdings of the Archives Division, Department of Canadian History, has been published. The inventory, while not to be regarded as a complete listing of the Museum's archival holdings, does provide a guide to the manuscript material available in this repository. The inventory does not include a listing of manuscript material available on microfilm, nor does it describe the map collections in the custody of the Museum.

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NOVA SCOTIA

Public Archives: During 1967 there were several changes in the staff of this institution. Mrs. A. P. Pross succeeded Mrs. R. E. MacLaren as librarian. At the end of 1967 Roger Nickerson resigned from his position as research assistant and in January 1968 Miss Charlotte McLean was hired to replace him. LeRoy Hudson, microfilm photographer, left the institution in January 1968 and was succeeded by David Bent.

Last year this institution printed a pamphlet entitled "Tracing your Ancestors in Nova Scotia" as well as "Nova Scotia Archives IV - Minutes of His Majesty's Council at Annapolis Royal, 1736 - 1749" which was edited by Dr. Bruce Fergusson.

On May 11, 1967, a seminar for historical societies was held in the Archives Building. Topics were: The Role of Historical Societies; Historic Sites; Genealogy; The Role and the Resources of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.