

ACQUISITIONS POLICY: COMPETITION OR COOPERATION?

Dr. Kaye Lamb

Dr. Kaye Lamb introduced the panelists and then said:

It may be helpful and save a good deal of time if I mention some of the specific points that will be of most interest to one or other of our speakers. Let us start with the premise that well-defined policies would encourage the grouping of related historical source material in one place and avoid competition.

If policies were well defined, institutions could be of great assistance to one another by alerting each other to collections in their respective fields. I feel, too, that well-defined collections and collecting policies would be much more likely to attract help from foundations and financial resources of that kind than a sporadic kind of hit and miss, catch as catch can, acquisitions plan. Nevertheless, even if we succeeded in setting up well-defined policies all over the country, there are certain things that we may as well recognize right from the start which would tend to upset such a policy.

There is the matter, first of all, of conflicting interests. I have on my right here Mr. Allan Turner, the Archivist of the Province of Saskatchewan. I was for years archivist of the Federal Government, and we had a conflict of interest over the papers of such a man as Jimmy Gardiner. He was premier of the Province of Saskatchewan, and later, Minister of Agriculture for a long period of time, a very important Federal figure, a very important Provincial figure. Where should the Gardiner papers be? We both have interests.

Secondly, there is the matter of the nature of materials. I feel this should to some extent be a determining factor in deciding where they are to go. I, for instance, feel that official records of a government should most decidedly go into the custody of the archival authorities of that government. And I feel, too, that the papers of the major political figures who have been concerned in the activities of that government, Federal Prime Ministers for example, should by and large, where possible, go to the archival institutions of the authority concerned.

Our plan could also be upset by one of the institutions concerned. An institution may have a perfectly well-defined policy which it does not actively pursue, and as a result, things may go by default.

There may be a question of lack of money. The appropriate institution may not have money to acquire the materials it should have logically; and nowadays, this is increasingly important, because, as we all know, more and more archival materials are turning themselves into cash values; and thanks to Sotheby's and other people, cash values are soaring at a quite fantastic rate.

We must also reckon with the personal preferences of the person who owns a collection that we would like to have. The person may for some reason prefer to put it in institution "B" instead of institution "A",

where we would prefer to see it go.

And then there is the matter that I think we must note quite frankly today - the matter of competition. It can come from a variety of sources, even including an archival institution that collects aggressively, regardless of the interests of others - and I could cite some instances of that kind.

There is competition from the wealthy private collector, who just picks up what interests him, regardless of the logic of the matter. I do not want, in the least, to belittle the private collector; what concerns us are the motives and long-term plan that govern his collecting. If a man is collecting a volume of material and he has an institution in mind, that is fine. And incidentally, I have known one or two collectors who made it quite clear from the start that they were going to leave instructions in their wills for their collections to be dispersed, the feeling being, 'I've had a lot of fun collecting this; I want somebody else of the next generation to have some fun too'. Then there is something that we have encountered more and more recently - competition from non-archival institutions; in particular, from universities and sometimes one or two of the larger public libraries. And this competition, particularly from the universities, has been important to archival institutions in recent years because university libraries, by and large, have had more money available than the archival institutions - much more money than the archival institutions.

And then finally, there is the competition from outside Canada. We all know of a number of things that we would have liked to see remain in Canada which have migrated, in particular to the United States. We have all noted the tendency to auction Canadian materials in London, and London is only too frequently a halfway house to the United States instead of to Canada.

Now, the question we must ponder is whether, in view of all these disrupting factors, the reality of which we must recognize, a plan or policy is feasible or whether we are simply talking about something that is not practicable and must just continue the old game of grabbing what you may.

In conclusion, there is one aspect that I think is very important in this whole relationship, and I think we should hear something about it, and that is there should be, most emphatically there should be, recognized prerequisites that an institution should have to meet before it can legitimately begin to collect manuscripts and archival materials. And I think those basic essentials can be summed up under four headings. They must have appropriate physical facilities. I do not think an institution has any business collecting materials and putting them in a fire-trap. They must be prepared to give reasonable conditions of access and use - they must not get possession and just take delight in possession and not make materials available. And finally, they must have some assurance of long-term interest - and this, I think, is specially important; it is the basic thing that the archival institutions, whose basic purpose is an archival purpose, should be able to offer. Their standards are less likely to be threatened by policy whims and financial squeezes.

[The paper of each panelist is printed below in order of speaking.]

Bernard Weilbrenner, Public Archives of Canada

The goal of the Public Archives of Canada is to assemble and place at the disposal of the federal government and the public as complete a collection of original documents, or copies of such original documents, of every kind and description, which will be useful sources for research into the development of the country.

There are, naturally, limitations to what can be done, by reason of space, staff and monies available.

There are also limitations because of the federal system of government. Documents primarily of local and provincial interest should not be acquired by the PAC, but by provincial or local institutions. But the PAC has deviated from this statement in the past in two ways: it has acted as a local depository for the Ottawa region, and it has acquired documents which, in the absence of suitable depositories, might well have been destroyed.

Nevertheless, the PAC have a legitimate interest in documents which show the early development of the country, even if they refer to settlements limited in scope and encompassing small areas.

As an institution of the federal government, the PAC have a first duty towards the records of the federal government, including the crown corporations and its predecessors. It is a natural corollary that it should complete these official records with documents from private sources which would permit a more complete and more accurate understanding of the policies and operations of the federal government. The PAC then, have a great interest in the papers of individuals who have made a contribution to the working of the federal government, either in elective positions or as public servants.

But the interests of the PAC are not limited to those papers closely related to the central government. Institutions and persons not directly connected with the present federal government or its predecessors may have had an impact on the whole country or on a large sector of Canada. They may be in several fields of activity: finance, business, education, literature or the arts. Their records are the fabric of the cultural heritage of Canada, not of a region or a province.

In the field of commercial corporations, the Public Archives is not in a position to acquire all such records in Canada. In addition to the Crown corporations records such as CNR, Air Canada, the PAC have acquired records of the Hudson's Bay, of banking institutions, and other companies operating all across the country, it would also like to see a selective sample of each type of industrial and commercial enterprises deposited there.

We must admit that there are frequent cases where differences of opinion are likely to arise as to the logical depository. It is hoped that in these cases, a compromise be reached, that the original documents be kept in one place, and that a photographic copy be provided for the other institution or institutions having a legitimate interest in these documents.

The PAC realize the legitimate desires of the provincial archives to have, at the disposal of the public of the province, as complete as possible a collection of documents relating to their own province. The PAC will endeavour to accommodate, as well as they can, the Provincial Archives by providing copies of the official and private papers that they possess, and to satisfy the goals of the provincial archives. In return, the PAC will expect the provincial institutions to reciprocate by giving to the PAC copies of material of interest to the country as a whole.

There is probably place, in a country as large as ours, for regional or local archives in addition to federal and provincial ones.

The fact is that universities and historical societies have been active in the collecting of documents.

In my opinion, these institutions should not compete with federal and provincial institutions, but act as regional or local archives.

Looking at the future, I would recommend for the whole country what I recommended some years ago for the Province of Quebec; that is to say, the setting up, in each of the large provinces, of a network of regional archives, well equipped and properly staffed, which would ideally work if not under the control of, at least in close liaison with, the provincial archives, and in collaboration of the universities, where a great number of archives users are located. They could probably amalgamate existing local archives.

This network could be used for the loans, between institutions, of photocopies of the important series of documents preserved in federal, provincial or other regional archives. The Public Archives of Canada has been transferring to microfilm important portions of its records and manuscripts, and interlibrary loans of these is expanding continuously.

With the constantly improving systems of communications and copying, the location of the originals will be less and less important, provided that the documents are generally available to researchers in the form of facsimiles or photocopies.

Donald McOuat, Archives of Ontario

As a Provincial Archivist, I approach the above subject with some trepidation, since I note those present include university and municipal librarians, museum curators, executive members of historical societies, and other persons whose agencies in varying degrees seek out and acquire unpublished records and manuscripts of historical and other research significance. In the interest of sheer self-preservation, I must start with the disclaimer that I am only setting forth certain very general principles in which I (and I think some other Archivists) believe.

I may perhaps be over-stating the case in defining the ideal, and I fully recognize the many exceptions which occur with respect to particular acquisitions. For example, valid exceptions might include: documents relating directly to the institutions concerned or of interest solely to a local community; documents which the donor may be unwilling to give to an

institution outside his municipality; documents which relate directly to a large collection already stored in a regional institution; or a large collection of documents which the central depository might be unwilling to preserve 'in toto'. Moreover, for the purpose of this brief exposition, I will not go into the question of what institutions should be building up specialized depositories, such as a centralized business Archives, scientific research Archives, literary Archives, architectural Archives and so on. Neither will I attempt to go into the question of the federal versus provincial Archives' acquisition policies which, in any case, is in my experience a matter of less urgency and more open to practical solutions and compromises. I presume that my most logical and informed approach is to consider the acquisition policies with which I am most familiar; namely, those of the Provincial Archives vis-à-vis the regional and local depositories within the province.

Most Provincial Archives in Canada have a dual role in the acquisitions field. Under the legislation which established them, they are required to acquire for permanent preservation all the records of enduring research significance of their legislatures or of any agency of the provincial government. Secondly, they are authorized to acquire, through donation or purchase whenever possible, any non-published records or manuscripts of significance relating to the history of their province or its regions. (In the case of Ontario, particular mention is made to municipal records.) This is a very broad field, but most relevant legislation certainly envisaged that the Provincial Archives would be a major (if not the major) depository for the more significant unpublished documentary material relating to the history of the province. At the back of this philosophy was the thought that scholarly research in most instances would be facilitated if the original historical documents of primary research significance in that province were centralized in one location rather than fragmented in many different regional depositories. With a number of exceptions and modifications, I still believe that this approach has merit and the advent of microfilming and other methods of photocopying has lessened the impact of the principal objection; namely, the difficulty imposed on certain researchers working in areas far removed from the Provincial Archives.

However, I am sure that many manuscript custodians will not agree and a strong case can possibly be made for a more dispersed and localized approach to manuscript collecting even in those fields in which the Provincial Archives already has major holdings. Granting the validity of the above regional depository thesis, there is one essential qualification if local institutions are to establish "Archives". This is simply that they must have the specialized facilities and trained staff to preserve, analyse and make available to the public their documentary holdings.

Other speakers on this panel have emphasized the serious physical deterioration which is affecting important documents stored in institutions lacking proper facilities or staff skilled in documentary conservation and repair. Even specialized government Archives and the largest public libraries are sometimes not fully equipped and staffed in this regard and the situation in the smaller libraries, local museums, historical societies and so on is too well known to require comment here. This being the case, I feel strongly that such institutions should not collect documents of general historical significance if specialized and properly equipped Archives are prepared to acquire and preserve these.

A second proviso is simply that an institution collecting documents

of general historical significance should be open to the public throughout the year. It should have a properly qualified staff on hand to guide researchers, and photocopying equipment to provide copies of specific documents. If the normal services of the institution are restricted to its staff, its members or its students, or if it is not open to the public at least five days a week throughout the year with permanent staff on hand, or if it has no photocopying equipment, then it has no business acquiring collections of original manuscript material of general historical significance.

Thirdly, if an institution intends to collect unorganized collections of significant documentary material, then it must be certain that it has trained professional staff capable of analysing and arranging the collections and preparing suitable finding aids. It must also have sufficient staff to do this within a reasonable time so that the collections do not remain stored in cartons and vaults with the information they contain unavailable to scholars, administrators and other researchers. If it cannot do this, then the institution should not acquire such material, and indeed, should consider transferring its present holdings to a properly equipped and staffed institution.

With regard to defining acceptable staff, I am, of course, entering a controversial field. However, I would say only that the analysis of historical manuscript collections and the preparation of effective finding aids constitutes a specialized field. I am not convinced that all local or regional libraries, for example, even those with a large and excellent staff of librarians, are necessarily qualified to analyse or process manuscript accessions. There is nothing particularly esoteric about the Archives trade, but it is a specialized one, and if an institution intends to enter it on any substantial scale, it should recruit experienced Archivists and not regard its "Archives" as an integral part of the library proper, to be serviced part-time by staff with no archival or historical training or experience.

Having made the above general observations, and recognizing that there will probably never be any completely agreed-upon lines of demarcation in collecting policies between a Provincial Archives and regional institutions within a province, I still feel confident that there is considerable room for mutually beneficial cooperation.

One problem all our institutions face is the phenomenal rise in the price of historical manuscripts. The owners of such material are becoming increasingly aware of the commercial value of their holdings. In so far as public institutions are concerned, it is the height of folly and a serious disservice to the tax payer when they bid against each other. The major depositories within a province should be familiar with one another's principal holdings and should keep in close contact so that an agreement can be worked out with respect to the most logical recipient. Moreover, in certain cases where there is a danger that a collection may be broken up and sold to different A.L.S. and other private collectors or dealers, some mutual and combined purchasing arrangement might be made.

Again in the case of some potential acquisitions, there are instances where regardless of one's general beliefs on collecting jurisdiction, it is a fact that the bulk of the surviving related material is already in the possession of another institution. This being the case, the donor's attention should be directed to that institution as a preferable recipient.

There are also instances where one must make an objective judgement on the potential use to which a particular acquisition would be put. If the collection is very local in interest and is not likely to be consulted centrally because of some basic theme involved, it would be better to suggest its deposit in a suitably equipped and staffed local institution if one exists. This is particularly true if the bulk of the material concerned is such that it would be difficult to objectively justify central storage.

Local pride and the natural desire of many donors to present material to institutions in their own regions regardless of its general interest is frequently encountered. In these instances, the Provincial Archives should admit defeat without undue delay and devote its efforts to ensuring that the material is donated to the best equipped and staffed regional depository that the owner will find acceptable.

Possibly the greatest scope for cooperation lies in the field of microfilming. There is no good reason today why any institution which can demonstrate that it will frequently use a certain collection cannot purchase copies regardless of what other institution acquires and preserves the original documents. (The argument for depositing the originals in a specialized Archives is principally related to skilled physical care, arrangement and the preparation of suitable finding aids.) Microfilming is, of course, a comparatively expensive process. It also involves considerable staff time and cannot provide an overnight solution. Considerable discretion must be exercised in approving the staff time involved where bulk orders are concerned. Nevertheless, there could be more co-operation between institutions in this regard with priority given to copying collections where there is some demonstrated frequency of demand or where the requesting institution already has major and directly associated holdings. In many instances, the most satisfactory solution is an exchange of film. There are, of course, special problems involving restrictions placed by private donors on certain collections, the residual control responsibility of the owning institution and so on.

My listeners will note that to this point I have made no attempt to define or delineate specific jurisdictions for collecting between various institutions. None of my colleagues on the panel have attempted to be specific in this regard and I doubt that it is possible. For example, by legislation all the records of enduring value of provincial government agencies must be deposited in Provincial Archives. However, there are many collections of the papers of former government leaders in private hands. These leaders may also have played prominent roles in business or in federal and municipal politics. Generally speaking, I think all their papers should be kept together in the Provincial Archives, but arguments to the contrary can be advanced depending on the main subject emphasis in the particular collection in dispute.

Again a university "Archives" could certainly make a strong case for collecting the papers of a prominent member of its staff. However, if he later became famous as a politician or a government economist and the privately held collection concerned embraced facets of his various activities, under whose collecting jurisdiction would the papers lie?

The argument is sometimes advanced by universities or municipal libraries that they should be the principal depositories for archival material covering the general history of their regions. However, since there are

some twenty-two institutions of higher learning throughout Ontario, a simple exercise with a geometrical compass would indicate that the province would be blanketed and the Ontario Archives could acquire nothing other than the records of its own government agencies.

How do you define records of regional interest rather than provincial interest? We have, for example, a number of collections which include information on local political activities during a provincial general election. These would probably be of interest to someone writing a history of the local community, but they would equally be of interest to a scholar doing a study in depth of the election of that year throughout the province. Again, we have an extensive manuscript record group involving the activities of the old Courts of Quarter Session and District Municipal Councils. Those covering, for example, the old Johnstown District would contain much of interest regarding say Brockville. Local genealogists might prefer to have them deposited in that city's principal library. On the other hand, any scholar studying the legal and legislative powers of pre-Baldwin Act magistrates would certainly be better served if these were in a central Archives. Again, the Archives has a number of early farmers' diaries from various regions of the province and an argument could be made that these should be preserved in an institution in the specific county concerned, because they sometimes mention local settlers and events. On the other hand, they provide invaluable information on contemporary farming practices common to the period concerned throughout the province. Even such items as early assessment rolls or vital statistics for a particular county or township are at least as likely to be consulted in the Provincial Archives as in a regional depository. The descendants of the pioneers listed therein (who are the most frequent users of these records) are now scattered all over the province, and it is easier to follow their ancestors perambulations in one central Archives than in depositories situated in the various local regions concerned.

I give the above examples (and many others could be cited) merely to demonstrate that it is extremely difficult to define the records which are of provincial rather than regional interest. This is not to say that a case could not be made for "regional Archives", particularly in areas far removed from Toronto. Possibly these could be regional extensions administered by the Provincial Archives or they could be associated with other institutions. In either case, their principal advantage as I see it would be increased accessibility to primary sources (the majority on microfilm) rather than a strict attempt to define jurisdictional collecting according to the subject matter concerned.

I am wary of too much generalizing on archival jurisdictions with respect to collecting, and have probably done too much in this presentation. Much depends on mutual cooperation and amicable liaison between the institutions principally concerned. Given this, and the recognition that certain basic approaches and facilities must be adhered to and provided, some competition in collecting should not be cause for undue concern among scholars, researchers or manuscript custodians.

Allan R. Turner, Archives of Saskatchewan

The basic premises which the Chairman has enunciated, coupled with the statements of the members who have preceded me, confirm what I

suspected when this subject was suggested for discussion at this meeting: professional archivists in Canada share common training, experience, and attitudes; we are all rational people; we subscribe to the principle of cooperation, admitting that some competition may be healthy! We have identified sufficient possibilities for overlapping and competition to make this discussion worthwhile. I don't think you want a review of the collecting policy of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, nor do you want citations of invasions of that area. I really don't have any! I will add little more than a footnote or two to what has already been said, but I do want to make some suggestions for cooperation among archival institutions relevant to conflicts in collecting, but which go beyond acquisitions policy.

First of all, I agree that stable archival institutions, properly staffed and equipped, with reasonable conditions of access and use, are prerequisites for collecting, and that well-defined collecting policies will promote cooperation and lessen competition. There are some upsetting factors which we will never be able to cope with. The private collector will always be with us! Our permanence and our conditions of access should give us an advantage in negotiating with the seller, but we cannot in most instances compete with the wealthy private buyer of manuscripts. I may differ with my colleagues when I suggest that public institutions should by and large refrain from entering this competition, particularly as it is manifested in public auctions. It seems to me that the level of prices has reached ruinous proportions, such that we cannot justify in terms of research value what we are now required to bid for manuscripts at auction. Our entry into the bidding simply contributes to the inflationary trend. Let private collectors in competition establish price levels for the materials they seek. Some will in time come round to sell or donate to public institutions; all, at the prices they are prepared to pay, will treasure and preserve materials, even though there may be a tendency to break up units, some danger of destruction through various hazards will exist, and some delay or loss to research will occur. I think there can be too high a price to pay for the repatriation, or the retention in Canada of documents. Perhaps we need to look at the applicability to archival materials of provincial legislation controlling the trading in and export of historical objects and artifacts, or the British export licence system for documents over 100 years old, but I am inclined to think that we would get into the complex field of property rights, and, moreover, that prohibitory laws would only drive underground those transactions which it is better to know about. If we wish to discourage or prohibit the export of Canadian documents, we should also be prepared to discourage or prohibit the importation of foreign manuscripts!

One could dwell for a long time on the possibilities for competition and cooperation in relation to the nature of materials. I don't foresee oral history as a problem area. There is so much that can be done that we need to encourage the participation of as many agencies as possible. These efforts can be coordinated, made more systematic and economical, through discussion such as I assume will take place in the symposium on oral history being held in conjunction with these meetings this week. The emergence of the Business Archives Council of Canada will likewise contribute to the more systematic collection of business records. I believe this Council can most profitably concentrate its efforts in contacting large business and industrial concerns, and nationally incorporated firms, with a view to encouraging them to provide for the care and use of their records. Some firms may prefer a public (i.e. a government) archives; some

may opt for a University or foundation home; others may be able and prefer to make suitable provision within their own establishments, and should be encouraged to do so. With the BACC undertaking this level of contacts, responsibility for contacting the small business, partnerships, professional firms, etc. which now or in the past flourished essentially at the community level or in a local trading area could be left to the provincial archives and other archival institutions in each province.

It has been suggested that competition from Universities is one of the upsetting factors in archival collecting. Universities are not normally competitors in acquiring public records, but they are actively engaged through their libraries and archives in collecting manuscripts and private papers. **This activity frequently involves the collection of literary papers from abroad and copying of foreign government records.** Occasionally this may be a prestige activity, but it is basically related to graduate research programs. It is quite beyond the scope of archivists and of this association to influence the nature of programs embarked upon by Universities. The pressures emerge from within faculties, in various disciplines. I believe there is already a very considerable degree of inter-communication between Universities and the avoidance of areas, if you like, "previously staked out". I believe, too, in the context of their growing dependence on the public purse, there is a rationalization of programs on a provincial or regional basis which may serve to ameliorate undue competition and overlapping, but I can leave this area to the University archivists. What I was leading up to is the growing pressure for materials for undergraduate studies. The number of graduate students poses problems at times, but we still assume that these students can travel to public depositories and immerse themselves for considerable periods of time in records where they have been deposited. There is now, however, a marked tendency to involve undergraduates in research and writing on Canadian subjects for which secondary sources are insufficient or non-existent. University teachers stimulate University Librarians and archivists to build up collections of source materials relevant to their courses. Universities located in provincial capitals expect to direct undergraduate students to the provincial archives. Let me illustrate by stating that no less than 200 undergraduates at the small University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus, were in the period January - April, 1969 given assignments (projects or term papers) which they could not undertake successfully without a visit to our office. These assignments were, I may add, given in courses not only in Canadian history, but in political science, sociology, geography and education. We cannot shut our doors to these users. If we do, we should expect increasing competition in the collecting of archival materials by the universities. In any event, we cannot shed our obligation to make our public records available to the public! A citizen should not be denied access because he happens to be an undergraduate at University! On the contrary, we are anxious to assist him. Indeed we should be prepared to make some level of service from our public records available to students in the hinterland; i.e., those in institutions more than a short travel distance from the capital. I don't think we have yet faced up to the explosion in University population and the enormous appetite for materials which it has created. If we can come to grips with this situation, we will get at the root causes for whatever unfortunate competition may have been experienced. We need both Universities and public archives co-operating to cope with it. I don't have many answers, and to suggest solutions may take me beyond my time and the precise limits of the subject. Let me say only that I believe we, in the provincial archives, need greatly increased financial resources for the duplication of holdings, extensive

microfilming, positive prints in quantity, to provide for loans to Universities and to other institutions. We need to tie ourselves into the telecommunications network with the Universities for quick reference service. We may need to establish satellite offices in University cities or on University campuses outside the capital where we can service through loans and even deposit of original materials the University population, happily at the same time providing service to the general public of those areas and creating depots for collecting material. Such activity will not absolve the Universities from cooperating, in collecting for themselves, or for us, and of making their holdings available for loans. We may be able to cooperate in facilities, too. It seems to me the crux of the matter lies in the use and availability of materials. If we have reciprocal policies, an optimum of availability and portability, competition will not be of concern. What I am suggesting is not very radical - provincial and regional libraries coped with somewhat similar problems long ago. There are some minor complicating factors, in respect to restricted papers and so on, which I need not explore now, particularly since I have one further but not unrelated point to make.

The possibility of overlapping in the collecting activities of the Public Archives of Canada and the provincial archives is apparent. Through the good-will and sensitivity of archivists at both levels in our federal system I believe there has been little if any harmful competition. Such competition as there is shall not be of concern to us if we can achieve the sort of availability and portability I have suggested in respect to the provincial archives and the Universities. (Obviously the relationship can be a direct one between Universities and the PAC as well.) Actually the PAC has already done a good deal to make certain classes of records available on film. It needs to do much more, for example, in respect to departmental files, as I have suggested for the provincial archives. We need, too, to link our provincial archives with PAC on telex for quick reference service. And if law enforcement agencies can transmit criminal dossiers, replete with photos and fingerprints, by telecommunications, we should acquire the same facilities. With the necessary staff and equipment, I should not need to wait two weeks to get a facsimile of a Privy Council order of 1882, as I do now, and PAC or one of its users need not wait two weeks to get a print of a photo from the Saskatchewan Archives, as they do now.

The proposals I am making will require, as I said before, not astronomical sums of money to accomplish, but certainly additional staff and substantial sums for microfilm and equipment. PAC may be able to do this. I have no assurance that my province or others would do so, but could we make an effort to dramatize to the holders of the public purse the need for and the benefits to be derived from such services? Perhaps we should somehow stimulate a federal-provincial conference on archival resources and services. Called by the Secretary of State, including all the provincial ministers responsible for Archives, the Dominion Archivist and the Provincial Archivists, such a meeting might lead to the achievement in a short time of objectives which would otherwise take many years to reach.

If I have seemed to wander from the subject, let me reiterate that in a situation vastly improved as to the availability and portability of materials, through a matrix of institutions, PAC, provincial archives, satellite offices, Universities, and other archival institutions, linked together and taking advantage of facilities already practicable for the reproduction and communication of materials, we need not be very concerned

about competition in collecting. Statutory jurisdictions observed, major collecting policies of institutions respected, it will not really matter who collects in the shared zones, in the areas of unstaked claims, or for that matter if occasionally an institution steps beyond previously acknowledged limits. In short, we should aim to reach a situation where that which is available to one is available to all.

Hugh A. Dempsey, Glenbow Foundation

I should explain at the outset what Glenbow is, or what Glenbow isn't, for those of you who may not know, so that you'll be better able to assess my comments. First, Glenbow is not a government agency, although we do receive a certain amount of our financing from the government of Alberta. Neither are we a private agency, although we did begin this way. Rather, for the past three or four years, we have been a public body under the control of a Board of Governors. Our field of interest is in the area of western Canadian history which, of course, immediately indicates some of the problems that could easily arise between us and the Provincial Archives of Alberta or the archives of other provinces. Fortunately, serious problems do not exist and I think that cooperation is one lesson that we had to learn early. I might add that we were pleased to learn early in order to survive in harmony with our neighbours.

When I first received an invitation to participate on this panel, I rather thought that somebody was putting me on when they talked about cooperation or competition. This seems to be something like the choice between motherhood and prostitution. But really, it is a reasonable question and just as we can very easily think that cooperation is good and competition is undesirable, I think there can also be bad cooperation and good competition. For example, bad cooperation can exist if one waits for the proper agency to collect papers, and they never do, and the papers are destroyed. This has happened in a number of cases. I know of some cases in our own area where something along this line has occurred. If each of us had our own protected empires, it could make us complacent or lazy. On the other hand, I feel that healthy competition among ourselves is good. I think it can make us better capable of resisting the bombardments of private collectors, of status-seeking non-archival agencies, and - those that some people have defined the most terrible of all - Americans. Once a group is aware that there may be competition (and competition isn't necessarily going to come from another legitimate archives), it is probably going to act a little more quickly in the acquisition of papers that do become available. I think, then, this healthy type of competition can make for a better archival institution.

Now, we can all say 'Yes, we should cooperate', but how do we do this? And what is really meant by cooperation and by competition? For example, should Glenbow decline to bid at an auction if we learn that the Manitoba archives is bidding on a particular item? Should we refuse to accept the correspondence of R. B. Bennett while he was a Member of the Territorial Legislature, and refer the owner to the Public Archives because they are collecting the papers of prime ministers? I hope this is not what is meant by cooperation.

The Chairman has mentioned conflicting interests but I would question

this term if it implies anything undesirable. I would agree that two institutions should not set out to collect Sir John A.'s papers or Pierre Trudeau's papers. For this can result in open competition that can be confusing and detrimental to the scholar and to the public. But there are other areas where, I would say, there can be parallel or overlapping interests rather than conflicting ones. For example, it is perfectly reasonable for the Saskatchewan Archives to collect the papers of the Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, and the Public Archives to collect the papers of the Conservative Party of Canada, even though both would contain papers of interest to the other. This, I would say, would be a logical parallel interest which causes no problem to either institution. However, as an example of the overlapping interest comparable to that mentioned by the Chairman, would be one that might arise through, let's say, Tommy Douglas's papers. Who should get these? The Public Archives or the Saskatchewan Archives? Now, I don't know, but if I was with either institution I would want to get them and I would try to get them. But here, I think, is a place where true cooperation rears its head. **I would say, if the Public Archives approached Douglas and found that he was already holding discussions with the Saskatchewan Archives, they should have an obligation to leave the field clear for Saskatchewan, and that they should do everything possible to see that Saskatchewan gets the papers.**

We had an example of this in Glenbow some years ago. We had an agent working for us in Britain, and he learned that a solicitor had in his possession some of Lord Strathcona's papers. So he was despatched to contact the solicitor, and when he did so, he learned that the Public Archives had not only already been in touch with the solicitor, but had already obtained some of the papers. The remainder of the papers had not been sent because the solicitor wasn't too sure what they contained; he was too busy to examine them and too busy to arrange to ship them. So, on our instructions, our man prepared an inventory of these papers, arranged them for shipping and had them shipped to the Public Archives. I think this is a natural sequence of events and I hope that any other institution in Canada that faces this situation would take this same type of cooperative action rather than attempting to compete once an initial contact has been made by another reputable institution.

Now, the Chairman also feels that official government records should be in the hands of that government, and, in principle, I would agree. But now I'm speaking as a person who is not associated with a government, any government, yet is with an institution that does have a few government records. For example, what are we to do if someone phones us from Battleford, Saskatchewan, and says, 'There's a pile of Indian Department records behind the Agency and the caretaker is starting to burn them'. **The man goes on to say that the caretaker is an old friend of his and that he could take the papers if he wants them. You know, and I know, that such destruction is against government regulations. But, this is Battleford, Saskatchewan, not Ottawa. What do we do? I think we took the obvious step when we said, 'Pack them up and send them to us', and this was done.**

Now, perhaps we should have sent them on to Ottawa, but to whom? At this point, these records certainly had not been transferred from the Indian Department to the Public Archives, and I'm sure that if he had sent them to the Indian Department, they'd never even have paid the freight bill. I know we have broken government regulations and we have ignored the legal status of these papers, but we have saved them from destruction.

We took the same action over some provincial government records before the Provincial Archives came into being. I might say that since the Provincial Archives was formed in Alberta, that there is no desire nor necessity on our part to make off with provincial government records, and we have worked together with great cooperation. In some cases, we even examined collections that existed in Calgary for the government of Alberta. On the other hand, we once got into hot water for grabbing about fifteen feet of early Calgary civil government records off of a truck which was on its way to the incinerator. When one arises from a garbage truck, bloody from rusty filing pins and stained with somebody else's leftover lunch, you may not feel like turning this material over to the very agency which should have prevented all this from happening in the first place.

But, how far does cooperation go? We're all human beings, we're full of human temptations and human weaknesses. I say let's cooperate, but not to the detriment or the loss of valuable papers. My suggested guidelines would be these: that each archival agency be asked to define in clear and concise terms its own collecting policy, with special reference to geographical areas and time periods, and be encouraged to adhere to this definition. I would think there may be some value in the Archives Section of the C.H.A. undertaking a programme to gather and publish this information to be distributed to various archives. Hopefully, it may be a source of information that may be a further step in this whole field of cooperation. I think that archives should develop working relationships with those institutions which may overlap or parallel their areas, and work together to prevent open competition. By and large, this is already being done in most parts of Canada. I have seen only a few examples of what I would consider to be open and destructive competition on the part of any institutions. But we should keep in mind the potential weaknesses of other institutions, and be prepared to act when inaction on their part may result in the destruction of papers. And finally, we should keep in mind that the primary purpose of archives is to gather and preserve documentary materials for scholarly use by present and future generations. With these goals in view, cooperation, I think, becomes a natural action when dealing with right-minded organizations.

John H. Archer, Queens University

Mr. Chairman - Ladies and Gentlemen. A warm welcome home to you, Dr. Lamb. It is appropriate, indeed, to see you in the Archives field again, though I don't suppose your sojourn abroad was all vacation.

I listened with great interest to the papers presented on this all-important topic. I suppose the ideal which the committed archivist secretly treasures in his heart is the ultimate archival collection, suitably housed in one place, well serviced, well organized, much used. Central archives - all under one roof. But of course, the wisdom of our forefathers decided we would be a federal state and that in itself wrote finis to any thought of one central archival institution. We now have eleven public archival institutions - one more than a hundred years old - a few very young indeed.

I don't think we are going to be able to stay at eleven, though I recognize the force of arguments emphasizing economy, centralization of

resources of buildings, and of staff. The facts of our archival development in Canada militate against a drawing back. I don't think we can, in any friendly way, force the Newfoundland Museum, the New Brunswick Museum, McCord Museum, the Laval Archives, McGill Archives, Queen's Archives, Metropolitan Toronto Archives, Lennox and Addington Archives, University of Western Ontario Archives, Glenbow, City of Vancouver Archives, U.B.C. Archives, University of Alberta Archives, Molsons, Sun Life and Bank of Montreal Archives and other archival institutions to disgorge their holdings and pool their resources in a physical sense or ship them to the nearest public archival institution.

But I think we can and must discipline ourselves if we are to make the best use of money available, and be true to the best archival traditions. Surely then we are talking about cooperation in making known and available what is presently stored in archival institutions - and, hopefully, working out some rationale for future acquisition policies.

Before going further along this avenue to cooperation, however, I think it should be said - by a non-governmental person - that public records should always go to the proper public archival institution. There should be no doubt of this and no policy for regional depositories should be considered without the knowledge and support of the archivist most concerned. I, personally, hold with the right of replevin of public records.

In this connection I was interested to read in H.L. Jones' work, The Records of a Nation of instances in the U.S.A. where federal officials had "through a strange ignorance of the law, turned federal records over to non-federal repositories". Jones writes: "Such transfers are clearly illegal, and it is the responsibility of the National Archives, carrying out its statutory requirements, to bring those records back into federal custody". There were court cases but the upshot of these cases involving replevin of federal records indicates that the concern of the Archivist of the United States has been a care for the preservation of such records rather than a legalistic stand. To quote Robert H. Bahmer in 1967: "... so long as these bodies of archival materials have been in responsible institutional custody, with provision for proper care and access, we have never sought their replevin...". And he goes on with a certain innocent air: "with improvements in the education of archivists and of federal officials, and with expanding knowledge of basic archival principles, the problem of alienation of federal records may be expected virtually to disappear."

Of course, Jones goes on to give the other side of the coin. He remarks on the permissive tone of the revised Federal Records Act which now permits the federal repository to collect related records - explaining that such collecting has "wisely" been restrained since it was never intended to open the door for the National Archives to compete with established repositories for private papers of general interest. That is an American view, of course. It is not Canadian practice, for every public archival institution in Canada has collected, and does collect, papers and manuscripts other than public records. As a matter of fact, this practice is written into most archival legislation in Canada and has become so common a practice here that archivists in public archival institutions sometimes tend to think that they have the prior right of collection. And we must not forget that but for this wider collection policy - wide that is by the standards prevailing in Britain and France at the time - scholarship in Canada today would be much the poorer.

I am not so naive as to be unaware that I was asked to take part on this panel because I am Archivist in charge of an institutional archives, not a public archives. It is an institution that has been gathering mss. and papers since 1869. But I am also an ex-provincial archivist and still maintain the warmest ties with my colleagues in Saskatchewan Archives. If I raise sharp questions and do not always have satisfactory answers, it is not because I feel I need justify my work, my profession or my existence, but because I don't know answers to some of the perplexing problems that face us all as archivists.

Many provincial historical associations in Canada are older than the provincial archival institutions - older, indeed than the Public Archives of Canada. Manuscript collections at Queen's, Laval, McGill and University of Toronto for example, pre-date the founding of the P.A.C. in 1872. It isn't feasible to distribute these to public archival institutions. No one here would seriously question the right or duty of a university to establish its own records management system and its university archives. Well and good. But Canadians haven't agreed on the scope of the University's Archives. Does it, for example, include papers of faculty members in addition to the papers of the officers of the institution? Does it include the publications of the university, its offices, agencies and staff? What then of a man such as G. M. Grant, earlier Principal of Queen's who had a career at Queen's, and in the Presbyterian Church. The Grant Papers are in the Public Archives of Canada, however, given by a member of the family in 1955 and 1960. What of Adam Shortt who was a Queen's professor and a federal employee? His papers, including many of those covering his career on the Board of Historical Publications, are at Queen's. Can the P.A.C. replevy these papers - or part of them? - and in all fairness - can Queen's replevy the Grant Papers? - for these surely are of interest to that University. What should be done with the papers of Charles Dunning who was hired man, farmer, manager of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevators, a public figure in Saskatchewan, indeed a premier, a cabinet minister at Ottawa, and the Chancellor of Queen's University. The papers of a certain member of Prime Minister King's cabinet were left to a university archives in his will. The papers contain copies of some public records which are closed for security reasons. What is the status of the copies of these records? Yet they are given wholly at the discretion of the archivist and a surviving member of the family. Finally, what of such papers as those of the Cartwright family? Some of these are in the possession of the family. Some are at Queen's; some are in the P.A.C.; some are in the Ontario Archives. Part of those at Queen's were purchased at an auction of private effects in Kingston and subsequently given to the University. What an inconvenience for scholars - and what a quandary for any member of the family hoping to put together a Cartwright saga.

This leads on, then, to the uses of Archives. What constituency do we serve as archivists? Obviously our first concern is the defence of the records of the institutions we serve. There is little quarrel here. But after that - what? Scholars expect archivists to serve them. Archivists want to serve scholars. We really do have a common aim as archivists, to serve the users to the best of our abilities. It is against this aim that we can measure the terms competition or cooperation.

If we start at this moment in time and forget for the now the errors, accidents, or deliberate policies that brought us to the present situation of a variety of archival institutions, at times in seeming conflict, can we agree on these principles.

That we owe a duty to the user to provide professional archival service in the processing of materials, the preparation of finding aids, and the making available of resources.

That we owe it to each other and to the world of scholarship to inform all and sundry where resources are located. That, since much of the money spent on archival institutions comes, ultimately, from the public purse, then it behooves the archival institutions to work out practical policies for cooperation to avoid duplication of costs and effort, and to ensure the highest level of service consistent with the primary responsibilities of the archivist and the restrictions governing access to resources.

Queen's University Archives subscribes to these principles and is very much in favour of all forms of cooperation that will translate principles into policies. The only competition that I personally would condone is the honest effort to give a little better service than does my colleague in the next office. Cooperation, certainly, based on mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual strength. Cooperation based on mutual appreciation of the problems and the achievements of other archival institutions.

Queen's Archives has already begun a practical application of this policy of cooperation. The institution does not accept public records though these are offered on occasion. Instead we advise the would-be donors of the proper depository. Queen's Archives returns files as fragments that properly belong in another archival depository. Queen's knows what the P.A.C. has and what the Saskatchewan Archives has, and what each institution collects. As a matter of policy, Queen's makes local practice conform to that of the P.A.C. in all areas where like materials are offered to users. We do not have quite as full and easy a relationship with the Ontario Archives because it happens that most of our users also frequent P.A.C. and Saskatchewan. Queen's archival staff have visited the Ontario Archives and the P.A.C. and the McGill and the U. of T. archival institutions to foster a spirit of mutual understanding. Neither I, nor my archives staff, are in a position to over-ride the terms of a will, or undo terms of a gift, or unpurchase a purchase. You would not expect us to. But in our discussions with potential donors and in our attempts to make the historical societies and officials in and around Kingston archives conscious, we do make it explicit that there is a federal and a provincial archival depository and that certain collection would be better deposited there.

I think there is a better future. I don't think it feasible to attempt to allocate fields of interest in collecting. This is peculiarly a library fixation and I am skeptical of applying library techniques, principles or methodology to archives. Libraries buy their goods - donors must be given some right of choice. But what we do collect should be processed and made available to users. At the same time, the availability of resources should be made known to colleagues. It is not good enough to amass great quantities of material to be stored away for the day when staffing problems are no more. It is a species of fraud, to quote an American colleague, for a set of papers to be kept out of circulation for an unduly long period that one's immediate friends may winnow these. It is highly unlikely that a long-suffering public will permit unlimited competition in the field of archives any more than it will in the fields of libraries, or universities. Ultimately the taxpayer will call the tune. We should do the fixing ourselves. As archivists we should do more than

cooperate in acquisitions. Surely we can arrive at a common methodology, standard forms of entry, regular reporting of acquisitions and a standard practice of hours during which an archival institution is open.

I mentioned before that cooperation is founded on mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual strength. There is no simple formula for achieving this. What is required is a free and informal exchange of opinion, an exchange which is often hampered by the distances separating our institutions. Meetings such as this serve an excellent purpose but are too brief, too infrequent and often too rushed. I would suggest that the Archives Section encourage more frequent meetings of archivists within regions to discuss common problems. Time and budgets do not permit the Section to gather as a whole more than once a year, but meetings say in December or January, or archivists in the Maritime Region, in Quebec, in Ontario, and in the West might be feasible. It would no doubt be helpful to invite to such meetings representatives of the local and provincial historical societies, our users; and the librarians who have archival material in their keeping. The frequency of such meetings would depend on the problems of each region and the interest shown. More discussions amongst archivists and between archivists and researchers would go far in helping to foster the spirit of mutual understanding cooperation requires.

Is it to be cooperation then or competition? Queen's is for cooperation. But if its competition you want, I'll wager my staff against all comers when it comes to giving service with precision, and with a smile.

John C. L. Andreassen, McGill University

Dr. Lamb, Ladies and Gentlemen: -

Some weeks ago, a couple of guests and I moved into the kitchen of our old stone house. We squeezed into that tight little area better to savour the aroma rising from the simmering pot liquors. My wife, Allison Grant, then stated politely, but quite firmly, "If you're not the cook, stay out of the kitchen". This incident reminded me of some archivists who smell a good thing, want some part in it, and make a mess of things.

In the forty years since I began collecting historical source materials for administrative and scholarly purposes, I've become something of a pragmatist. That does not mean "grab what you can when you can". Nor does it mean that one should settle for what he can get.

In the few minutes at my disposal, permit me to examine some aspects of pragmatic collecting in Canada. Obviously, with seven of us on this panel, there will be little opportunity to do more than "touch base" on some of these matters, so I've confined my remarks to a very few of the items Dr. Lamb has set out.

The first of three aspects of the problem on which I wish to comment is the economic one. I think I can demonstrate that in Canada, we have a pretty good pattern of operation set up economically to select, preserve and service the record as it relates to the cultural heritage of the nation and its political sub-divisions. Secondly, I wish to touch on some scientific and technological problems involving the conservation of writings

on paper. Thirdly, I'd like to comment briefly on the professional competence required to make decisions relating to historical manuscripts and archives.

1. The Economic Aspect

The taxpayer is going to pay 90 to 100 percent of the bill for collecting, selecting, conserving and servicing the archives and historical manuscripts worth keeping in Canada and the system for doing the job must be an economical and rational one.

a) The National and Provincial Archives

Canada has a centralized national archives collection and a decentralized records-centre service for the federal agencies of the Government. We have a repository of historical manuscript collections (mostly national). Our Public Archives of Canada is one of the best anywhere in the world in terms of its holdings, and of quality and scope of services it renders to government, the scholarly community, and the public generally.

Each of our provinces has established an archival institution. They range in quality of collections held and services performed from indifferent to superior. However, it should be reasonably clear that in terms of archival responsibility, each of these institutions has a government to serve and in terms of historical manuscript collections a geographic area of interest and concern. It should also be clear that the Canadian taxpayer supports these institutions. As a pragmatic taxpayer, I would find it very hard indeed, to tolerate competition for a given collection. I would expect the heads of each of these institutions to cooperate in locating, preserving and making accessible their holdings. I would expect them to cooperate in achieving a uniform or near uniform set of practices in making copies of what they hold accessible to the other depositories, to me and to scholars everywhere at reasonable cost for such copies. Furthermore, I would expect those archivists to cooperate in seeing to it that collections appropriate to each get into the logical depository.

b) The Museums

Largely as part of Centennial Year observations, Canadian taxpayers have provided recently something approaching \$100,000,000 for capital outlays alone on new and expanded museum buildings, federal, provincial, municipal, county -- underground, above-ground, and on the waters of the nation. A few have provided for archival facilities and staff. Most haven't. All, seem to be collecting archives and historical manuscripts.

Again, as that pragmatic taxpayer, I look with a jaundiced eye at their directors, who collect and collect things which really belong in another kind of depository without encouraging the donor, or in some instances, the vendor, to place such written materials of an archival or historical character in the appropriate depository.

c) The Institutions of Higher Learning

Then there are the Universities, old and new. Many are on the avid side in this matter of establishing a University Archives and/or historical manuscript depository for research and/or prestige purposes. Everybody is doing it! As a matter of fact, there are usually more

historical manuscript collections in University libraries than in established University Archives. If I may comment on my own institution, I would not be surprised if there are more manuscript collections of an historical character in McGill departments and faculties than there are in the Library, the Museums and the University Archives combined. None, except in McLennan Library, McCord Museum and the University Archives are listed in the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories.

The institution of higher learning needs not only a library with an annual operational budget of about 10 percent of its total budget, it needs to place its own burgeoning administrative records in order and it needs to collect unique writings on paper to provide its professors with the materials for research and for that of their graduate students in many disciplines. However, very few Canadian Universities have centralized their archival and historical manuscript collections in any way comparable to the centralized controls over their library services. Few budget any funds for the increase of their historical manuscript holdings. University administrators, politicians, philanthropists and the general taxpayer seldom seem to hesitate in spending monies for buildings. All seem obsessed with the "mausoleum" or "cornerstone" syndrome. A fortunate few universities have managed to locate provincial archives on campus, as in Halifax, Fredericton, Toronto, Saskatoon and Regina. This makes sense in more ways than one.

So much for the "Economics of the Thing". I'll summarize: We have a pattern, national and provincial, for the economic management of archival and historical manuscript collections for the benefit of the administrator, the scholar and the general public. Our museum network, some of our institutions of higher learning and a few outside private groups, such as the Business Archives Council, are still a bit mixed up. Some public relations and educational efforts on our part seem urgently needed. The professional archivist in Canada might well be advised to stop talking to and writing for his fellows, and devote more of his time to talking and writing for people still in the wilderness.

I must add one other point without going into the details or the justification for the statement. The Archivist who isn't at the same time doing a job in the records management field of his jurisdiction, cannot possibly do an economically sound job of archival work. For that matter, he cannot do a sound archival job.

2. The Conservation of Writings on Paper in Canada

My second point, the scientific and technological problems involved in the conservation of writings on paper is given detailed treatment in the current issue of the Canadian Archivist, June 1969. But let me summarize: Just what is a Canadian collector of archival and historical manuscript and book and other writings on paper, or its equivalent, have to face up to today.

- a) Most papers created and used since 1850 are rapidly deteriorating and immediate steps must be taken to preserve those worth conserving if they are to last into the next century.
- b) Economic methods for the conservation of writings on sheets are currently available and include miniaturization on some microform

and/or de-acidification and lamination.

- c) Economic methods for de-acidification, strengthening and lamination of books are not yet available. Meanwhile, major programs for microfilming selected "brittle books" are underway.
- d) The longevity of writings on paper can be extended by reducing the acid intake and circulation of befouled air by air-conditioning systems and by reducing temperatures and by appropriate relative humidity controls. Continuing research is necessary to determine the appropriate temperature and relative humidity. (I can safely predict that the librarian, and the archivist of the near future will have to work in stacks where the temperatures will be kept at 0 degrees F., or somewhere near that temperature.)
- e) Permanent/durable papers are available in the United States and some Canadian fine paper manufacturers are ready to meet permanent/durable paper standards when they have been adopted by enough consumers of such papers in Canada. The extra costs of such papers are not excessive.

In dollar terms, the organization which is ready to receive, process and service unique and other writings on paper is going to have to lay out about \$6,000 for the basic microfilm camera; \$9,000 for the basic de-acidification and lamination machine; and "no one but the humming bird" knows what sums for acid-free aid to preserve and conserve what it collects. That institution will have to enter into cooperative national and international schemes to share costs involved in saving, somewhere in the country or the world, at least one copy of what is worth conserving, and in making copies available under some fair and rational and economic scheme, to those who need such writings.

I summarize by stating:

The collector of archival and historical manuscript and book materials today has no business in the field of collecting if his institution is not equipped with archival microfilming equipment and archival laminating equipment or services, and which is not ready to provide the appropriate environment for the conservation of such materials.

3. Professional Competence of the Archivist

For a long time to come, the most important job the archivist will have to do is the task of selecting what shall be kept. I have seldom seen, known or found an archivist competent to do this selection job who has not himself been faced with the task of historical research from the sources, and who could produce a scholarly publication from his selection and study of those sources.

Just as important as this historical experience, is the built-in inclination of the archivist to conserve writings in whatever form, and an innate compulsion to educate himself continually in the fast-changing developments in the fields of data production, processing, selection, conservation and retrieval. He must be strong in his desire to share his collections through guides, loan of duplicated copies and through valid publication programs. In our time, he must be ready to put his job

on the line over and over again to promote more liberalized access to the sources.

4. The U. S.

And now, a personal statement: Over twenty years ago, I assisted in drafting a formal statement for the Librarian of Congress, which he read at a major conference in Mexico and which has since become official U. S. policy. In substance, that policy has been over these years. The United States will return to a country any materials which are a part of the cultural heritage of that nation. And, in hundreds of formal ceremonies over the world, this policy has been carried out. I am reminded of the near \$100,000 Dr. Luther Evans and some of the rest of us had to raise to be enabled to return Lewis Carroll's manuscript of Alice Underground to the British Museum. I don't deny, human nature being what it is, that individual collectors and some institutions in the United States collect with their dollars materials in other countries, including Canada. That, however, is not the policy of the U. S. Government.

5. CONCLUSION

May I conclude with the following observations:

- a) There are reasonable economic limits to the number of repositories of archives and historical manuscript collections which the taxpayer will be able and willing to support, and the Canadian scheme of a national and provincial archival and historical manuscript repositories may well be that economic limit.
- b) There is no question that Universities are where the bulk of the scholars who use such materials are located, and where the future scholars are trained. The scholar's convenience and the graduate student's needs for such materials may well require that collections be built up in those institutions where distance from the national or provincial collections is economically prohibitive. However, the development of collections of microform copies will serve many of these requirements as well as the collection of the originals. Certainly there can be no objection to the University Archives which aims at putting the institution's own records and those of its key figures in reasonable order for ready access. The deterioration of paper problem during the next 35 years may well be all that University budgets can deal with, particularly in their research libraries, which will no doubt take priority over most unique writings on paper.
- c) I see no reason why museums from St. Johns to Vancouver shouldn't exhibit original historical manuscripts. They'd do well to borrow them from the archival establishments for such purposes as exhibits, and not take over the collecting, listing, conservation and service job from the professional archivist.
- d) The responsibility of the professional archivist and librarian for scientific conservation of the most important of our writings is so vital, that we can tolerate few amateurs. The responsibility of the professional archivist for keeping within economic bounds insofar as the taxpayer is concerned, is so serious that the apparent

proliferation of collecting activity must be self-policied, or we will fail in our duty to preserve the cultural heritage of the nation and of mankind.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RECORDS

Salt Lake City

August 5 - 8, 1969

Most archivists must, by now, be well aware of the interest shown by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in genealogical records. In England, twenty years ago, Mormon organizers and microfilm operators working in this field impressed us with their tremendously efficient operation, their integrity, and the great care with which they treated the material which they were using. Their professionalism and dedication was not in question and this, in the first instance, won initial support for their work when, in ecclesiastical circles, there was naturally enough some suspicion about their programme and the religious basis for it. Local archivists were very quick to realize the immense value of the work and the generous terms on which copies were offered. The usual pattern was for us to pave the way for the Mormons by gaining permission from the various church authorities so that their access would be unimpeded when the time came; we also promised these authorities that we would supervise the work in a general way. Even so, I think most of us felt that the project would fail because of the sheer magnitude of the task or through lack of funds. Indeed, there was a time when the Mormons did have to make some staff economies, and I was fortunate enough to secure one of their microfilm operators in my own record office who was with me for many years and gave splendid service as a microfilm operator and an expert in genealogy. For most of us, it was often hard to visualize the immense operation which lay behind the microfilm cameraman who patiently accepted the often cramped quarters which was all we could offer him. An invitation twenty years later to visit Salt Lake City, the heart of this great programme, was an opportunity not to be missed. On the face of it, "Records protection in an uncertain world" seemed a somewhat daunting theme, and the filling of the four-day conference with over 270 lecture papers delivered in 207 seminars appeared likely to strain the convention system to its limits. However, the mind ran back quickly through those twenty preceding years since the last war and to the thousands of reels to film which had been professionally and expertly completed, copied, dispatched and stored in Salt Lake, and somehow, one knew that the organization which could achieve that could indeed achieve the impossible with an event of this size.

The one ingredient that would prevent such an occasion becoming little more than a vast culture factory was an all-encompassing humanity to soften the proceedings, and right from our arrival at the airport at Salt Lake, we realized there would be plenty of human kindness. The Mormons, especially in their own mother city, are a remarkably warm and friendly people with a natural buoyancy and bursting good spirits which carried them and us along during the days to come. We, the speakers (and there were nine Canadian archivists among us), were entertained at the