

TECHNICAL NOTE:

COLOR MICROFILM - ONE APPLICATION

by Nicolas de Jong<sup>1</sup>

The use of color microfilm in Canada is relatively recent and as such has not received a great deal of attention. In order to illustrate certain of its uses and capabilities, one specific application is here considered.

Sir John William Dawson, McGill University Principal, 1855-1893, Lady Dawson, and most members of their family were accomplished illustrators of many of his and their works. Their daughter, Anna, who married Dr. Bernard J. Harrington, has left a considerable body of water-colors, largely relating to the vacation areas of the lower St. Lawrence, but including paintings done in Scotland, the northern United States, France and Montreal. The continuing search for material relating to Sir J. W. Dawson by the University Archivist, Mr. J. C. L. Andreassen, resulted in the discovery of this collection of water-colors in the home of Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge, daughter of Professor and Mrs. Bernard J. Harrington. It was apparent that the bulk of the collection would in due time be distributed to various present-day descendants of the Dawson and Harrington families.

Shortly after the Second World War, Mr. Andreassen was privileged to see, among Captured Enemy Documents, the architectural survey materials on color transparencies, produced by direction of Adolf Hitler, in Germany. At that time, he came to the sad conclusion that the bulk of these remarkable color photographs would have a relatively short lifespan. However, one recent development has been the production of color microfilm of archival quality.

Mr. Andreassen suggested to Mrs. Winslow-Spragge that she allow the University Archives to conduct an accessioning experiment through the use of this archival quality microfilm. This she agreed to, and in the course of her discussions with Mr. Andreassen, she presented the University Archives with a framed water-color. The assistance and interest of the Montreal representatives of Recordak of Canada, Ltd. was obtained and the project was assigned to me. It was decided to retain in roll form, one copy of each of the ninety-eight water-colors as a master copy, to be used when necessary in the future to make other copies. The remaining four shorts of each picture have been mounted in double glass slides. One set of these slides has been presented to Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge. The remaining three sets together with a copy of the pamphlet listing the ninety-eight captions have been retained for reference use and occasional loan, to interested individuals and/or groups.

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