

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALBERTA

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES: During 1970 the archives staff remained at ten, but a university student was hired to assist with the work load during the summer. In addition, one graduate student was commissioned to research the folk music of Alberta, to make tape-recordings and to provide transcripts of lyrics with descriptive texts. Until now two ethnic groups have been approached and notable coverages of Ukrainians and Moravian music have been secured.

The year showed an increase in the number of students and others using archives research facilities; the reference room register recorded 1086 users, the largest annual figure yet reached. Moreover, many organized groups toured the working areas. Exact figures for the number of research inquiries received by mail or telephone are not available, but these greatly exceeded the total figures for persons coming to the Archives.

In conjunction with displays of recent accessions two "hand-outs" have been produced: namely, Records and Trophies of the Edmonton Grads Basketball Team; Lieutenant Governors of the Province of Alberta (with information on the first Legislative Assembly).

Sixteen hundred linear feet of material were received in 479 accessions, of which 133 were from government departments and agencies. 1003 microfilms and 167 audiotapes were acquired as well as maps, private papers and photographs.

Acquisitions worthy of note have included minutes of the Alberta Civil Service Joint Council 1921-1956, records of many dissolved Mutual Telephone Companies, records of the Counties or Municipal Districts of Camrose, Westlock, Foothills, Spirit River, Grande Prairie, Wheatland, etc., 682 reels of microfilmed homestead files, and 29 taped interviews with Polish immigrants.

The largest body of material accessioned comprised the records of the Executive Council which included 351 boxes of bills, committee reports, memoranda and general correspondence from the Legislative Assembly. Perhaps the most important body of materials accessioned consisted of the original papers of the Dioceses of Athabasca and Mackenzie River, c. 1870-1950 (which have been microfilmed in earlier years).

The Public Documents Committee was established in 1966 by virtue of Section 6 of the Provincial Archives Act. That Act was repealed by the Public Documents Act which came into effect on 15th April, 1970. The Public Documents Committee has been very active during the year and fifty-one recommendations for the disposition of records of departments were made, including 26 recommendations for transfer to the Archives.

The general cultural activities of the Provincial Archives are now covered by the Alberta Heritage Act which also came into effect in April, 1970.

BRITISH COLUMBIA See Page 89.

GLENBOW-ALBERTA INSTITUTE ARCHIVES: Another Glenbow Archives inventory is presently being prepared, namely that of our large collection of C.P.R. colonization papers.

The number of acquisitions during the year was high and included some very significant material. Among such accessions are: A collection of descriptive letters of a Scottish family, brothers A.W., J.J. and A. E. Cameron, who settled during the early 1900's in western Canada, approximately five linear inches in extent; papers of the Coal Operators of Western Canada, 1907-1953, c. twelve lineal feet; letterbook of the Chinese Consul in Vancouver, regarding Chinese immigrants, their problems, etc., 1914; personal papers of N.W.M.P. personality, William Parker, 1873-1912; and manuscript.

In response to a concerted appeal issued in conjunction with Mrs. J. Erickson, California, a comprehensive collection of manuscripts, photographs and recorded material relating to the operation of the Chautauqua in western Canada has been amassed.

There has been an increase in the use of all archives' services, but the most noted extension has been student use of our facilities.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ARCHIVES: Since the Archives came into existence in 1968, they have been expanded to a staff of three and a volume of 900 cubic feet, which occupy 3500 square feet in Rutherford Library.

The first University Archivist, James M. Parker, was appointed in 1968, and since then has made the archives a known and useful service to both administrators and scholars. In May, 1970, Miss C. L. Dobek was appointed Archives Assistant and during the month of July attended the course on Archives Principles and Administration at Carleton University, Ottawa.

The operations of the Archives are governed by a policy which was approved by the Board of Governors in 1969. Records management, retention and disposal, and filing systems are included in the program.

The Presidents' Papers to 1966 are in the archives and a guide to the papers of Henry Marshall Tory, first president (1908-1927) was prepared in 1968. The private papers of Dr. William Rowan, first professor of Zoology (1920-1956) have been acquired. These include correspondence, field and research notes, photographs and drawings.

A complete guide to the Archives is available in each annual report.

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See page 89 below.