

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES: Beginning in 1970, the staff of the Provincial Archives undertook the enormous task of creating the finding aids necessary to provide a minimum degree of service to researchers. While a modified accessions register had been kept in the past, no key to the location of the material had been created.

In spite of this situation, the Archives was daily faced with the responsibility of providing service to an ever-increasing body of researchers in the fields of history, folklore, geography, sociology, etc. We therefore began the compilation of a Preliminary Inventory for the purpose of affording a minimum degree of control over our holdings while, at the same time, furnishing information to researchers on the extent and nature of our material. The first inventory was hurriedly produced by December, 1970, after which we began work on a Supplement. The latter is now nearing completion and the two of them together list the main Entries for almost all of our manuscript material and also contain entries for the overwhelming majority of the remainder. For each entry on our Supplement, we give provenance, title, chronological references, type of material and quantity.

In the meantime, the preparation of both these inventories has given us the detailed knowledge of our holdings which we needed in order to establish a system of classification and arrangement so urgently required. The master sheets produced in the taking of the inventories have provided us with main entry cards as temporary finding aids and these have served us very well during this re-organization stage of the Provincial Archives.

Our next step will be to reorganize our holdings with the development of a good classification and arrangement system while, at the same time, producing more permanent finding aids. This will commence in the coming month of June.

At this point in the development of the Provincial Archives, we can say that there will be no more general, preliminary inventories of the type just completed. Subsequent inventories will be of a more detailed variety - that is, inventories of groups, or series, or units of papers.

Arrangements have been made to have the Captain Robert A. Bartlett Collection of Private Papers copied and brought to this Province. The existence of these Papers was discovered by the Provincial Archivist who found that they were held at the Library of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, and consisted of ships' logs, personal diaries, private letters and photographs dating back to 1883. There are diaries and logs which were kept on board the "Panther" by Captain Bartlett's uncle, several diaries and logs kept on the S.S. "Viking" by Captain Bartlett's father and personal diaries kept by Captain Bartlett during his sixteen voyages to the Arctic in the M.V. "Morrissey".

One of the most important milestones in the thirteen-year history of the Provincial Archives is the recent announcement that the Government has accepted, in principle, the proposal of the Provincial Archivist to introduce a Records Management system into this Province.

The Provincial Archivist has been awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Canadian Historical Association in recognition of his services to archives and local history.