

The Canadians who attended the seventh Congress were Mrs. Isobel Dobell, Mrs. Eve de Langley, Mrs. Mabel Good, Mme de Saint-Pierre, François Baudin, J. Martel, Edwin Welch, W.D. Wheeler and Wilfred Smith.

CONFERENCE COVERAGE: ANNUAL MEETING OF

L'ASSOCIATION DES ARCHIVISTES DU QUEBEC, 1973

BY

DANIEL HICKEY

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The annual meeting of l'Association des Archivistes du Québec was held at Trois-Rivières on the 5th and 6th of May 1973. The first day of the meeting consisted of a series of five organized workshops devoted to specific archival activities: Records Centres, Classification of Historic Archives, Classification Systems for Records Management, Guides and Research Tools and Problems of Accessibility. The five workshops were held concurrently in order to enable a full discussion of the questions under study in each section, however this format prevented attendance at more than one section. The workshops became the vehicles for proposing resolutions for the business meeting on May 6th.

The resolutions eventually presented reflected three major preoccupations: the structuring of workshops, the establishment of courses in archives and the ratification of a section on Records Management.

The workshops were criticised for being oriented toward lecturing with too little time allotted to discussion. Resolutions sponsored by Carol Couture and André Frenière were both directed toward restructuring the preparation of workshops. It was resolved that next year the membership of each workshop section should be determined two months in advance of the annual meeting. The participants expressing interest in each section should be contacted by the director of the section in order to ensure an adequate preparation for discussion and debate of the problems to be treated. A second resolution by François Beaudin suggested that a round table be organized in which historians could explain the problems involved in initiating 1st, 2nd and 3rd year university students in the use of archives. Sister Vachon, André Frenière and myself spoke to the resolution enlarging it in two ways. It was resolved that students and professors from other disciplines (History of Architecture, History of Sociology, History of Science) should also be invited in order to demonstrate the avenues which are being exploited in archival collections by students both inside and outside the actual history departments.

The resolutions concerning courses in archives followed the report of the Committee on Archives Courses headed by François Beaudin. In his report, Beaudin treated the CEGEP programme noting that the course would hopefully begin at CEGEP Maisonneuve in September. His report continued noting that university courses were now the major concern of the Association. Under his direction the History Department at the Université de Montréal is now preparing a program for an archives major in History. Beaudin noted, however, that he was placed in a contradictory rôle as head of the Committee on Archives Courses and an organizer of the courses. Since the Association felt that the committee should act as a sanctioning agency for new courses he felt that there was a conflict of interest in his rôle and he asked to be replaced as head of the committee. This same problem was later evident in a resolution presented by Father Cossette. The resolution proposed that the Association should be the agency to promote new courses or course changes. It was generally felt that the resolution was ambiguous and returned to the contradiction between sponsoring and accrediting courses. After discussion Father Cossette withdrew the resolution.

The third preoccupation revolved around the ratification of the Records Management Section which had been created on a temporary basis last year. The major preoccupation of the membership concerned the possibility of the Association becoming fragmented. Nevertheless, it was argued that the creation of such a section would actually strengthen the Association by permitting it to appeal to a larger clientele. After several members of the Council of the AAQ expressed their feelings that the section would not weaken the Association, the creation of the section was ratified. The interest in Records Management was evident throughout the meeting and the workshops on Establishing a Records Centre and on Classification Systems in Records Management were both very popular. In addition the Laval University Archives received the annual award of the AAQ essentially for their work in the field of Records Management.

At the end of the business meeting, the Executive of the Association for 1973-74 was named. Joseph Cossette, S.J. succeeded to the office of president and Michel Cauchon was appointed vice-president. Sister Lucienne Choquet and Jacques Ducharme took over the respective offices of secretary and treasurer. A special resolution was also adopted naming Roland Auger an honorary president of the Association.