

ARCHIVES REPORTS

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA

1973/74

HISTORICAL BRANCH: Increased expansion and diversification of Branch programs has resulted in the formation of two new Divisions this year. Public Records, which was created as a Section of the Manuscript Division in 1965, achieved Divisional status with three Sections of its own—State and Military, Trade and Communications, Resource. A machine-readable Archives Division has also been formed to acquire and service automated public records and similar material of permanent value from the private sector with the result that the acquisition programs of the Branch now span every archival medium of record from parchment to magnetic tape.

The broad mandate of the Public Archives, which has made this possible and which has served the Branch so well in the past, will also have profound implications for the future as we move towards a "one world" concept of information retrieval from archival sources both within the PAC and in the other repositories across Canada.

The Diffusion Program outlined in the Branch report for last year is gaining momentum and is described in the Divisional reports. The sale and deposit of microfilm, microfiche and slides of manuscript and historical maps may well prefigure the transmission of these images by on-line processes within the next few years. Several automated programs for inventory and retrieval are now in use and each Division is re-appraising its systems with a view to future automation. We are already moving into an era of "networked" information which will bring users and repositories into even closer relationships.

This new approach is also reflected in work being done on thematic guides and inventories which gather together sources within a broad subject field and spanning a variety of media.

COURSE IN ARCHIVAL PRINCIPLES AND METHODOLOGY. Eighteen students registered for this five-week course which was directed by Harold Naugler and given in association with

the Archives Section, Canadian Historical Association. Three of the country's five regions were represented, there being no one this year from Quebec and the Prairie Provinces. Visits to the various Divisions of the P.A.C. and one to Queen's University Archives at Kingston were combined with seminars, based on papers which, in most cases, were distributed in advance. The course is designed for graduate archivists with one year's practical experience.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION. In April 1975 the Manuscript Division divested itself of its holdings of records of the Government of Canada. The reorganized Division was restructured to comprise six sections and three units with the following responsibilities:

Pre-Confederation Section has responsibility for all pre-Confederation private MSS and corporate and public records, including the records of British and French authorities who administered Canada and the various colonies and provinces in North America.

Prime Ministers Section has responsibility for all papers of Canadian prime ministers and their correspondents.

Public Affairs Section has responsibility for private papers of individuals and corporate records of organizations and institutions active in the national public affairs: elected or appointive public officials, judiciary, military service, political parties, etc.

Socio-Economic Section has responsibility for MSS and records received from the private sector including the arts, business, labour, philanthropy, sports, scholastics, etc.

National Ethnic Archives Section has responsibility for private papers of individuals and corporate records of associations and institutions serving the various cultural communities in Canada.

Research and Inquiries Section has responsibility for coordinating the incoming correspondence and the research undertaken in response to public inquiries for historical data. The Section also coordinates inquiries for information from records of the Federal Government.

Reference Room Unit has responsibility for the various calendars, indexes and other finding aids which are available for public reference and examination. It also coordinates the consultant service offered to the public by professional and support staff in the Reference Room.

Union List of Manuscripts Unit has responsibility for

compiling, editing, and publishing the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories. It acts as liaison with other repositories.

Technical Services and Diffusion Unit has responsibility for coordinating divisional programs on conservation, protective and contractual microfilming, and for the Diffusion Programme.

MAJOR PROJECTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION INCLUDE:

Revision of Existing Inventories: Volume 3 of the General Inventory, comprising MGs 17-21 (Ecclesiastical Archives, Pre-Conquest Papers, Fur Trade and Indians, Hudson's Bay Company, and the British Museum) has been prepared for publication in the spring of 1974. The British Records Sub-section has begun the revision of MGs 11-16 (Colonial Office, Admiralty and War Office, Foreign Office, Audit Office and Treasury, Post Office, Custom - Plantations and other offices), with publication expected in the spring of 1975. The Canadian Records Sub-section has undertaken the preparation of a Guide to pre-Confederation public records.

Investigation in Spanish Archives to locate documents of interest to Canada. Extensive sources relating to Basque participation in the cod and whale fisheries in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Newfoundland have been identified and are being calendared. Copying will follow.

Right Honourable R.B. Bennett. The original Bennett papers are the property of the University of New Brunswick. In 1965 the original papers were transferred to the Public Archives to be numbered, microfilmed and indexed. The former was completed several years ago and this year the one hundred Volumes of the Personal Series were microfilmed, thus completing this stage of the work. The major task remaining is the completion of the detailed indexing of the collection. An index of all file titles, major names, corporations and subjects has been prepared for the collection. These entries are now being edited for input using electronic data processing methods.

Right Honourable W.L.M. King. Detailed indexing of the Primary Correspondence Series (J1) 1922-1950 continued this year and has been completed to the end of 1926. Plans were finalized for the preparation of a pilot project incorporating the author and subject entries from the 1922 to 1924 period. Upon completion this portion of the finding aid will be made available to researchers. Microfilming of the King Papers continued with the completion of the J1 Series for 1942 and 1943. After consultations with the Literary Executors, restrictions were relaxed on certain parts of the papers to make them more

available for research.

Right Honourable L.B. Pearson. In October 1973 Mrs. Maryon Pearson officially presented the Pearson Papers to the Public Archives. At that time a portion of the collection was opened for research, including the pre-1948 correspondence, all speeches and clippings. The arrangement, description and listing of a number of series in the collection continued. Moreover, several significant additions to the Pearson Papers were received, including correspondence, notes and speeches relating to Mr. Pearson's post-Prime Ministerial activities, 1968-1972; reference and research material used in the preparation of the Pearson memoirs, volumes one and two, and a collection of Canadian Press clippings gathered at the time of Mr. Pearson's death. The total extent of the collection is now 1200 feet.

MAJOR ACCESSIONS INCLUDE:

Public Affairs. The papers of Honourable George Drew, A.A. Heaps, Honourable Eric Kierans, Honourable A.A. Macnaughton, Honourable Paul Martin, H.H. Stevens.

Socio-Economic. Kate Aitken, broadcaster; John Glassco, writer; Abraham Klein, poet; Joseph Schull, writer; Professional Photographers of Canada; Dominion Glass Co., Home Bank of Canada; Robert Reford Company; United Packinghouse, Food and Allied Workers of America; Dr. Gerhard Herzberg, physicist.

National Ethnic Archives. Canadian Polish Congress; Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association.

UNION LIST OF MANUSCRIPTS

The Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories is a catalogue of unpublished manuscript material available to the public in archival institutions across Canada.

The second edition of this catalogue has been in preparation for some time. Early in 1973, it was decided that this revised edition should be processed by computer, using the Alphatext system. Some of the features of the Alphatext system which we found attractive were: the capacity to correct errors without the retyping of large sections of text; the automatic sorting of entries in alphabetical order by title; the capacity to prepare the cross-reference index and the repository index from the original input; and the possibility of preparing inventories of holdings of the contributing repositories, should such inventories be required in the future.

By the end of February 1974, a total of 21,360 out of an estimated 30,000 entries had been input. Nearly 200 institutions will be represented in the revised edition, which will consist of three volumes to be published in 1975.

PUBLIC RECORDS DIVISION

The Public Records Division was established on 1 April 1973 out of two elements of the Manuscript Division: the Public Records Section and the public service portion of the Auxiliary Services Section. The Division consists of four sections and one unit. Three of the sections have the same functions but are differentiated according to the types of agencies for whose records each is responsible. They are: State and Military Records, Trade and Communications Records, and Resource Records. The fourth section, Public Service, provides a common service to both the Public Records and Manuscript Divisions. In addition, a Data Processing Unit provides for the listing and detailed indexing of lists of files, and the processing of the Division's publications. The Chief of the new Division is Mr. J. Atherton.

In December, 1973, the Division began a search for all public records in the custody of departments and agencies of the federal government, both headquarters and field offices, that have not been included in departmental records retention and disposal schedules. Most of these records are probably over thirty years old and no longer of administrative value to the creating offices. If they are found to be of historical value, negotiations will be undertaken for their transfer to the Public Archives. The first project in this survey involved visits by two staff members, R. Peter Gillis and Andre Martineau, to the Regional Records Centres in Winnipeg and Montreal, to survey the dormant records stored in each location. In addition, Mr. Gillis visited the Manitoba Provincial Archives and made several other contacts with a view to tracing the whereabouts of files created by the old Department of the Interior. In March, Mr. Gillis and B. Corbett visited several repositories in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Indian Affairs. Approval was given in November 1973 by both the Cabinet and Treasury Board to a special submission providing for a large-scale microfilming and indexing program of Indian Affairs records in the custody of the Public Archives. The major objective of the submission was to make available as efficiently as possible and to the largest number of researchers the Indian Affairs records in P.A.C. custody, while at the same time protecting the original records from serious damage and possible destruction due to overhandling. A related objective was to provide facilities for the expected

increase in copying requirements on the part of researchers over the next four years. It was considered that these objectives could best be met through the undertaking of two projects by the Public Archives. First of all, by the microfilming of all the pertinent Indian Affairs records in the Public Archives, approximately 4,000 feet in extent, for their protection and dissemination. Secondly, by the preparation of detailed indexes to these records in order to meet the requirements of the large number of researchers working on the Indian Affairs records. At the same time provision was made for the Public Archives to acquire additional xerox copying equipment and microfilm reader-printers, together with staff to operate such devices, in order to handle the expected volume of copying.

Approval of the submission has enabled the Public Archives to ensure the security of a block of important historical records. The records are important not only for their obvious value for research, but also because of their cultural content. They are, in fact, a record of Canada's native peoples. As such, their continued existence must be safeguarded. The program of microfilming and indexing is expected to commence by 1 April 1974, and is scheduled for completion by the fall of 1977.

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND PRINTS SECTION

The availability of additional resources for the 1973-74 diffusion program occasioned a revision of our plans in order to diffuse our material to a greater extent than in the past. New projects were added to the existing exhibition and publication programs and a research officer assigned on a full-time basis to the Manoir Richelieu Collection. Two of these projects, concerning Microfiches and 35 mm transparencies, will lay before scholars and the general public throughout the country much that was up to that date only available to the staff or registered researchers in Ottawa.

MICROFICHE PROJECT

For many years the increasing demand for reproductions of research material in the Paintings, Drawings and Prints Section has induced the Department to expand its reproduction services. Although copies could be obtained through correspondence, researchers wishing to consult our collection were obliged to visit the Public Archives personally.

A system that could economically produce facsimiles of art works was sought. After consulting the Micrographic Advisory Section it was decided that a microfiche system would fulfill this need. The system requires that the art works be filmed with a 35 mm planetary

camera. A silver duplicate positive is produced and inserted in two channel 35 mm microfiche jackets. The jackets are labelled in sets according to the artist, each artist's total collection composing a "set". The last frame of each microfiche jacket is left vacant to allow for the later insertion of a microfilm copy of a handlist for the material contained in the respective jackets. Diazo duplicates of the microfiche jackets would then be produced and distributed.

The project has been in the planning stages for the past year with the first set of microfiche duplicates being produced for distribution in April 1974. For the 1974-1975 year the following artists' works will be made available: they are: H.F. Ainslie, A.E. Boulton, F. Holloway, J. Hunter, A.J. Miller, J. Peachey, W.G.B. Willis and J. Meres, totalling in all 243 art works. It is projected that 21,000 items will eventually be reproduced and made available on microfiche.

A project of this nature involving a major portion of the paintings, drawings and prints preserved in the Public Archives of Canada has to our knowledge never been attempted. The success of such a project should encourage the use of microfiche as art reproduction and make more material available to researchers. In addition to its economical advantages the system can be up-dated without major adjustments, thus making it possible to maintain an accurate representation of our collection.

THE NATIONAL HISTORY PROJECT

Important discussions were conducted by the office of the Division Chief for the dissemination of the Public Archives exhibitions and documentary collections through the audio-visual media. Both the National Film Board of Canada and the private sector were considered for this project. By the end of 1973 an agreement was concluded between the Historical Branch, PAC and the National Film Board in order to make more widely available to provincial Archives, research centers and schools, quality reproductions, in the form of slides or continuous rolls of the most interesting documents preserved by the Public Archives of Canada. Registered as the National History Project - Le Projet national d'histoire, all slides produced in cooperation with the Historical Branch will carry the additional title of the Archives Canada Series. Priority will be given to exhibitions and other items grouped around an artist or a theme designated from time to time for this series. In addition to the slides sets, for use in schools, the National Film Board will prepare a teacher's manual as a companion piece. The final product will consist of a clear plastic slide holder that can accommodate up to 40 slides and the manual.

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

In continued response to the democratization and decentralization policy of the Secretary of State, the preparation of travelling exhibitions demanded a considerable portion of staff time and effort. Four exhibitions, Pictured Opinions, Trails of '98, W.H. Coverdale Collection of Canadiana, and Western Odyssey, 1881, are ample proof of meeting this challenge.

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS SECTION

The implementation of a program covering Canada's multicultural heritage was a major project during the year. In addition to negotiating for photographic documentation of the development of Canada's ethnic groups over the years, it was strongly felt that since there were so many highly honoured and well-known contemporary photographers in Canada whose past reflected our nation's diversified cultural roots, representative selections of the work of some of these photographers should be obtained. Accordingly, A. Birrell and C. Minotto approached a number of these men and requested that they make for the National Photography Collection a series of twenty-five or thirty exhibition quality prints which each photographer thought was a good representation of his work. In this way the preservation of their work will not be left to chance. In addition to prints, negatives were obtained in some instances. Nakash of Montreal donated his entire collection to the Archives.

GOVERNMENT ACQUISITIONS

The types of government photographs and their sources are representative of a wide spectrum of government involvement in Canada. Perhaps the most interesting transfer is that of the North American Boundary Commission (1872-1875) provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Department of Immigration this year transferred a collection of photos of government immigration buildings in Quebec (circa 1910) which should prove to be a valuable source of architectural design.

Finally, there were new accessions dealing with one of the priorities of the acquisition program - that of the history of photography in Canada.

To document nineteenth century photography a series of daguerreotypes have been acquired, including those by Seth Park which were donated for the purposes of restoration. From S.B. Nicolson came a daguerreotype of George Keefer. Two ambrotypes of Hamilton, C.W. during the late 1850's were purchased from an American dealer.

The most important single acquisition of the year was the purchase of the superb daguerreotype portrait of Louis-Joseph Papineau. This portrait is by an unknown daguerreotypist.

DIFFUSION AND DISSEMINATION

The Section's major exhibition during the past year was Relentless Verity: Canadian Military Photographers since 1885. Opened in September by General Jacques Dextraze, Chief of Defence Staff, this exhibition featured two hundred and fifty prints representing the work of thirteen representative military photographers.

The publication of Relentless Verity: Canadian Military Photographers since 1885 based on the exhibition represented a major Section input into the department's diffusion and dissemination program for this year, and was researched and written by Peter Robertson of our staff. Canadian Magazine, in its December 1973 issue ran a feature article based on the book. It is intended that Relentless Verity be followed by a series of subsequent volumes on Canadian photography. The research work of two other staff members have been published in the national periodical Canadian Photography: that of R. Huyda on H.L. Hime appeared in the July 1973 issue and A. Birrell's study of Charles Horetsky in the March 1974 issue.

NATIONAL MAP COLLECTION

The year 1973-74 has been a year of both change and development in the National Map Collection.

The retirement of Theodore E. Layng at the end of December 1973 marked the end of an era in the division - Ted Layng had filled the post of division chief since 1955, and had worked in the division since 1948.

In February 1974, the Head of the Foreign Section since 1968, Mrs. Karen Lochhead, also decided to retire after the birth of her second child.

On March 16, 1974, one of the most respected members of the staff, E.R. (Ted) Bateman, who was Acting Head of the Foreign Section, died suddenly.

The year 1973-74 was notable for the diffusion program. The contribution of the National Map Collection has been basically one of publication, although few items were actually published in this fiscal year. The Foreign Section published two listings of map series held by that Section. Volume I listed European (including the U.S.S.R.), series and Volume II, African series - both were prepared

by Vivien Cartmell. A third volume - Australia, New Zealand, etc., prepared in 1973-74, will be printed in April 1974.

Manuscripts, readied for publication in 1974 and 1975 are: Ottawa in Maps by Thomas Nagy; Winnipeg in Maps by Alan Artibise and Edward Dahl; Atlases published in France in the rare atlas collection by Lou Seboek; Maps relating to the Riel Rebellions by William Oppen. Publications started in 1973-74 which will be completed in 1974-75 are: Bird's eye views of Canada by Edward Dahl and Betty Kidd; County maps of Canada by Heather Maddick; Maps of Prince Edward Island by Louis Cardinal; and Township plans of the West by Guy Poulin and Francine Cadieux.

Significant progress was made in the National Union Catalogue of Maps program with the appointment of a full-time staff member - Hugo L.P. Stibbe - as Registrar of Canadian Map Resources in August. The preparation of cataloguing guidelines for thematic separately published maps was commenced and early in March, 1974, a meeting was held of the National Union Catalogue of Maps committee to discuss these guidelines. The response to these rules-based in part on the internal rules of the National Map Collection - which are in effect, the first detailed guidelines in the world, has been enthusiastic. Guidelines for series maps, atlases and other cartographical materials will be written in the next year or so.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES LIBRARY

The Public Archives of Canada Library experienced in 1973-74 a growing awareness of its expanding role within the department. The marked rise of accessions in all Divisions of the Historical Branch, the increasing demands for advisory services in the Administrative Division and Technical Services Section, as well as the additional requests for advice received in the Public Records Management Branch, have brought about a substantial increase in demand for acquisitions of printed works in various fields to cover the diversified services now offered by the Public Archives of Canada.

NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVES

With the establishment of new positions and the appointment of new staff members, the purchase of new equipment and the promise of additional space, and above all with the acquisition of significant sound, film and video records, the National Film Archives is beginning to develop the organization and the resources necessary to service the growing demand for access to image and sound records. The final stage in the organization will be

the consolidation of the national collection of historical sound recordings and its reference services with the national collections of film and video housed in the West Memorial Building. Plans for the renovation of the additional space in the West Memorial Building have been completed and it is hoped the reorganization will be accomplished in fiscal year 1974/75.

Sound Archives: Activity in the field of oral history has taken two forms. One form has been to act as a central clearinghouse for all literature and current developments in oral history throughout Canada. Toward this end an archival assistant has been hired to prepare a comprehensive directory of all oral history projects completed or in process in Canada today. Léo LaClare, as chairman of the Oral History Committee of the CHA Archives Section, has laid the groundwork for the creation of a National Oral History Association (now in being) and has co-ordinated the publication of the second issue of a new Canadian oral history journal.

The second form of activity has been to stimulate interest in oral history and thus increase the PAC's holdings in this area. The section has given its technical and professional assistance to local and regional groups seeking to start their own oral history programs and Léo LaClare has given several talks to interested groups on this subject. During 1973/74 the section aided directly in the production of Peter Stursberg's oral history interviews with major political figures during the Diefenbaker era - a project which included 19 hours of interviews with Mr. Diefenbaker himself. The past year has also seen the section increase its holdings in oral history with the acquisition of several valuable collections including one by broadcaster Lyal D. Brown which documents early life in the Canadian West.

The major accession during 1973/74 is the CBC's As It Happens collection, which consists of tapes in the award-winning CBC public affairs radio program from October 4th., 1971 to November 30th., 1973. In addition, negotiations were completed with the CBC for the acquisition of audio tapes for all interviews recorded for the Tenth Decade, First Person Singular, and the Days Before Yesterday Series. The combined CBC and Stursberg collection will add a valuable "analytical perspective" to our present extensive holdings of the Liberal Party of Canada and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

New accessions for 1973/74 numbered 126 which represented 3,339 hours of new sound recordings.

MACHINE READABLE ARCHIVES

During the year the Historical Branch defined in conjunction with the Records Management and Administration and Technical Services Branches a program for the collection, organization, scheduling and reference of records produced by electronic data processing. A special submission was sent to Treasury Board and approval was received for some of the necessary resources to support such a program.

With the resources identified for the Historical Branch a Machine Readable Archives Division was established on April 1st, 1974. The purpose of this Division is to acquire, preserve and service machine readable records of historical value produced by the Federal government and those of national significance produced by the private sector. By the beginning of 1974/75 the Division hopes to be fully operational to perform its responsibilities for those machine readable records produced by the Federal Government. In the interim, the Division will perform its functions on an ad hoc basis to ensure that any machine readable records that are presented can be preserved. The most important activity in this area was the acquisition of the machine readable research files of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. Work on the files began in 1972/73 and will be completed in early 1974/75.