

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

Report of the Archives Section, 1960-1961

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Radio Station CHRC, Quebec. For its historical broadcasts since its foundation in 1926, including such series as *Soirées du Bon Vieux Temps*, *Le Meunier du Saint-Laurent*, *Le Tour de mon Pays*, *Légendes Gaspésiennes*, and without interruption from November to May, since 1948, *Sur la Scène de l'Histoire*, 300 programs placed at the disposition of the Quebec Historical Society.

Mr. Robert B. Blauvelt, Yarmouth, N.S. For over forty years of service to local history in Yarmouth county, including his writings on local history, erection of historical markers, and promotion of interest in this field among high school students.

The Glenbow Foundation, Calgary. For collecting and preserving, since its foundation in 1955, historical manuscripts, newspapers, and photographs, and its special projects including linguistic studies, recording of Indian ceremonies, tracing of historic trails and fur trade routes, and operation of the Luxton Museum at Banff.

The new officers of the Local History Section, elected at the annual meeting, are as follows:

Chairman: Professor G. F. G. Stanley, Department of History, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

1st Vice-Chairman: Professor Maurice Careless, Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.

2nd Vice-Chairman: M. l'abbé Honorius Provost, Séminaire de Québec, Québec, P.Q.

English Language Secretary: Allan R. Turner, Archives Division, Legislative Library, Regina, Saskatchewan.

French-Language Secretary: Rev. Father Adrien Pouliot, S.J., le Collège des Jésuites, 1150 ouest, rue Saint-Cyrille, Québec, P.Q.

MARGARET A. ORMSBY,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES SECTION, 1960-1961

Fourteen persons attended the annual business meeting in Montreal on Wednesday, June 7, 1961. Following the introduction of those present reports were received from the various archives centres.

Brandon College

Miss McFadden stated that the Library hoped, in a limited way, to develop an archives and local history section.

Queen's University

Mr. Gundy reported that a full time archivist had been appointed who was at present organizing the Library collections. He stated that negotiations were completed for the accession of the Norman Rogers Papers and that there was a possibility the C. G. Powers Papers would be received.

Ontario Archives

Mr. Spragge reported he was hoping to proceed on an expanded Public Records programme and that the staff was working on Immigration and Colonization Papers. He stated he had found the Survey of Archival Salaries and Positions useful.

Laval University

L'abbé Provost reported that the Archives had moved into new quarters and that the Papers of Joseph Marmette an archivist and writer had been received.

Saskatchewan Archives

Mr. Turner reported that Evelyn Eager had resigned from the Archives staff to take up a post at Regina College, and that John Archer had been granted a year's leave of absence. Following the 1960 election and the retirement of cabinet ministers a number of collections were turned over to the Archives, some covering a period of sixteen years.

Glenbow Foundation

Hugh Dempsey reported that the Foundation had three full-time and one part-time archivists, six research workers and four students, the latter two groups being engaged in gathering material for the archives and museum. Projects underway included studies of the R.C.M.P., immigration and ranching. Recent acquisitions included tape interviews with ex-Premier Brownlee of Alberta, Papers of Frederick Haultain and Col. James F. McLeod. An additional building has been acquired by the Foundation. The Hull House is to be retained for display purposes.

Public Archives of Canada

Mr. Ormsby reported that the programme of preparing Inventories of manuscript holdings was nearing completion and that the Archives was concentrating on the preparation of Finding Aids to individual collections. It was the hope that an Index to the Laurier Papers might be put on film as a pilot project. The film would be made available to assist those in research work. It was suggested that such a programme including the papers of all Prime Ministers might be undertaken by 1967. The projected Disposal Section of the Public Archives Records Centre had been established, this section, in charge of Mr. Bilsland, to assist

and advise Departments in scheduling records. Recent accessions at the Archives included 800 feet of Records of the Mounted Police to 1920, and a microfilm of the Edward Watkin Papers. There have been four additions to the staff.

External Affairs

Mr. Hilborn reported that an article on the Archives Section of the Department of External Affairs had appeared in the September 1960 issue of *External Affairs*, a bulletin of the Department. He stated that the Passport Office files had been microfilmed and that this would continue on an annual basis. Attempts were being made to initiate retention and disposal programmes for Canadian missions abroad.

Manitoba

Mr. Bowsfield reported that the programme of microfilming newspapers was continuing on a full-time basis. As a result of the moving of a number of Departments to a new Administration building the Public Records programme was accelerated and transfers made to the Archives. Recent acquisitions included Papers of Acton Burrows, a film of Red River Settlement Church Registers, a film of the Church Missionary Society Records. During the year an index to the Red River Census Books covering the years 1832-1870 was prepared.

Catalogue of Political Papers:

Mr. Weilbrenner reported that the list of Political Papers had been distributed to 40 institutions. Papers held by the Public Archives of Canada were not included since their published inventories were generally available. Mr. Gundy presented to the Section the listing of Papers held at Queen's University. Mr. Weilbrenner was asked to mail these to all institutions as well as to prepare a notice for the Canadian Historical Review stating that the list was completed and was available for reference in libraries and archives. He was asked also to send a list to the *American Archivist* for review purposes.

Humanities Research Council:

Mr. Ostry reported the Council's interest in the Listing of Political Papers and expressed the hope that the Council might assist in an expanded programme of listing archival material in Canadian institutions.

Preservation of Records:

Mr. Spragge pointed out the difficulties in obtaining satisfactory professional advice on materials used in the preservation and repair of manuscripts. Mr. Spragge was asked to chair a Committee which would investigate and report on this matter. It was suggested that such a Committee contact the National Research Council regarding the use of certain papers, preservatives, and the process of lamination.

Projects:

Miss Guillaume was asked to chair a Committee which would report on the need to offer a second Archives Course and to suggest to the Section further projects.

UNION LIST OF MANUSCRIPTS IN CANADIAN REPOSITORIES

Two years ago the Canadian Historical Association through its Archives Section undertook a survey of selected archival repositories with a view to compiling a list of manuscript sources of a political nature. The project has resulted in a catalogue of *Political Papers in Canadian Archives*.

This limited catalogue fell short of the wider needs of historians trying to locate source material pertinent to their studies. There is a pressing need for a union list of all significant holdings in Canadian archives. An appeal was therefore made to the Public Archives for professional help and to the Humanities Research Council for financial aid. In response, the Humanities Research Council, in association with the Public Archives and the Archives Section of the Canadian Historical Association, has decided to sponsor a project to be known as the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories*.

The project, under the direction of Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist and National Librarian, calls for a comprehensive survey of Canadian archival repositories and a listing of all manuscripts therein. The papers will be described in manuscript units or record groups under the names of individuals, families, government agencies or corporate bodies. A certain amount of personal data will be given, such as the dates of birth and death, and the principal occupation and place of residence of individuals and families under whose names the papers will be listed. Concise and uniform details will be given on the type of papers, inclusive dates, linear extent, location, available finding aids and existing restrictions, as well as a breakdown by categories, and subjects, with references to persons, events and historic periods.

A report form is being prepared, and will be distributed to cooperating repositories, together with a manual of rules and explanations. In addition, Mr. R. S. Gordon of the Public Archives will be making personal contacts to explain the project in more detail and to maintain liaison between the repositories and the Director of the Project.

(Extracted from *Bulletin No. 1*, dated November 1961, issued by the Director of the Project).