

Mass Deacidification Process

The Public Archives of Canada pilot project using the R.D. Smith mass deacidification process is nearing the operational phase. The last in a series of modifications has been made to the equipment and final tests by the Paper Testing Institute of Chicago should be completed by early December. Installation of the unit should come in January 1976.

The Smith process uses magnesium methoxide in an organic solvent as the deacidification agent. The unit at the Public Archives of Canada has a design capacity to treat several hundred books daily or the equivalent in manuscript material.

By the next issue of *Archivaria* it should be possible to report on several month's experience with this very promising technique.

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L'Association des archivistes du Québec

Founded on 9 December 1967 at the Archives nationales du Québec in Québec city, the Association des archivistes du Québec was established to further archival interests by raising professional standards, by improving conditions in and of archival institutions and by ensuring greater communication among its members. Membership in the association is open and brings together without distinction professional archivists and records managers as well as persons generally interested in the field of archives. Within a year of its foundation, the number of members reached the impressive total of 175. Today, the association has passed the mark of 350 adherents. Incorporated on 4 June 1975 as the "Association des archivistes du Québec Inc.", the association is now administered according to the provisions of the third chapter of the Québec Companies Act. The membership adopted, on 22 November 1975, the final revisions to the by-laws rendered necessary by the change in the legal status of the association.

Since its inception, the A.A.Q. has striven to make its organization reflect more adequately the activities and aspirations of its membership and to facilitate communications among members. The congresses of the A.A.Q. itself are generally well attended, drawing 150 to 180 of the membership. *Archives*, the journal published by the association, and the association's chronicle have been circulated widely. To accommodate the signal development of a growing field in Québec, a records management

section was created in May 1973 to ensure that the special needs of an important portion of the membership could be met and be part of their participation in the general work of the association. Similarly, in December of the same year, an historical archives section was created. The association is also divided into regions permitting members to meet more frequently without facing the constant problems of distance and cost. Until recently, Montréal and Québec were the only two regions. In September 1975 a new one, the Outaouais, was formed for the members of the association working in and west of Ottawa/Hull.

From its creation, the association has played a significant role for archivists by acting as their representative in Europe as well as in North America. Members of the association have participated in the meetings of the International Council of Archives in Madrid in 1968 and Moscow in 1972. The president of the A.A.Q., Robert Garon, joined other Canadian delegates for the meeting of the Round Table of the International Council of Archives held in 1974 at the Public Archives of Canada. In October of the same year, the association held a joint meeting with the Society of American Archivists in Toronto where a number of its members presented papers. The A.A.Q. plans to organize, for October 1976, an International Colloquium of French-speaking Archivists to which European archivists attending the meetings of the International Council of Archivists will be invited to join Canadian archivists. The event should take place in Sherbrooke, where the Institut d'Histoire de l'Amérique française will also be holding its annual congress.

Strong in Québec, and consisting mainly of French-speaking archivists across Canada, the A.A.Q. has recently welcomed the foundation of the new Association of Canadian Archivists (A.C.A.) and looks forward to cooperation in various joint projects through the agency of the Bureau of Canadian Archivists. The A.A.Q. has already made plans to hold its annual Congress concurrently with the A.C.A. and other learned societies in order to make possible the organization of a number of joint sessions with Canadian archivists from other parts of the country. Furthermore, informal discussions at the level of the Bureau and between the editors of the journals of both associations has already taken place concerning the possible amalgamation of *Archives* and *Archivaria*.

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Archives Course

The English language course on Archival Principles and Administration sponsored jointly by the Public Archives of Canada and the Archives