

Was the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre in Winnipeg approached? Perhaps future editions will concentrate on encouraging those repositories not yet committed to the *ULM* to share their treasures with the public.

There is no doubt that future editions of the *ULM* will be larger and more polished, but this will depend upon more than just encouragement from senior management at the Public Archives of Canada and from various repositories across the country. Financial support and staff commensurate with the size of the project must be located and firmly committed.

The *ULM* is by far the most comprehensive list of manuscripts and records in Canadian archival and related institutions. It is an important contribution to the Canadian archival scene and should be available at all archival repositories, historical associations and societies, university libraries and major public libraries. Although at fifty dollars a copy the *ULM* will not make the best seller lists, it is nevertheless an almost indispensable research tool for the researcher wishing to visit a repository to do more than just look at a few dusty old documents.

Paul M. Migus
Department of the
Secretary of State

General Inventory: Manuscripts, Vol. 2, MG11-MG16. Inventaire Général: Manuscrits, Vol. 2, MG11-MG16. PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA, MANUSCRIPT DIVISION. Ottawa: Printing and Publishing, Supply and Services Canada, 1976, xii, 255 p. Catalogue no. SA62-1/2 \$2.50, Canada; \$3.00, other countries.

Scholars and researchers visiting the Public Archives of Canada have long been familiar with the various preliminary inventories prepared and published by that institution. There were times when the word *preliminary* seemed as misleading as that other symbol of post-war Ottawa—the temporary buildings—some of which have survived longer than many structures not so obviously cursed with a promise of impending demolition. However, now we have volume 2 of the general inventories, joining the already published volumes 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and leaving only volumes 6 and 8 to be printed to complete this issue of inventories prepared by the Manuscript Division. These inventories, though of uneven quality, have generally proven to be very useful to the ever increasing numbers of scholars and researchers using the rich resources of the Archives.

General Inventory volume 2 provides a basic introduction to, and a general description of, the extensive records of the Public Record Office (PRO) which have been copied and are available at the Public Archives of Canada. A substantial portion of the basic records in the PRO relating to any Canadian subject has been transcribed or filmed, and is listed in this inventory. Some materials formerly listed with the preliminary inventories have been listed in the new Manuscript Group 40 for archival reasons, which should not prove to be an encumbrance to most researchers if adequate cross-references and conversion lists are maintained.

The long wait for volume 2 was necessitated in part by the need to undertake substantial research into the nature of the records and also by the desire to complete as nearly as possible the copying of some of the classes of records covered by the inventory. Yet this should not be taken to suggest that the Archives has identified and copied all material in the PRO of relevance to Canadian history, for much remains to be done.

The use, for nearly twenty years, of some of the preliminary inventories has also provided the Public Archives staff with an opportunity to benefit from practical experience in order to revise and to improve the inventories so they will better suit the needs of researchers. The six London government departments having important Canadian material, some of which has been copied for use at the Archives, are the Colonial Office, Admiralty, War Office, Audit Office, Treasury Office and Foreign Office. Of these, only Manuscript Group 11, Colonial Office, had been published previously by the Archives. While the preliminary inventories for MG 11 were considerably better and more complete than many of the others, even this group has benefitted greatly from the revisions which have transformed the preliminary inventories into a general inventory.

The first obvious change and improvement is to be found in extensively researched and rewritten introductions. These introductions provide brief but accurate perspectives on the offices responsible for the creation of particular groups of records, and on the generation and custody of the records. The main functions or responsibilities of each office are clearly indicated, as are the kinds of records generated. This information should help researchers to understand the provenance of the records. Each introduction is well footnoted, and the only improvement that might still be made is the addition of an annotated bibliography at the end of each introduction.

All the records described in this inventory are, of course, retained in the same order of arrangement as at the Public Record Office. They can be serviced by the regular PRO finding aids although more detailed and complete finding aids have been prepared for some records at the Public Archives of Canada.

It should be clearly understood that this is an inventory and a finding aid for serious researchers. To be used effectively it must be read carefully. It gives very few of the factual minutiae that can be found in many of the records, but it is a very good guide which will indicate to the researcher which section of the records should be consulted.

The researcher trying to get quickly all the references to the Rideau Canal and its construction, for example, might find this inventory disappointing. Diligent research is still necessary, with the inventory providing only a general guide to likely sources of information. Used together with the more detailed registers and indexes prepared by the departments which created the records, and with a helpful and well informed archivist available for consultation, these general inventories provide all the guidance needed by serious scholars wishing to use these records. These inventories will help the scholar to comprehend entire collections of records and, once this is understood, it is relatively easy to use the available detailed registers and indexes to get more detailed factual information.

With this inventory the need for nice scholarly research junkets to London will probably disappear for many students of Canadian history. The appeals of Ottawa do not yet rival those of London, but the archival resources and services might soon surpass those of the great British metropolis. Inventories of the kind under review here are one of the reasons for this development.

T. D. Regehr
University of Saskatchewan

Canadian Watercolours and Drawings in the Royal Ontario Museum. MARY ALLODI. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, ©1974. 2 v. (ca. 300 p.) ill. (some col.) ISBN 0 88854 159 7 In slip case: \$30.00.

The lot of the archivist of historical paintings, prints and drawings is not an easy one. On one side, the archivist faces Canadian art historians, a brave but tiny band who have only