

On the last day there were sessions on the Copyright Green Paper, the Symons Report and the Canadian Cultural Properties Import and Control Act. For these sessions we were much obliged to David Rudkin, president of the Association of Canadian Archivists, Sharon Van Raalte of the Secretary of State's Department and Hugh Taylor of the Public Archives of Canada. The most enlightening session was on the Canadian Cultural Properties Act. Sharon Van Raalte explained the act and it became clear that much will depend on the decisions made by review and appraisal boards. This is a most important and necessary act and no doubt will generate public controversy. Future issues of the *AAAC Newsletter* will contain articles about it.

An innovation at this year's conference was displays of publications of various archives. This proved very popular and many sales were made. There seems no question that there is a market for reasonably priced archival publications that will assist the local historian. The interest in Atlantic Provinces' history has become so pronounced that libraries are acquiring such archival publications as the inventories of manuscripts put out by the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Archives.

The next few volumes of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* will include a high proportion of names from the Atlantic Provinces and the talk by Frances Halpenny, the General Editor, on the organization of the next volumes for the nineteenth century was very welcome. Not only are archives essential for this work, but archivists are increasingly writing the biographies.

The executive for the next year was elected. The new president is F. Burnham Gill, Provincial Archivist of Newfoundland. The editing of the *Newsletter* will remain the responsibility of Brian Cuthbertson, but all administrative matters such as printing and circulation will be the responsibility of the new executive. It has become clear that unless there is wider participation by the membership the association will not survive. The cost of five dollars cannot be a deterrent and conference fees are very reasonable.

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## **Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information**

Little is known about the collection of historical material in the library of the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI). Given the current awakening of a wider interest in the history of science in Canada, it is appropriate to explain briefly the historical value of this collection.

By far the largest part of the collection consists of published material, but there are three collections of archival material which could be of considerable value to historians of science studying the period from the mid-Victorian era to the early 1920s. One collection, the Pluecker letters, was bequeathed to the National Research Council by his nephew, Dr. Otto Maass, the distinguished professor of physical chemistry at McGill. These letters, written to Julius Pluecker in the last century by more than sixty physicists, have an international scope as is indicated by the many languages in which they are written. The collection is complemented by an extensive collection of letters by Michael Faraday. Another collection consists of letters written to Fritz Reiche by Max Planck, Erwin Schroedinger, Max Born, and Albert Einstein during the period 1911 to 1921.

Supplementary material which should be of value to historians of science is the published literature which has been collected. A notable resource is the collection of journals and other publications of the academies and learned societies throughout the

world, examples of which are the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London (1665-) and the publications of l'Académie des Sciences, Paris (1666-). In addition to these, the CISTI library contains all the major journals in science, technology, and medicine, together with thousands of minor journals. Published indexes to this material have been collected widely and secondary material on the history of science is well represented.

Until recently, the primary sources in monograph form had not been collected extensively. The situation has changed with the acquisition of a set entitled "Landmarks of Science." This set, comprising thirty thousand sides of microprint containing more than 2.5 million pages of original text, was begun by the Readex Corporation in 1966 and is now complete. "Landmarks of Science" includes first editions from the beginning of printing to the present day, as well as successive editions of works when extensive changes were made in the texts. CISTI has also acquired *The Catalogue of the History of Science Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries*, which is probably the most comprehensive collection of material on the history of science in North America. This catalogue is particularly useful since every title in "Landmarks of Science" appears in the catalogue and is clearly identified as such, and it can therefore be used as a key to the microprint collection.

Several reprint or facsimile editions of collected works have been purchased as they appeared. Examples of these are: Tycho Brahe, *Opera Omnia* (13 vols.); *Voyage de Humboldt et Bonpland* (33 vols.); Leonardo da Vinci, *Madrid Codices* (4 vols.); Isaac Newton, *Correspondence* (7 vols.); and Leonhard Euler, *Opera Omnia* (73 vols.) The Archives of the Royal Institution of Great Britain (1799-) is now being published and volumes are being acquired as they are issued.

The archival material can be consulted in the Special Collections room at CISTI as can "Landmarks of Science," for which a microfilm reader is provided. Many of the monographs can be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan, but journal articles are available only in photocopy form. All requests for borrowing material should be directed to the Interlibrary Loan Department and should come, if possible, through the library serving the requestor.

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## **Second Annual Symposium Agricultural History of Ontario, October 1977**

Sponsored by the Office of Continuing Studies, Guelph University, the Ontario Agricultural History Symposium is a hopeful sign that the neglected field of agricultural history is attracting more attention from the scholarly community. Both the improvement in the quality of the papers and the increase in the number of scholars at this second Symposium indicates that it has become a viable addition to the round of academic conferences. More than one hundred people heard six papers organized around the general theme of "settlement and settlements."

J.E. Hietala's "The Land Survey System" discussed changing methods of land surveying used by the early Crown Lands Department. Of particular value was his explanation of the reasons for government changes in land survey systems.

C.E.J. Whebell's "Effect of Transportation on the Countryside" was a concise, well-organized explanation of the adverse impact of improved transportation on hinterland marketing and manufacturing centres during the nineteenth century. Basing