

gests that to a large extent the National Map Collection's holdings at present may complement other collections rather than extensively duplicate them.<sup>1</sup>

The volume is handsomely produced, with about thirty-three illustrations including plates, key maps, title pages, legends, advertisements and a portrait of Charles Goad, the czar of fire insurance mapping in Canada. This is one of the most valuable map publications to be issued in the Public Archives of Canada's diffusion of archives programme; let us hope it is not the last.

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**The Shopping Guide of the West: Woodward's Catalogue, 1898-1953.** Introduction by ROBERT D. WATT. Vancouver: J.J. Douglas, 1977. xxviii, 160, 176 p. ill. ISBN 0 88894 159 5 \$9.95.

**The Autumn and Winter Catalogue. 1910-1911 of the Hudson's Bay Company.** Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer Publishing, © 1977. 255 p. ill. ISBN 0 920486 00 2 \$8.95.

It may seem unusual for an archival journal to draw attention to reprints of department store mail order catalogues, but these and other kinds of trade catalogues are an important category of material about which most archives are rather negligent. As Robert Watt notes in his excellent forward to the *The Shopping Guide of the West*, "mail order catalogues are ephemeral; an early throw-away item. Each issue repeated the message, 'This catalogue cancels all previous issues,' emphasizing obsolescence and virtually ensuring their destruction." Watt's introductory essay and the facsimile reproduction of Woodward's catalogues (Numbers 31, 1921, and 64, 1929) reveal the research potential of department store catalogues. It is a measure of the ephemeral nature of trade catalogues that when Woodward's, the Vancouver Centennial Museum, and a number of other agencies tried to gather a complete set they were unable to find any between Number 75, Fall and Winter 1934-35 and Number 102, Fall and Winter 1948-49.

The introduction to the facsimile of the *Autumn and Winter Catalogue, 1910-1911 of the Hudson's Bay Company* mentions the rarity of surviving Company catalogues. The HBC catalogue presents an even wider range of lines than Woodward's, but both books provide arresting cross-sections in time of the world presented to the consuming public. A most unusual feature of the HBC catalogue, and one that will be appreciated by historians having access to the originals, is that it even included swatches of material glued to some of the pages.

While the catalogues mentioned here have considerable research potential, they represent only a small part of the total area covered by trade catalogues. Any historian of engineering or archivist dealing with this area as well as with technology, agriculture, architecture and material history, will be acutely aware of the utility of trade catalogues and their paucity in archival collections. Sadly, as a rule, researchers have to be told that the information they seek would have been published in these catalogues, but

<sup>1</sup> Frances Woodward, *Fire Insurance Plans of British Columbia Municipalities: A Checklist* ([Vancouver, B.C.,] Special Collections Division, University of British Columbia Library, 1974).

that archives can be of little help to them. Frequently, catalogues provided the primary or even the only contact between potential customer and producer. These catalogues embodied the image and the promise of a product or industry, offering much more than quaint pictures and gadgets, although that is exactly what is often being sought by researchers. Singly the catalogues provide a snapshot not to be found elsewhere; as a sequential collection, they give an invaluable panorama of change. While archivists cannot save everything, here is an area in which virtually nothing is being salvaged at all. Both our archives and our history will be the richer if this pattern of neglect is changed.

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**How to Find Your Family Roots.** TIMOTHY FIELD BEARD with DENISE DEMONG. Toronto: McGraw-Hill, © 1977. xv, 1007 p. ill. ISBN 0 07 004210 1 \$29.95.

**In Search of Your Roots: A Guide for Canadians Seeking Their Ancestors.** ANGUS BAXTER. Toronto: Macmillan, © 1978. 293 p. ISBN 0 7705 1577 0 \$14.95.

**Trace Your Family Tree: A Do-It-Yourself Workbook for Canadians.** GRAHAM and SHIRLEY EDIS. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, © 1977. 23, (158) p. of forms. ISBN 0 07 082624 \$5.95.

Timothy Beard's *How to Find your Family Roots* probably brings genealogy in North America near its apogee. A hymn to genealogical devotees and its aspiring disciples, the book is literally what it claims to be: "the most comprehensive guide to tracing your ancestors throughout the world." Beard, a life-long professional genealogist and librarian with the New York Public Library, has put together, for Americans at least, a full and authoritative enticement to bark up the family tree. Over a thousand pages are crammed with facts, glossaries, lists, bibliographies (many published abroad) and indexes. Beard also includes quite acceptable reproductions of sample documents and three-dimensional source records and provides capsule historical introductions to each country. Withal, he manages to preserve a most readable text. This indefatigable work offers both an appetizer and entrée to the detective delights of genealogy. Canada rates fifteen pages of information, substantially correct, if rather thinner than expected.

Another veteran genealogist, Angus Baxter of Lakefield, Ontario, provides a less exhaustive work, though perhaps a more comfortable one. *In Search of Your Roots* does for Canadians what Beard has achieved for his countrymen, but will not be as appealing to archivists as a reference volume. Baxter is far less ambitious and inclined to be misleading in some of his entries. For example, all Surrogate Court estate files prior to 1923 are not at the Archives of Ontario by any means but ironically, as a result of current retention period revisions, they will soon be available there at least to 1938. He also overlooks that most useful tool, the Surrogate Clerk of Ontario's province-wide index to probate applications from 1859 to 1967, now available at the Archives on microfilm to 1923 and in hardcopy thereafter. Nevertheless, he lovingly helps the novice over most of the hurdles and entertains along the way with amusing anecdotes.

Much more austere and remarkably unhelpful is a very unattractive, self-proclaimed "do-it-yourself workbook for Canadians" compiled by two British Columbian