

ganized in the same fashion, is an 111-page inventory of the architectural collections of Jos. Pierre Ouellet, E. Georges Rousseau, Gérard Venne and the modest *fonds* of the Parish of Saint-Sauveur.

Each project has been assigned an inventory number. The entry for each project consists of the Laval Archives' reference designation of *fonds*, file and dossier number. A brief portion which follows includes the name of the project, that of the owner or client, the project location, date, name of the architect, a technical description of the contents of the plans, their support media and a summary of supporting documentation such as photographs, notebooks and correspondence.

In short, this concise inventory permits its readers to appreciate the richness of these architectural collections. Raoul Chênevert worked primarily in the Quebec City area, associating at various times with other architects whose drawings are now found in the *fonds* Chênevert. The collection numbers more than 1200 originals and spans the years 1860 to 1965. The four small collections listed in the second part of the volume are twentieth-century architectural records. They are of particular interest in that they contain drawings, photographs and other documents relating to churches and other buildings of religious communities.

What archives are often hard-pressed to accomplish, a research team has. This volume is a fine and practical publication which is an asset not only to the Archives de l'université Laval but to all scholars of Quebec's architectural history. That users will undertake such a task is clear evidence of the increasing researcher demand for architectural archives.

Dorothy Ahlgren
National Architectural Archives
Public Archives of Canada

Buildings for Canadians. A History of the Department of Public Works, 1840-1960. DOUGLAS OWRAM. Ottawa: Public Works Canada, 1979. 381 p., ill.

The Archives Branch of the Public Archives of Canada is at present analysing the lack of planning in its own publishing programme, so it is interesting to note that other government agencies embark on publishing programmes without determining adequately what their goals should be. Douglas Ooram was hired in 1971 by the Department of Public Works to prepare background information for a departmental history. Several additional contracts followed until 1973, when Ooram finished the research and prepared the manuscript. Very smooth sailing thus far for the Department, but how was it to publish this fine manuscript? The Department of Supply and Services would not touch it because projected costs were too high. Neither would any co-publishing firms, because they felt there was no viable market, especially for a version in French. After years of dithering, the Department decided to publish internally in the most economical fashion — more specifically without an index. In 1979, 1500 copies were printed in English and French hard and soft cover versions. Distribution has been very limited, to retiring departmental employees or at the discretion of the Minister or Deputy Minister. The only copies distributed outside the Department have been to the National Library, Library of Parliament and the Public Archives Library.

Ooram's research for *Building For Canadians* was impeccable. The Public Archives of Canada holdings of Public Works records were combed, although at the time of this research the Department of Public Works still retained the bulk of their records post-dating 1910. The results of this research produced a departmental history that is far from dry and stuffy, for when Ooram writes of departmental officials like Killally, Langevin or Hunter he imparts an understanding of their characters and eccentricities.

When he writes of programmes or projects, he does so succinctly, getting right to the heart of the issue or controversy. With such major projects as the construction of the St. Lawrence Canals and the Intercolonial Railway, the administration of the removal of the seat of government from various cities prior to the selection of Ottawa as capital, the construction and reconstruction of the Parliament Buildings, or the removal of Ripple Rock, the reader is left with an understanding of the issues but, at the same time, with a desire to know more. Owram only deviates from his succinct style when he weaves into *Building For Canadians* a minor thesis on the role of the Department of Public Works in nation building in the period prior to confederation and dilates on the role of the Public Service generally, as it evolved an era of political control over departmental administration and a system of patronage.

Owram logically chose to close *Building For Canadians* in 1960, when there was a major shift in the priorities and goals of the Department of Public Works. The Department began to turn itself into an agency of real property management, as a result of the Glassco Commission recommendation. Public Works is now looking at the possibility of updating *Building For Canadians* to the end of the seventies. May it find as able a researcher and interpreter of events as Douglas Owram and may it do credit to the author by making it accessible.

Brian Hallett
National Map Collection
Public Archives of Canada

Photodiscovery. Masterworks of Photography 1840-1940. BRUCE BERNARD, with notes on the photographic processes by VALERIE LLOYD. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1980. 262 p. illus. ISBN 0-8109-1453-0. \$44.00.

Of the making of many books there is no end, wrote the author of Ecclesiastes several millenia ago. What was true for his time is no less true today of photographic books. My shelves creak and bow under the weight of volumes on photography which do little more than reproduce poorly the same old 'masters', or strive to present the work of an unjustly ignored genius with little more than a cursory introduction based on flimsy research.

Photodiscovery, though it is a book of pictures, is not one of those lamentable efforts. It is one of those rare books that shares the delight and excitement of discovery that has brought great pleasure to its author.

Bruce Bernard had a long association with photography as a newspaper photo editor, but he was familiar only with modern prints in their original form. Earlier work he knew only through book reproduction. This book began when he prepared a series of articles on the history of photography for the *Sunday Times* magazine. Looking at original photographs of a century and more ago he soon realized that published reproductions failed completely to convey the beauty and extraordinary range of colour he found.

Fortunately he began his search through the holdings of institutions and private collectors at a time when the explosion of interest in the history and art of photography had burst the early bounds established by the standard texts. He aimed "to demonstrate . . . the new historical and artistic perspective" opened up by this growth. He travelled widely, looked exhaustively and drew intelligently from sources which have often been ignored. As a result there are few familiar photographs here even though many of the photographers are well known. Surprises abound and interest is constantly renewed by Bernard's excellent selection and juxtaposition of images. The choice of photographs is highly personal yet illustrates the wide variety of uses to which the camera was put early in its development: art, medicine, science, record-keeping, souvenirs, reportage, erotic stimulus and symbolism to name just a few which the reader will find in these pages.