

tion in the PAC, Ms. Dunn notes the register of attendance, the general meetings minutes book, the executive council minutes, the membership files (1926-28), and a variety of miscellaneous material. (p. 4) She neglects to mention that scattered records pertaining to specific sections within the national medical organization, including groups like the military medicine and public health advocates, exist in the PAC collection, and does not note that the membership lists only include individuals whose surnames begin with the letters A-L. In contrast, her coverage of RG 10, the Ontario Ministry of Health holdings in the Archives of Ontario, is extremely thorough, perhaps because the collection has been completely catalogued, whereas the CMA material was still being processed when she undertook her survey. Thus, although Ms. Dunn provides a brief description of the major features of the material she has unearthed, at no point does she indicate clearly what criteria have been used to determine whether a detailed or minimal assessment of a particular collection is appropriate.

Also disturbing is the lack of an index. In the section on hospitals, for example, the reader must examine all the data relating to Toronto's hospitals before coming to the realization that the Riverdale Hospital has not been included among the institutions listed in this section but has been included in another section. A limited number of cross-references indicate an attempt to overcome this difficulty but the next edition of the *Directory* would certainly benefit from the inclusion of an index.

As Dr. G.R. Paterson, the Director of the Hannah Institute, notes in his "Preface" (p. vii-viii), the *Directory* has a twofold purpose: to provide researchers with source material and to encourage archivists to develop records retention policies for existing institutions. Both of these goals are highly laudable. But can they be successfully incorporated into a single monograph? Historians, political scientists, sociologists, and other scholars who will make use of this book may well have hoped for more detailed coverage of fewer sources, whereas archivists undoubtedly would have welcomed a more detailed discussion of a standardized approach to choosing and preserving records, manuscripts, and artifacts. Clearly, the *Directory* represents an extremely ambitious attempt to cover a new field as thoroughly as possible. It is a valuable pioneering effort that demonstrates the range of materials available to researchers as well as the challenges and pitfalls of medical history.

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Guide des sources historiques des francophones aux archives de la Saskatchewan. Les Archives de la Saskatchewan Reference Series No. 1. Regina and Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1983. 56 p. ISBN 0-9691445-1-2 \$6.00.

Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan. D'ARCY HANDE. Saskatchewan Archives Reference Series No. 2. Regina and Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1983. 24 p. ISBN 0-9691445-0-4 \$3.00.

Media attention during the Saskatchewan celebration of "Archives Week" (19-25 February 1984) focused on the official opening of the new Regina office

of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. The launching of a new series of reference publications was less spectacular. Yet it is through finding aids such as these that the general public is provided with access to the variety of documentation housed in the new facility.

Like most archival repositories, the Saskatchewan Archives has sporadically issued publications of varying formats and intents. The purpose of the new series, as detailed in an accompanying letter, is "to provide authoritative reference information on aspects of provincial history, or on the holdings and services of the Saskatchewan Archives Board" and "to assist researchers at all levels of expertise, from the amateur to the professional, in making effective and knowledgeable use of the extensive collections preserved in the Saskatchewan Archives."

The first two publications in the series successfully fulfil the twofold purpose. The *Guide des sources historiques des francophones* describes the holdings of the Archives in one area of specialization in a manner which will be helpful to the scholar as well as the local historian or genealogist. *Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan*, as its title implies, is aimed directly at the genealogist and does not restrict itself to describing archival holdings. In an effort to attract new researchers, complimentary copies were distributed to all regional, public, and university libraries, and all secondary schools, archives, and major museums in Saskatchewan.

The *Guide* is an ambitious attempt to present relevant information on a wide variety of collections in the Saskatchewan Archives which document the history of the French-speaking community in Saskatchewan. The majority of the collections described were gathered in 1980 during a major acquisition project undertaken jointly by the Archives and *La Société historique de la Saskatchewan* with financial assistance from the Secretary of State. Provincial archives, excluded from many sources of federal funds, should note that the publication of the guide was underwritten by a grant under the federal-provincial Bilingualism in Education Program.

The book is divided into ten sections. Those describing collections from associations and organizations, parishes and dioceses, individuals, and a miscellaneous grouping, follow a common format. An explanation of the various elements of description is included in the introduction. For the sections on local history, newspaper clippings, newspapers, audio and visual recordings, and photographs, this format has been adapted to some degree. The category "General Collections" departs entirely from the format and gives a broad description of the contents of various government departments with no details such as date or extent. The guide is most successful when it follows the chosen format and provides catalogue number, title, historical resumé, and a description of the contents.

The index, so important in a sectional guide, is not entirely successful. Being nominal only, it is difficult for the academic researcher to trace subjects or themes. A researcher interested in francophone journalists would have to know that Donatien Frémont and Marie-Anne Duperreault (even her pseudonym Perrette was not indexed) were journalists. There should also have been some

indication as to which page numbers refer to a passing reference in the body of a description, which refer to a collection, and which to the one collection entry containing an historical note on the person, parish, or association. This is especially important since collections bearing the same title are scattered throughout the text; the five page references to Louis Riel contain descriptions of ten separate collections bearing his name, and only in the first, in an entry which is not obviously different from the simple descriptions of collections, is there a biographical note. For less well known individuals, the significance of the collection is difficult to judge in the absence of these historical notes.

There is some evidence of inconsistency in the naming of collections. A guide published by the *Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française* bears the title of the institution, as does a copy of one of its photograph collections. Yet a microfilm copy of one of its manuscript collections (Adrien-Gabriel Morice) contains no reference to its source — a fairly general problem with citation of microfilm material in this guide. The importance of the photograph collection is lost by entering it under the institution's name without describing its creator, the *agronome* Georges Michaud who travelled to all the francophone communities in Saskatchewan between 1925 and 1927. However, every archives is plagued by anomalies such as these, and the exercise of producing a guide provides an excellent opportunity to discover and correct them.

Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan is a general guide for the genealogist which describes the holdings of the Archives as only one of many sources of information. The contents are similar to the contents of other guides of this kind including those produced by the Public Archives of Canada, the City of Ottawa Archives, and the Manitoba Genealogical Society. The list of addresses for research outside Saskatchewan is particularly helpful. Perhaps I am revealing my own bias in suggesting that the Hudson's Bay Company Archives deserves a separate listing. Still, since so many descendants of early Company employees could trace their ancestors' careers and parishes of origin in these voluminous records, it is perhaps worth signalling their presence at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board will publish two more titles in this series: No. 3 *Historical Directory of Saskatchewan* (a revised edition of a 1980 publication) and No. 4 *Historical Directory of Saskatchewan Newspapers, 1878-1983*, compiled by Christine MacDonald. Publications such as these add new solutions to the archival conundrum — how to make archives accessible.

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Hudson's Bay Company Archives
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Boss Whistle: The Coal Miners of Vancouver Island Remember. LYNNE BOWEN. Lantzville, British Columbia: Oolichan Books, 1982, xx, 280 p. ISBN 0-88982-041-4 \$12.95 pa.

Boss Whistle reveals both the strengths and weaknesses of oral history. The book deals with the history of coal miners on Vancouver Island and its title