

généralement peu d'information sauf la corroboration au moyen de données statistiques sur l'existence des communautés francophones hors Québec.

La catégorie des noms de personnes présente aussi des problèmes de critères de sélection. Rien de plus étonnant que de constater que le *Dictionnaire* offre une biographie d'« Evangéline », personnage célèbre mais légendaire, sortie de la plume du poète américain Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, alors que l'auteur lui-même ne se mérite pas une entrée. Suivant cette logique, nous avons cherché une entrée consacrée à la « Sagouine », héroïne romanesque du vingtième siècle; celle-ci ne se mérite pourtant pas une entrée, sauf dans la biographie d'Antonine Maillet, l'auteure acadienne des récits de cette femme de l'Acadie moderne.

Le *Dictionnaire de l'Amérique française*, comme tout autre ouvrage de référence de son genre, comporte bien souvent des discordances méthodologiques et des omissions. Il est à souhaiter que ces inconsistances seront corrigées lors de sa réédition. L'équipe de direction a tout de même réussi un travail remarquable de compilation sur des sujets aussi séparés l'un de l'autre que le « Richelieu International, » club social et parrain des oeuvres de bienfaisance et le « Zydéco », musique des Noirs de culture cajun de la Louisiane. Le *Dictionnaire* offre aux chercheurs intéressés aux diasporas francophones en Amérique du Nord un outil de référence valable.

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British Archives: A Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom. JANET FOSTER and JULIA SHEPPARD, eds. Second edition. New York: Stockton Press, 1989. lviii, 834 p. ISBN 0-935859-74-8 \$130.00.

Directory of Irish Archives. SEAMUS HELFERTY and RAYMOND REFAUSSE, eds. Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1988. 112 p. ISBN 0-7165-2433-3 ISBN 0-7165-2432-5 (pbk).

Guides to Sources for British History. Volume 4: Private Papers of British Diplomats, 1782-1900. THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS. London: HMSO, 1985. 80 p. ISBN 0-11-440188-8 \$10.95.

Guides to Sources for British History. Volume 5: Private Papers of British Colonial Governors, 1782-1900. THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS. London: HMSO, 1985. 66 p. ISBN 0-11-4406206-X \$10.95.

Guides to Sources for British History. Volume 6: Papers of British Churchmen, 1780-1900. THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS. London: HMSO, 1987. 96 p. ISBN 0-11-440212-4 \$14.50.

Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland are vast treasure houses of archives; Canadians need not be reminded of their relevance to our national history. At times, however, the treasure houses have seemed almost overwhelming: public record offices, national libraries, local authority record offices, regional and local libraries, and a plethora of specialist institutions, not to mention business, church, military, and estate and family archives, form a vast and complex network. Despite the best efforts at coordination by the National Register of Archives, the National Register

of Archives for Scotland, the National Libraries of Wales and Ireland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and such bodies as the Business Archives Council, researchers, especially foreign researchers who wish to map out a search strategy before expending large amounts on travel, find themselves at a loss. The 1980s, fortunately, have seen substantial progress in the provision of printed guides to access through the maze.

The most significant single publication to appear has been the first general reference work describing archives in Britain. Foster and Sheppard's *British Archives* first appeared in 1982, was reprinted in the same year, and appeared in paperback in 1984. The volume under review is its second edition and a third is proposed. The guide's publishing history bears witness to its utility.

Entries are alphabetical by town for archival repositories or bodies holding archives. The standard information comprises: name of repository and parent organization (if applicable), full address, telephone number, title and name of individual to whom enquiries should be addressed (particularly useful for institutions without a full-time archivist), opening hours, restrictions on access, historical background (administrative history), acquisitions policy, archives of organization (i.e., the organization's own records), major collections, significant non-manuscript material, unpublished finding aids, facilities (provision of photocopying, microfilming, microfilm/fiche readers, etc.), and publications.

The information is gratifyingly complete and virtually all general information a researcher could expect to find on a repository is provided. There are, of course, limitations. Listings for major collections, archives of organizations, and non-manuscript material are necessarily brief and a researcher working on Canada, for instance, would find little of immediate relevance. The phrases "usual local authority holdings" and "deposited local collections" are often used to describe local records. The guide can provide little direct help in detailing the contents of large national repositories. On the other hand, descriptions of the holdings of specialist institutions can often aid a researcher in determining whether those institutions are of general relevance to a topic, and an indication of the limitations of the holdings of many smaller archives helps determine whether it is likely that they should be approached. The guide does provide bibliographical information on publications of repositories not easily available to a researcher overseas and on National Register of Archives and National Register of Archives for Scotland numbers which does allow initial searching of lists in London or Edinburgh — still the best starting points once researchers reach Britain.

The data for the guide were gathered by a mailed survey, supplemented by the research of the compilers. Repositories included in the first edition were asked to update their entries. The guide does not attempt to cover businesses holding their own archives, most privately held estate and family archives, or many of Britain's 2500 museums. Local history, archaeological, literary, and philosophical societies have not been systematically included. This still leaves ample scope for this edition's 1048 entries covering England, Scotland and Wales — an increase of 50 per cent over the previous edition.

The second edition is graced with nine lists, appendices, and indexes: an alphabetical listing by name of institution; an alphabetical listing by county; a list of useful

addresses; a list of useful publications; a list of institutions whose archives have been placed elsewhere (invaluable at a time when much material is being transferred); lists of institutions without archives and institutions from which information could not be obtained; an index to listed collections; and a key subject index. They greatly enhance its usefulness.

The volume itself is sturdy, attractively produced, and free of significant typographical error. It is often difficult for a reviewer to assess the accuracy of the contents of a guide which has just appeared. This reviewer, however, ate, slept, and travelled with the first edition of the guide while compiling a survey of documentation relating to Canada in Britain, and can vouch both for its accuracy and its general comprehensiveness. It was a godsend for our survey work. When one adds that both editions have been compiled by two working archivists without funding, the guide stands as a remarkable achievement. It should be on the shelves of every repository and library whose users and staff have reason to be interested in British archival resources.

The *Directory of Irish Archives* can be seen as a companion volume to *British Archives*. Although the development and influence of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland alleviates the situation in the North somewhat, publicly funded archives in Ireland are underdeveloped. There is no system of county or regional archives in either the North or the South and no fully fledged national repositories in the South. A multiplicity of organizations and institutions still manage their own archives or, to a limited extent, provide a home for other collections. Even locating repositories in the past, let alone identifying their contents, has been a major challenge.

The directory has been composed by a committee of the Irish Region of the Society of Archivists. In content and layout, its entries parallel *British Archives*, although they are less extensive. The directory does not include the following categories found in the guide: access, facilities, historical background, acquisition policy, finding aids, and non-manuscript material. The directory, very much like *British Archives*, excludes the records of business organizations and trade unions, and family archives. Both publications treat Northern Ireland. Outside of Belfast, the directory's entries are more extensive if less complete. The directory generally gives more information on collection content. Researchers whose interests relate to Canada will find more leads to promising institutions than references to specific Canadian topics. The directory contains a brief subject index, a county index, and an appendix of institutions not included because little or no information on their holdings was available.

The most comprehensive guide to archives in England and Wales is the National Register of Archives (NRA) whose 30,000 reports and 225,000 index entries are maintained by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (RCHM) in London. The RCHM has long been aware that its centralization makes consultation from any distance difficult and expensive, while its indexes, although presently acquiring increased sophistication through automation, largely provide specific rather than general information. It was also perceived that the majority of the NRA's indexing related to political topics. To help offset these biases, the RCHM launched a series of subject guides, *Guides to Sources for British History*. Three volumes have previously appeared, all published in 1982: *Papers of British Cabinet Ministers, 1782-1900*; *The Manuscript Papers of British Scientists, 1600-1940*; and *Guide to the Location*

of *Collections Described in the Reports and Calendars Series, 1870-1980*. The latter is a guide to the 236 volumes of reports and calendars published by the RCHM since 1869, describing 624 privately owned collections.

Of the three volumes presently under review, *Private Papers of British Colonial Governors, 1782-1900* is likely to be of greatest interest to Canadians. The survey covers both those colonies administered by the Colonial Office and those originally established by companies for which the British government later assumed responsibility. Some 1,200 individuals were identified for consideration, of whom 353 were found to have left relevant papers. By my count, 117 of these were associated with British North America. Lieutenant governors of individual provinces after each province joined Confederation have been excluded. The guide gives coverage not only to British repositories, but to institutions abroad. Of the 711 groups of papers listed in this volume, 292 are in eighty institutions overseas, including seventeen in Canada. Researchers should note that, since the guide covers only private holdings, records at the Public Record Office are excluded. Its manuscript collections are included.

Entries in all three RCHM guides are nominal. They give birth and death dates, titles and offices with dates, and a brief summary of types of papers (correspondence, journals, diaries, and working papers), as well as extent of papers, provenance, location, call number, and NRA number or equivalent. The archival resources of the RCHM combined with the further research of its staff make the guide authoritative.

Private Papers of British Diplomats, 1782-1900 includes coverage for boundary commissioners and consuls and agents as well as ambassadors, plenipotentiaries, and the like. The diverse papers of diplomats better known in other capacities, such as colonial governors, explorers, or men of letters, have also been included. The archives of the Foreign Office have been excluded. The holdings of five Canadian institutions are listed.

Papers of British Churchmen, 1780-1940 covers all denominations and includes a few laymen whose papers are of particular significance to religious affairs. It excludes, however, colonial churchmen and missionaries except where their papers shed substantial light on British domestic affairs. Several of those included did receive significant amounts of correspondence from "North America" or Canada. Three Canadian repositories had papers of relevance. Official papers relating to the formal administration of churches were not included unless official and personal papers were intermingled.

All the volumes reviewed, then, add to our knowledge of British or Irish archival holdings. All are potentially of use to Canadian archivists and scholars. They represent a laudable effort by British and Irish archivists to make their material more accessible.

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The Wind Bloweth Where It Listeth: A History of Almonte United Church and Its Roots, 1821-1981. WINSTON A. MacINTOSH. Almonte, Ontario: Almonte United Church, 1989. xv, 493 p. ISBN 0-9693600-0-2 \$25.00.

Win MacIntosh retired from the Directorate of History at National Defence Headquarters approximately five years ago following a career in the Canadian