

introductory section, "Research in the National Archives of Canada," in which researchers are advised to write or call in advance (but no phone number is supplied!) to enquire about any restrictions placed on particular records. This blanket statement is better than nothing, but it might have been more helpful to include specific information about access to each collection as part of the descriptive entries.

Overall, however, this is a fine guide which not only provides researchers with the "big picture" of the National Archives' holdings of literary papers, but also complements the guides now being produced by other institutions across the country.

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Guide to the Canadian Manuscript Collections in Victoria University Library.
DEBRA BARR, Project Archivist. Toronto: Victoria University Library, 1988. iii, 388 p.

This guide, prepared with the assistance of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, represents twenty-four Canadian manuscript collections held by the Victoria University Library (comprising some twenty-seven metres in linear extent and including noteworthy collections such as the Northrop Frye papers). The Guide contains essentially two descriptions for each collection. There is a relatively brief "guide" description, "compiled in accordance with Steven Hensen's revisions of Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules" (*Archives, personal papers and manuscripts: a cataloguing manual for archival repositories, historical societies, and manuscript libraries*). This is followed by a more detailed and standardized inventory description which includes a biographical sketch, series descriptions, and the like. In some cases, items of particular interest or import (correspondence with prominent individuals, for example) are highlighted. While this approach has the advantage of providing more detailed information on some valuable items within collections, it can create the impression that these lists of selected items are, in fact, exhaustive. Researchers, however, undoubtedly will be grateful for these previews. The 107-page index, providing references to particular individuals and subjects featured in the guide descriptions, will make use even easier and further enhances the publication.

With 388 pages in which to discuss only twenty-four collections, the guide obviously contains a good deal of information, and will provide those planning to use the library with an excellent first introduction to its Canadian manuscript collections. Given the size of the institution and the quantity of collections dealt with, the guide furnishes what is probably an ideal amount of detail in a suitable format and should enable potential users of the library's collections to easily identify pertinent material.

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