

Obituary



Photograph courtesy Vander Poel, Montreal

John Andreassen, 1909-1991

John Andreassen, McGill University Archivist from 1968 to 1977, died 10 July 1991 in Nova Scotia at the age of 81.

His distinguished archival career began as Director of the Historical Records Survey of Louisiana, 1937-41. After serving as a displaced persons specialist for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency in England, Sweden, and Austria, 1944-46, he was Director of Administration at the Library of Congress, 1946-52; and later held several administrative posts in the Louisiana State Archives.

Coming to Montreal in 1962, he served as System Archivist for Canadian National Railways and was instrumental in the transfer of CN's historical records to the National Archives of Canada. Active as a records management consultant, he was a partner in the

Records Management Company of Canada. In 1968 he became McGill University Archivist and continued the work of the first University Archivist, Alan Ridge, in assembling the University's administrative records and in teaching a course on archives in the Graduate School of Library Science.

Greatly involved in preserving the records of research value of McGill's community, he actively acquired records of staff members, as well as the historical records of related institutions such as the Montreal General and the Royal Victoria Hospitals. He was a founding member of both the Association of Canadian Archivists, and of the Society of American Archivists, and an active member of various records management and historical associations in Canada and the United States. In the institutions in which he worked, he was concerned with both the needs of administrators and researchers, striving to acquire as comprehensive a record of activities as feasible. In his personal life, his enthusiasm for preserving the heritage of the past found expression in a historical house in St-Eustache near Montreal, which he and his wife Allison restored. A member of a pioneering generation of archivists, he will be missed by his friends and colleagues.

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