

Section Coeditors' Note: With this introduction to *Archivaria* and abstract of Christopher L. Hives's article from the Summer 1986 issue, International Scene begins a series featuring archival journals published abroad, in an effort to introduce United States archivists to the lively and comprehensive world of international archival literature. The coeditors welcome submissions for this series from SAA members and foreign archivists. The submissions should include information about the journal and its sponsoring organization, such as Terry Thompson has provided for *Archivaria*. An abstract of one article or a review of the journal as a whole should be included.

***Archivaria*: A Brief Introduction to the Journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists**

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Archivaria was first published in winter 1975/76 under the editorship of Peter Bower. The current editor is Bruce Wilson. It appears semiannually in April and August. Financial sponsors include the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Archivaria is devoted to the scholarly investigation of archives in Canada and internationally. Articles and other submissions that explore the history, nature, and theory of archival activity and the use of archives are welcome. The journal aims to bridge communication between archivists and the users of archives. Previous issues have included a breadth of subjects relating to archives: various media and their evolution and characteristics; theoretical problems; practical solutions; new fields of history and the kinds of supporting documentation being explored by users; technological developments; legal and ethical concerns; the history of archives, individual archivists, and archival trends; the analysis of records keeping over time and space; the relationship of archivists with other professions.

Archivaria may be obtained directly by subscription or automatically through any category of membership in the Association

of Canadian Archivists (ACA). The latter has the added advantage of including six issues annually of the ACA Bulletin, special publications, and participating rights in the national association for Canadian archivists. Subscription rates within Canada are \$30.00 for individuals, \$40.00 for institutions. Outside of Canada, in Canadian dollars, subscription rates are \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for institutions. Categories of ACA membership include professional, \$55.00; general, \$35.00; student, \$25.00; and sustaining, \$80.00+. Institutional memberships are available. Subscriptions to *Archivaria* may be obtained from the Association of Canadian Archivists, P. O. Box 2596, Station D, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5W6.

The following abstract of Christopher L. Hives's "History, Business Records and Corporate Archives in North America," which appeared in *Archivaria* 22 (Summer 1986): 40-57, was prepared by Terry Thompson.

In the almost fifty years since Oliver Wendell Holmes urged readers of the fourth issue of the *American Archivist* to develop business archives, the potential of archival

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programs in the corporate sector remains largely unrealized. Hives's paper examines the close association between early efforts to preserve business records and the rise of business history, and it considers the current situation in light of the historical evolution of business archives.

In the early part of this century, historians left their mark on the development of business archives. Despite the influential work of the "muckrakers," one of the major factors hindering the development of objective business history, in addition to the obvious bias of the early commentators, was the absence of adequate documentation. The idea of collecting business manuscripts for research began on a very limited basis at Harvard University. In 1916, with the encouragement of the Harvard Business School, the Harvard Library acquired the business records of textile industrialist Samuel Slater (d. 1835). The Business Historical Society was founded in 1925 and sought to facilitate the historical study of business around the world and to publish the subsequent research for the use of the contemporary business community. In 1927 the Baker Library was constructed to house the Harvard Business School's research collections and also to serve as the official repository for the material collected by the Business Historical Society.

By the 1930s the idea of a single repository for business archives had proved impracticable. Two new approaches to business archives were tried. Ralph M. Hower published a pamphlet, "The Preservation of Business," which emphasized the potential ideological value of archives as "arsenals of history" for business. The hope was that companies would establish and maintain their own archives. In addition to promoting the distribution of the pamphlet to companies, Oliver W. Holmes urged the establishment of cooperative central repositories organized by industry and geographical location.

In the 1940s Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., established an archival program for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, the immediate purpose of which was to preserve wartime production records. Academics like Shepard B. Clough of Columbia University and Thomas C. Cochran of New York University concentrated on raising awareness through the New York Committee on Business Records, and the two universities established a special joint internship in business archives training. Given the extent of the problem, however, American business historians did not make major inroads, and the number of programs remained small.

Another approach focusing on the creation of corporate archives to promote administrative efficiency had been advocated by Margaret Cross Norton as early as 1929. In the 1940s a number of committees united to form the National Records Management Council, which published "Operation Time Capsule: A Technique to Preserve the Memory of Business." Corporations were receptive, and the council was reorganized in the 1950s as a commercial venture called Noremco, a change which further separated business historians from corporate records managers.

Through the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the creation of corporate archives programs has been sporadic and cyclical, although by 1980, the SAA's business archives directory listed over two hundred business archives and sixty corporate archivists.

In Canada there has been a much lower level of interest on the part of academic historians in business history and, consequently, in the development of corporate archives. Evidence of this difference is seen in the results of a 1982 Canadian Historical Association survey which reported that only 11 percent of respondents had used business archives.

If establishing corporate archives in North America has been difficult, the develop-

ment of business archives programs is also problematic. Australian archivist R. W. Ferrier has urged business archivists to participate more in the ongoing operations of their sponsoring agencies. This requires the archivist to consider ways in which resources might be made more relevant to company operations. Successful business archivists need to adopt a broader notion of the potential applications for their archival programs. The business archivist should think in terms of marketing strategies, and needs to develop and maintain links with a variety of departments throughout the organization. Failure to be sufficiently responsive in an ever-changing environment might prove fatal to an inflexible archival program. The business archivist can be particularly helpful to public

relations personnel, going beyond merely providing documentation, and becoming an active participant in its utilization. Archivists who are aware of the development of corporate structures can also play an important role in employee orientation. Finally, an active business archivist can find ways of using historical resources in corporate publications.

The active business archivist cannot neglect professional practice and procedure. Both for current programming and to ensure the preservation of those permanently valuable corporate records necessary to write an objective history of the firm in the future, business archives must be systematically collected, thoughtfully arranged, and carefully indexed to ensure maximum access.