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ARCHIVAL AND LIBRARY SOURCES:

Systematic Means of Locating Materials throughout the World
and Untapped Sources - What do we do about them

with special reference to searches for sources of Canadian interest.

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Acquisition of manuscripts and records is one of the most important functions of an archival repository. It is immensely challenging, often frustrating, but ultimately rewarding. By expanding its holdings an institution offers better service to researchers, and adds to its stature as a reputable research centre. There is no archival repository on the face of the earth that would willingly turn down an accession of records relating to its sphere of interest. Most of the institutions actively search out and acquire documents, which are gathered painstakingly, laboriously and patiently. The really outstanding archives however conduct their searches and acquisition programmes systematically.

I am with the Public Archives of Canada, which ranks among the top dozen archival institutions in the world. Our holdings now exceed 60,000 feet of shelf space, which translated to pages would number more than 100,000,000. We also have 25,000 reels of microfilm, of which 11,000 are original negatives. In addition, as official repository of the Government of Canada, the Public Archives has custody of more than 100 miles of shelf space of departmental records. I said *in addition*, because the Public Archives has a dual function; it preserves the records of the Canadian Government, very much like the National Archives of Washington, the Public Record Office in London, and the Archives Nationales in Paris. At the same time it collects private papers of individuals, records of institutions and business corporations in the same fashion as does the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, the British Museum, or the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. I am explaining this dual function of my institution as it has important bearing on the subject of this paper. And since I do propose to partially draw on my knowledge and experience with the Public Archives, the unique character of the institution is highly relevant to this topic.

It was a sign of professionalism when archival institutions began to recognize that systematic searches were a cornerstone of a successful acquisition programme. I am somewhat at a disadvantage to speak about this trend outside of my own institution. I do know however that archives in my own country are presently devising programmes to avail themselves of the benefits of methodical searches. Indeed the systematization of searches has become more and more evident all over the world, particularly during the last decade when graduate programmes

at the various universities were expanded. The number of newly-formed archival institutions, very often extensions of university libraries, increased in proportion. This resulted in fierce competition for sources, and prices for manuscripts skyrocketed. This trend is particularly pronounced in the field of rare books, and auctions I recently attended confirm it beyond doubt.

There is basically nothing new about systematic searches for manuscripts and records. Such searches date back to the days when archival sources were under the tutelage of libraries or museums. Indeed, they were conducted from the days the historians began to look for evidence to support their theses. However, before I become too deeply involved in the question of systematic searches, I ought to say that I propose to focus the attention on searches for written *historical evidence* (manuscripts and records), rather than specific types of records, such as genealogical sources. Very few archival institutions make clear a distinction between genealogical and non-genealogical records. Moreover, a precise delimitation of genealogical records, as opposed to general historical material, is very difficult. Very few archives have definite policies in this respect; it is simply more convenient to gather records indiscriminately. In the course of compilation of the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories*, which is a national catalogue of archival holdings in Canada, I was impressed with the fact that genealogical materials were found in the possession of institutions that were not created for that purpose. Subsequent examination of the *National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections*, which is your counterpart of our *Union List*, shows that a similar situation exists in this country. Most archival institutions, as we know them today, collect records and manuscripts whenever and wherever available. This aspect must be stressed with some emphasis as it will be a factor when planning systematic searches.

Now I have mentioned the words "systematic searches" several times. Perhaps this will be a good time to take a closer look at this term. What do we mean when we speak of systematic searches? Are we talking about a plan that is orderly, thorough, coherent and premeditated? Or are we talking about a methodical execution of such a plan, or both? Can one indeed apply a scientific method to a basically humanistic discipline such as history? Moreover, do we actually have evidence that systematic searches have been conducted in the past with any degree of success? When the Benjamin Franklin Papers were found in a tailor's shop in Paris, were other tailor shops examined as part of the search? And before the tailor shops, what other logical places were searched for these papers, unsuccessfully? I am reasonably certain, even without knowing the facts, that searches for the Franklin papers were made in all sorts of logical places. It is basic common sense to look for materials in places where they are normally or customarily located. If you were born in England, and you are looking for your birth certificate, the customary place to find it is the Somerset House in London. Failing that, you ought to write to the church where you were baptized. Several years ago we obtained the birth certificate of Brig. General James Wolfe, the hero of the Plains of Abraham. The certificate showing that Wolfe was born in 1727 was obtained directly from the rector of the church in Westerham where Wolfe was baptized. I am suggesting to you that there is nothing systematic about searches for sources which are located in places where they ought to be. If such searches pre-suppose a formal programme of methodical examination of institutions, government agencies, or other archival repositories for sources, which, because of their nature are expected

to be located there, then we are not talking about searches in the conventional sense of the word. One does not search for one's nose. When we are talking about programmes such as searches of church registry offices, court houses, municipal assessment offices, registries of vital statistics, offices of shipping companies (for passenger lists), custodians of census records, military personnel offices (for muster rolls and pay lists), registry offices for land titles, naturalization or citizenship courts or registration agencies, immigration branches, passport offices, and many other establishments involved in processing claims, requests, applications, petitions, registrations etc. of persons in this everincreasingly complex beaurocratic society, can we actually talk in terms of systematic searches? We certainly to talk about searches, particularly in cases where the institutions holding such records have no adequate finding aids. And how many of them actually do? There are many precedents for this type of searches. The host society has without doubt the most impressive record of such searches.

But do we actually limit ourselves to searching only the logical places? Do we only look for parish registers in the registries of the respective churches? Or do we go beyond the logical places? You know from your own experience that church registers have a habit of turning up in the most unexpected places. The archives of the Hudson's Bay Company in London has an impressive collection of these registers. My own institution is not generally expected to collect church records. While I am talking to you our printers are releasing a 21 page publication entitled "Check-List of Parish Registers". This publication lists more than 95 separate parish registers of every known denomination in Canada. Yet very few researchers suspect that we have these documents. When we compiled the *Union List of Manuscripts*, to which I already referred, the most important question facing the editors was the extent of coverage of the 300-odd archival repositories in Canada. Should the holdings of all these institutions be listed in the *ULM*? The formula at which we arrived at that time, and which is still valid, was that coverage should not be extended to archives containing homogeneous material, material which is normally found in their custody. We stipulated that we had a right to assume that researchers looking for records of, say, the Diocese of Montreal would contact directly the archives of that Diocese, or searching for the business records of the Bank of Montreal, would write to the archives of that Bank. Needless to say that we made every effort to list the materials that were not normally found in that repository. For example, we listed the fur trade journals, that were found in a Diocesan archives, and parish registers that are in the possession of a university archives.

But I think that I have flogged that horse long enough. Still a word or two about the term "systematic". Those of you who are in the acquisition field can name numerous projects of systematic searches for records. I would like to offer you four examples of systematic searches, which I hope will enable me to demonstrate the progress that has taken place within the last 100 years.

In 1873, one year after the Public Archives of Canada was created, Douglas Brymner, the first Dominion Archivist mailed some 500 circular letters to prominent persons all over the world, but mainly in Canada, Great Britain, France and the United States, asking them to present the papers of their illustrious forbears to the Canadian archives. The recipients were all

persons of great stature whose forbears played important roles in the affairs of Canada. Fifty years later, Arthur Doughty, the second Dominion Archivist, gathered the descendants of these families at a gala banquet in London, and later in Paris, to repeat the same request.

In the 1950's the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan distributed to all elder inhabitants of the Province questionnaires requesting information on their genealogical background, significant happenings in their communities, and on any other interesting highlights of their lives in the Province. Every senior resident of Saskatchewan was systematically canvassed in this connection. The response was very rewarding, and the Provincial Archives acquired virtually thousands of "case histories" of pioneer experiences. About the same time the Provincial Archives of Ontario embarked on an even more ambitious project of systematically collecting the papers of the early residents of Ontario. A virtual door-to-door search of the rural and small-town area of Eastern Ontario was made (which is still continuing) yielding large quantities of original correspondence, diaries, and business records of the early pioneers of that area. The key to the success to that venture was the choice of the searcher, who, being a native of the area, had an easy access to the homes of the residents.

A brief analysis of the four projects leads me to suggest, something that I expect to demonstrate to you later, that there is a pattern in the application of scientific method to our systematic searches. The first searches, as one may expect, were conducted in the logical places. The records of the Colonial Office were found in the archives of the PRO where they were supposed to be; the Papers of Sir Charles Bagot were found, as one may expect, in the possession of his grandson, Joselyn Bagot. When this phase of our searches was exhausted, we turned to other places. Like the Archives of Saskatchewan and Ontario we began to canvass all possible persons and institutions.

In 1965 a team of archivists at the Public Archives, with whom I was actively associated, began to examine the better-known programmes for acquisition of private manuscripts and public records with the view to improving our own system. As the result of these investigations my colleagues became convinced that our vast searches particularly in Europe, could be progressively systematized. In particular we began to look for ways and means to eliminate the element of chance. In this connection we re-examined the entire programme for acquisition of public records, and made important revisions in our searches for private manuscripts. By 1967 we developed on paper the rudiments of what is now known as the *Systematic National Acquisition Programme*, which was immediately nicknamed, *SNAP*. I said *on paper*, because the *SNAP* programme was so comprehensive that it soon aroused considerable controversy, particularly on the part of archival institutions that resented this encroachment on their domain. I am glad to say that these fears are proving groundless, and that the programme, in fact, is beginning to benefit all provincial archival repositories in Canada. But it is not my intention to discredit the traditional searches which had yielded in the past such rich harvests of archival sources. There is something almost nostalgic about searches of little-known local libraries, museums and historical societies, of forgotten monasteries, medieval mansions and castles, of bat-infested attics and mice-inhabited basements, of forgotten nooks and crannies of old houses with a "for-sale" sign. Then, there were the more respectable searches of such store-houses of archival treasures as the Public Record Office and the British Museum in

London, the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh, the Archives Nationales and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, and in those formidable fortress-like archives in Spain and Italy. Then there were the searches of estates, book sales and auctions. But the most exciting of them all were, and still are, the searches for collections of individuals in the possession of the family.

These searches took us all over the world. In many ways Canada is a good example of a country that had to expand its searches beyond the border. Before 1867, the date of Confederation, the destiny of Canada was controlled, first from Paris, then, after 1760, from London. Other important decisions affecting the history of Canada were made in Washington, and to a lesser extent in Madrid. It is no accident therefore that the most important records affecting Canada were the records of the Governments of France and Great Britain. In the field of manuscripts and other private papers, particularly the papers of outstanding individuals who helped to shape the policies of our country (especially the various civil and military governors), the searches often had to be carried out in France and England. Most of the governors and military officers, as well as other top administrators, came from these two countries.

Needless to say that when the Public Archives of Canada was established in 1872 with its now famous budget of \$4,000, the most immediate attention was directed to searches for French and British records relating to Canada. Indeed, the first important accession was a large collection, consisting of some 250,000 pages of records of the British Military and Naval Authorities in Canada, covering the period from 1757 to 1899, which were located in an old warehouse in Halifax. These records were ready for shipment to England when Douglas Brymner, the first Dominion Archivist, skillfully talked the War Office in London in to placing them in his newly-minted archives in Ottawa.

Rudimentary and sporadic as they were, Brymner's efforts already bore the stamp of his systematic mind. With his meagre \$4,000 he managed in his first year to visit all provincial capitals in Canada. His tour took him to Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, St. John and Fredericton. The following year, in 1873, he sent out 500 circulars to persons reputed to hold important collections of manuscripts. This was part of a large master plan to gather all significant private papers.

While Brymner was paying lip service to sources in Canada, his active mind was busy with plans for European searches. The wealth of the Public Records Office and the British Museum in London, and the Archives Nationales in Paris was too obvious to escape his attention. Moreover, important searches in these institutions had already been made. In 1845 The Executive Council of the Province of Canada voted £200 to Louis Joseph Papineau (while in exile) to copy significant documents from the French archives in Paris. Six years later George Faribault was commissioned to transcribe documents of Canadian interest from the same source. In 1859 the Legislature authorized J. P. Merritt, and later on George Coventry, to prepare transcripts from the British sources. In Rome, Rev. F. Martin was making copies in the Vatican archives about the same time.

With Brymner's appointment, Ottawa's pre-occupation with the European archives was intensified. In 1872 Abbe H. Verreaut, Principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School in Montreal was commissioned to go to Paris to undertake a thorough survey of records in the French archives. Paris turned out to be a veritable treasurehouse of documents. The field was particularly bountiful in the period from the founding of Quebec to the Treaty of Paris of 1763. In these "happy hunting grounds" Abbe Verreaut began his methodical searches in 1874. Before he left Canada for France, Verreaut read everything he could lay his hands on. He examined the existing finding aids to the French sources, and he made wide use of the printed guides. When Verreaut set foot on the French soil, he had in his pocket a detailed itinerary, and rigid timetable, which took him systematically from one end of the country to another. Among other places he visited Lille, Brussels, Liege, Metz, Paris, Rouen, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Toulouse, Anney, Chamberg, and Grenoble. I would like to spend a few minutes to highlight this famous trip, as it resulted in a vast programme of copying documents all over France. It also generated our interest in other European countries, and took our researchers to Spain, Italy and Germany, and even drew our attention to materials in the custody of the then Imperial Russian Archives in St. Petersburg.

Verreaut's first stop was in Lille, and brought him into contact with the *Archives departementales*, which roughly speaking corresponds to our provincial archives. The departmental archives turned out to be exceptionally rich in sources, particularly on the early settlers of Canada. As Faribault and Tangay before him found out, our knowledge of the early Norman and Breton settlers of Canada had to be gathered painstakingly from masses of disjointed accounts and records in the custody of these local archives. In some areas, particularly in Normandy, our patient and persistent searches produced impressive collections of data, which now form one of the most important sources of the early history of settlement. Indeed some of our transcripts have become unique, as the Second World War reduced to ashes the originals in some French archives, particularly in Caen and St. Malo.

Abbe Verreaut stopped in Lille, which contains the departmental archives of the Counties of Flanders and Burgundy. As many of the Jesuit missionaries came from that area, he found many records of their activities in Canada. He was particularly pleased when he found in the papers of the Archbishop of Cambrai the *Memoire sur la vie de M. de Laval, premier eveque de Quebec*. Brussels yielded more material on the martyrdom of the Jesuits; most of it in the papers of the Duke of Burgundy. Liege and Metz were disappointing, even though Verreaut systematically searched all known archives and libraries in the area. Paris was next on the itinerary. It would take me a separate paper to describe the searches that were conducted in the various repositories of that historically wealthy city. I will however single out the *Archives de la Marine*, and one or two problems that would typify the work of our man. According to Abbe Tangay, who visited these archives in 1867 the early Acadian registers of baptisms, marriages and burials were supposed to be in the custody of the Archives de la Marine. The custodians at the archives told Verreaut that these registers could not be found. *Could not be found?* Well, such terms did not exist in the vocabulary of our archival agents of one hundred years ago. Verreaut simply refused to accept it. And so a lengthy search began. It was not until ten years later when Joseph Marmette, another in the long list of indomitable French-Canadian

archivists, found the registers in the *Archives des Colonies*, along with a veritable motherlode of genealogical records of civil and criminal proceedings of what is now part of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. The period was from 1711 to 1758. But the gem of the find was the 1661 census of New France, the earliest on record.

But I must not digress. Like a fox in a hen-house, Verreaut began to gorge himself on the sumptuous sources in Paris. It is difficult to be systematic in a place where everything that you touch turns to important historical manuscripts. Verreaut was in the enviable position of being able to choose sources that were of maximum significance and that satisfied his own particular field of interest. The discoveries of the vast continental areas south-west, west and north of Quebec, the missionary work among the Indians, and the administration of New France were high on the priority list. The names of Cartier, Champlain, LaSalle, Governor Frontenac, Bishop Laval, the Jesuit martyrs, the fur traders, and a host of other famous pioneers came to the surface from under the thick layer of dust. The words, *EUREKA*, must have been heard many times in the ancient walls of the French archives.

There is a story of a very old archivist of the Florentine archives around the turn of the century whose only finding aid was his extraordinary scent of the ancient paper, ink and glue. Blind as he was, the archivist was able to sniff his way through shelves of bound volumes to the manuscripts that were requested. There is some evidence that our searchers in Europe began to develop similar scents for materials of interest to Canada. At one stage in his searches Verreaut discovered a substantial gap in the records of Archives des Colonies. Piecing together evidence that he gathered from various sources, he learned that the offices which contained the records were ransacked by a mob during the Revolution. Papers were thrown out the window, and lay scattered on the street. An attache of the Russian embassy, which was located near-by, a man by the name of Pierre Dubrowski, was seen gathering the valuable papers, thus saving them from virtually-certain destruction. Having access to safe transportation, Dubrowski sent these records to his home office in St. Petersburg. In 1874 Verreaut was able to confirm that the missing papers were indeed in the Russian Imperial Archives in St. Petersburg. (1) Following up on this find, Verreaut also learned that another Russian, a Zaluski, saved from destruction in Paris other valuable records. Another batch of records of the French Secretary of State, our agent was able to learn, was sold in England, along with the entire library of the Bishop of Constance. Searches showed that these papers were bought by Lord Harley, and subsequently presented to the British Museum as the Harleian Collection.

Like all good archivists our searchers kept their eyes open for genealogical records. Members of the Carignan-Salieres Regiment, brought to Canada in 1665 to stop the devastating Indian raids, were ultimately settled along the Richelieu River. Verreaut was elated when he found the paylists of some 20 companies of that regiment. But it was in Rouen, and in other northern port cities that genealogical records on the early settlers were found. The settlers of New France came mostly from northern France, so it was natural that our agents singled out these areas for systematic searches. In comparison, the survey of Marseilles, Toulouse, and Grenoble were disappointing. Very few of Canada's pioneers came from that area. Bordeau was however an exception. Intendant Bigot was a native of that city, and searches of the local archives produced considerable amount of information on him.

(1) Verreaut's Report, PAC Report, 1874.

While Verreaut was covering France, Brymner found his *Eldorado* in London. Hardly was the ice off the St. Lawrence River, when the Dominion Archivist boarded ship for England. It is almost embarrassing to follow him through all the repositories of records in London. The sheer wealth of material was overwhelming. But what of it? "Water, water everywhere but nothing to drink." What can an archivist do with a left-over of \$4,000? Nothing concrete! But one can plan. Planning is inexpensive, and Brymner, being the person he was, did a lot of planning that year. He visited every conceivable institution holding documents. The sequence of his visits is immaterial. The Public Record Office was probably first on his list. In his report to the Minister, Brymner prophetically wrote that the searches in the *PRO* will probably never end. Today, almost 100 years after that original survey, which already yielded several million pages of transcripts, and twice as many microfilm reproductions, we are still searching for, and finding, new exciting sources.

There is something fascinating about military records. Brymner already acquired a complete set of records of the British Forces in Canada. No wonder that one of his stops in London was at the War Office. There, he uncovered large masses of valuable records relating to the War of 1812, among them important genealogical material. Marmette found the Acadian registers in the Archives Nationales, Brymner found similar registers of vital statistics among the military records. The garrison chaplains, at one time, were probably the only clergymen available, and were required to record the births, marriages and deaths of most of the protestant population of Canada during the early part of the British rule. Further searches revealed complete sets of muster rolls, paylists of soldiers, as well as petitions from the American loyalists wishing to settle in the British province. In the Tower of London Brymner found additional records of this type, which he carefully ear-marked for transcription at a later date.

But it was the British Museum that became his highlight in London. The mere name is enough to impress any collector of documents. It was the Mecca of the 19th century for all historians, archivists, genealogists and related researchers. Brymner might have rubbed shoulders with Karl Marx, and could have been mistaken for him as both had sported equally impressive beards. Beyond this the similarity ended. Brymner was a collector, and probably had little time to compare beards. He had just learned that the British Museum acquired (back in 1857) the papers of General Sir Frederick Haldimand, perhaps the most important single source of evidence relating to the American Revolution. Theodore Roosevelt referred to these papers as "among the most valuable of the hitherto untouched manuscripts" which "give for the first time, the British and Indian side of all the northwestern fighting". (2) Brymner was quick to realize the true value of this collection. Its sheer size, forty feet of shelf space, or 232 volumes, more than 100,000 pages, commanded tremendous respect. But the collection was not for sale. Indeed most of the other sources that our agents found in London and Paris could not be obtained in original form. But the answer to this problem was already available. When Papineau was sent to Paris to search for documents of Canadian interest, he was given a grant to enable him to transcribe the more important papers. So it was to be transcription for Brymner too. Long, patient copying by hand, page after page, volume after volume, collection after collection. I have already mentioned that we have now on our shelves several million

(2) Theodore Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West*, 1889 - Preface

pages of these handwritten copies of French and British documents. You can imagine the patience that went into this work. Day-after-day the clerks were transcribing the documents, many of them in the old English and French script. Many mistakes were made by these patient scribes. One of the more famous is recorded in the Haldimand Papers where a passage reading that "a priest was called in to administer supreme unction" was transcribed by one of the more careless clerks as "a priest was called to administer supreme suction". But such mistakes were not frequent. It took Brymner three years to finish the Haldimand Papers, which included also the preparation of a detailed calendar. This project became a pattern for other collections, and for the mammoth "Q" Series - the Despatches from the Governors of Canada to the Colonial Office.

Before I proceed any further with descriptions of our searches I ought to draw your attention on one aspect of this operation, namely the gathering of papers of private individuals. You may well wonder why so much attention is being given to these papers. The fact is that the papers of prominent politicians and other important public figures often contain public records. Time and again our searchers in Europe and on this continent have uncovered in the private papers complete sets of official files, departmental reports, census returns, army or militia paylists, petitions for land grants, claims for losses arising out of war damages and even parish registers. How did these records fall into the hands of private individuals? The answer is simple. In Canada, in Great Britain, and to some extent in the United States many public officials have acquired the habit upon retirement from office of taking with them the records of their office. It is not uncommon to find that a former minister of, say, a methodist church, a retired colonel of a regiment, a magistrate, or a pensioned-off registrar of vital statistics have kept the records that were entrusted to them during the tenure of their office. The papers of General Haldimand, for example, contain the most comprehensive set of paylists of troops under his command. The same papers also contain exhaustive lists and records of persons who remained loyal to the British crown during the American Revolution. The papers of William Claus, at one time Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, consist of practically all the official records of his office. The habit of retaining official records upon retirement from office is particularly entrenched on the part of elected officials. In Canada, the records of Office of the Prime Minister (and of other cabinet ministers) become the private property of the incumbent upon departure from office. While much of this material is of political calibre, there are also complete records of official transactions of the office. Fortunately for us most of the Prime Ministers of Canada displayed a true sense of responsibility by placing their papers in the Public Archives. Except for one Prime Minister (out of fourteen), all papers of this highest office in the country are now in our custody. The sole exception, the papers of the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett have been however made available to us for microfilming. I brought this aspect of our political life to your attention as I feel that you will agree with me that the national archives has an obligation and responsibility to search out, acquire and preserve these papers using whatever means there are at its disposal. The history of Canada since 1867, when the various British province federated into the present nation, is documented most significantly in the papers of its Prime Ministers. In the past, these papers were seldom transferred directly from the offices of these politicians. As a matter of fact, the agents of the Public Archives had often to locate the living descendants of these famous Canadians, and in some cases were only able to acquire these papers after hard and protracted negotiations.

But we must rejoin Douglas Brymner whom we left in the British Museum elated over the discovery of the Haldimand Papers. I am not going to bore you with a long list of his discoveries in England. His English and French search operations were proceeding successfully, and vast copying programmes were already underway. So he began to look for other worlds to conquer. In 1883 he started to correspond with Pascual de Gayangoz about the Spanish sources relating to Canada. In the process he learned that some of the early Florida and Louisiana records had been sent to Cuba, and that the Spanish Government ordered them to be sent to Madrid. Out of this exchange the Archivo General de Indias, in Seville was found to contain important correspondence relating to Jacques Cartier and Sieur de Roberval. In the National Archives in Madrid it was possible to obtain transcripts of correspondence relating to Jacques Cartier and Sieur de Roberval. In the National Archives in Madrid it was possible to obtain transcripts of correspondence between the Spanish ambassador in London and the King of Spain relating to the Seven Years' War, the War of the American Revolution, and the War of 1812. The Provincial Archives of British Columbia, acting on their own initiative, located in the Spanish Foreign Office and the National Archives in Madrid impressive transcripts of records relating to the exploration of the Pacific Northwest, and the Nootka Sound incident.

In Italy our inquiries were concentrated mainly in Vatican which opened its archives to the public in 1881. But only records prior to 1846 were made available for copying. Consequently our transcripts from that source cover the period from 1608 to about that date. Employing the services of Archbishop Taschereau and Abbe Casgrain, Brymner was able to examine the restricted Archives of the Gesu. (3) In 1932 at the request of the Dominion Archivist the Holy See opened to our researchers the Secret Archives, and permitted a more liberal copying of documents. Outside of Vatican our searchers found numerous references to Canada, mainly in relation to the extensive fishing operations of the Italian fleet.

Scotland, Ireland (particularly the Northern Ireland), Germany, Russia, Netherlands, Belgium, Mexico, Hawaii, and many other countries, have been at various times scrutinized for possible Canadian records. We have acquired many interesting documents from these countries. In addition, more by accident than as a result of any systematic effort of ours, we acquired originals, or copies of records from Japan, Australia, Poland, the West Indies, Turkey, and other countries. The United States always occupied a special spot in Ottawa's planning. There was a boundless confidence on the part of Canadian archivists that the records in the various American archives were safe, and our searches could be delayed until Europe was thoroughly covered. Moreover the existence of Canadian materials south of the border was well documented, and access to bona-fide researchers was always liberal. It is relatively easy to travel from Montreal or Toronto to Boston, New York, Detroit or Chicago.

Similar reasons might have motivated our planners when they played down domestic searches during the early years of the existence of the Public Archives. Then too, Canada unlike most other countries was externally-oriented. As mentioned already, the most important records prior to 1867 were those of France and Great Britain. Still it would be unfair to burden the early archivists with a reputation of having neglected the purely Canadian sources. Extensive searches were made from the start of our corporate existence. Our list of

(3) PAC, 1884, p. V

accessions for the first ten years is quite impressive. The response to the 500 circulars that Brymner mailed out in 1873 was exceptionally rewarding. But it was not until 1880's that the Public Archives embarked on an active programme in Canada. Quebec, the cradle of Canada, in spite of the ravages of the Seven Years' War, still was a rich and rewarding hunting ground for historical material. When the *Union List of Manuscripts* was being compiled in the 1960's, our editorial office received numerous returns from that Province. In spite of all these discoveries I am firmly convinced that Quebec still holds rich troves of hidden sources.

A new impetus was given to our Canadian searches in 1884 when a discovery was made of the *Acts de Foy et Homage*, covering the period from 1667-1674. The *Acts de Foy* were the records of grants of land under seigneurial tenure, together with all sorts of related papers containing very vital genealogical information. But a shiver of anxiety was spread in the archival and historical profession. The *Acts* were found in a collection of the Jesuit Estate records, in a damp basement, covered with mildew, the fringes already in decay, Segments of these documents were beyond repair. The example of neglect filled Ottawa with fear for the safety of similar documents elsewhere. Brymner took the initiative in writing to various custodians of public records and archives impressing upon them the need for care and preservation. In a letter to Sir Ambrose Shea, one of the key political figures in Newfoundland, and subsequently a Governor of that Province, the Dominion Archivist earnestly asked his help to "collect and preserve the records of that the oldest Colony of England". (4) In New Brunswick the records of the Executive Council were rescued from near-oblivion, and subsequently placed in a temporary custody of the Public Archives. These records are now being returned to the newly-created Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

But even records in Ottawa were deteriorating. When the Dominion of Canada was created in 1867 many departments and agencies of the old Province of Canada came to an end. In 1867 there was no Public Archives, and records of defunct agencies were lying dormant in the basements of old buildings. Searches for these records began from the day our institution was created. They are still going on today. The story of these searches is a saga of patience and endurance. It is a story of hard work and perseverance; of many days spent in attics and basements of old government buildings in Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa; a story of getting lost in a maze of underground corridors and chambers, infested with rats, bats and silverfish. I served my archival apprenticeship in these surroundings, with many hours spent in damp cellars full of mildew, dust and cobwebs. Systematic searches in those days meant, among other things, that one came provided with a plan of building, and worked his way methodically, examining every room, nook and cranny. "Systematic" also meant that rooms labelled "nothing but junk", or "nothing of value" had to be investigated with particular care. Old government buildings are notoriously full of forgotten basements and attic rooms. Some 12 years ago I was asked to prepare a report on the historical significance of architectural carvings which adorn the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. An old guide, who for 50 years had conducted tours through the Buildings was retiring, and we wanted to preserve his unique knowledge. Like an old locomotive doing her last trip, the old man took me all over the building, regaling me with fascinating stories of the past. In the course of my tours I came across numerous rooms full of old and valuable records, which were somehow bypassed on our previous "systematic" searches. So our of this came another "systematic" search of the

(4) PAC 1884, p. vii

venerable old building, yielding another batch of records. As you may surmise, since then we conducted other searches there, always finding something new.

It seems to me that we are adding new support to our earlier contention that there is a progression in the systematization of searches. Or as George Orwell might have said, "some searches are more systematic than others". In 1873 all roads led to the Public Record Office and the British Museum. Some twenty years later, when Brymner re-visited London (in 1892), the searches were extended to include the Lambeth Palace, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archives of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Missionary Society, the Hudson's Bay Company archives, the Moravian Brethren (Unitas Frantrum), the Secretary of State for Scotland, and many other institutions holding records. By the end of his reign, he amassed a respectable collection of documents, with some 400 feet of transcripts of records which he so laboriously copied in Europe.

But it was Sir Arthur Doughty, the second Dominion Archivist, and the only Canadian civil servant for whom a statue was erected, who added a new dimension to our domestic and world-wide searches. Doughty was a born collector. His first, the most lasting, ambition, was to make the Public Archives of Canada the richest repository in the world. During the 30 years of his tenure as Dominion Archivist, 1904-1935, he easily quadrupled his holdings. His drive to acquire documents was so strong at that time it tended to obscure his loyalty to the aims and objectives of the institution. He was possessed by the ambition to continuously add to his holdings, and his yearly reports to the Minister brign out this trait very forcefully. There are quaint stories of Doughty's exploits in acquiring documents. Watson Sellar, a former Auditor General of Canada, once encountered Dr. Doughty on a London Street looking as if he had just swallowed a canary. So in Sellar's own words, "we headed for a pub and the story. He (Doughty) learned that an official gallery had decided to donate a painting of Jacques Cartier to Canada and Doughty had gone around to make certain it was Abbe Cyprien Tangay, whose monumental *Dictionnaire genealogique des familles conadiennes*, which was published in seven volumes, is still the most

He was too late; the National Gallery had been written and the picture was already crated for shipment. "They showed me the box in the shipping room. It was already labelled, so I scrounged around and got a duplicate and had a young lady type our address. When the place was empty at noon, I slipped in and pasted it over the other one. Eric Brown (of the National Gallery) will have the letter, but I'll have the picture, and possession is eleven points of the law." (5) This unorthodox accession procedure appears to have worked, as the painting of Jacques Cartier now hangs in the Public Archives.

There was no doubt that Doughty meant business when he took over the Archives. Searches for documents were immediately promoted to the top of list of archival priorities. The sadly neglected domestic searches were given fresh impetus. In 1905 Doughty obtained the services of one of the most resourceful teams of archivists that ever collected documents. The men were hand-picked, and after proper orientation and instruction were allocated specific search territories. Rev. P. M. O'Leary, who became a legend in the various church archives in Quebec, brought to Ottawa large collections of parish registers. O'Leary's success

(5) Watson Sellar: *Intimate Memories in the Government Service*, Globe and Mail, 12 September 1960.

was based on the support he managed to elicit from the church hierarchy. His field trips were invariably preceded by warm letters of recommendation written by the Archbishop of Quebec. O'Leary capitalized on this good-will, and the rich harvest of records was ample evidence of the success of this approach. Needless to say that the prelate's palace did not escape the scrutiny of our agent.

Ontario and the West were given to Robert Laidlaw who, with the help of Dr. Bain of the Toronto Public Library, systematically visited all parts of his large domain. His itinerary included, in addition to libraries, museums and churches, also the court-houses, municipal archives, and historical societies. His production was exceptionally bountiful, and most of our present documentary sources from Ontario may be traced back to his efforts.

But it was Dr. James Hannay who was the prodigy of the team. His were the maritime provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Hannay, like Doughty was a collector by temperament, and he took his work seriously. The stories of his exploits in the East still haunt the memories of the various provincial archivists whose territories he was systematically denuding of historical sources. When he said that he left no stone unturned, he meant it literally. His special hobby was the compilation of tombstone inscriptions. And he was only doing it because he was not allowed to cart away the originals. In 1962 when I visited many of the places that Hannay covered some forty or fifty years ago, I discovered that his name was still remembered by older residents. Again the inventories of our holdings, both originals and copies, contain numerous references to sources which he so painstakingly gathered.

While the O'Leary-Laidlaw-Hannay trio conducted the remarkable searches in the field, another type of archivist was toiling at the headquarters. Placide Gaudet, an eminent Acadian genealogist, was compiling a comprehensive *Genealogies des familles acadiennes* on the parish registers that Hannay was transcribing in the Maritimes, and on a vast amount of information that he amassed while personally searching the various church registers. Gaudet followed in the steps of another famous French-Canadian predecessor, Abbe Cyprien Tangay, whose monumental *Dictionnaire genealogique des familles conadiennes*, which was published in seven volumes, is still the most authoritative work on family histories in French Canada. Gaudet left behind him more than a million index cards containing genealogical information on Acadian families. The demand for this information has not abated since the index was placed in our reference rooms.

However all of these searches seemed to lack a suitable framework. Instinctively Doughty knew that much more could be accomplished, more important persons reached, and more impressive collections acquired if the whole operation were to be placed on a higher pedestal. What he was looking for was a high-level patronage, an active participation in planning and execution of the searches by influential persons, and an aura of social respectability. He was deeply impressed with the work of the British *Historical Manuscripts Commission* which master-minded the searches in Britain. The reports of that Commission in particular served a very useful purpose by focussing attention on important sources of documents. Why not set up a similar institution in Canada, he asked himself? An excellent occasion presented itself in

1907, the year before the celebration of the Tercentenary of the Founding of Quebec. The Government duly impressed with things historical needed little prodding, and on 17 April 1907 it passed an Order in Council establishing the Historical Manuscripts Commission to "shape and execute a systematic plan for prosecution of all those activities that are carried out under the auspices of the Archives Branch". (6) The wording of the Order in Council was sufficiently general to enable Doughty to use it as he saw fit. The membership of the Commission was chosen carefully, including such heavyweight historians as Adam Short, Abbe Gosselin, S. M. Wrong and others. With the backing of the Commission, Doughty was now able to start planning more comprehensive searches at home and in Europe.

Since the days of his predecessor no major change was made in the technique of European searches. New the time was ripe, and Doughty was ready to try something new. Well, not exactly new. His experience with a system of agents, each responsible for a certain area, was certainly working out very well in Canada. The team of O'Leary-Laidlaw-Hannay (to which he later added other agents such as Milne and Mitchell) produced impressive results. So why not try it in Europe? His first appointment was Henry P. Biggar, who already established his reputation as an authority on the early explorations in Canada, and had been conducting independent searches in the archives of France, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Eventually Biggar became Canada's chief Archivist for Europe, and as such was able to control Canada's vast acquisition programme. The Paris office was expanded to include such names as Victor Tantet and Edouard Richard. Here and in London new, more sophisticated techniques were introduced. Instead of sending his archivists to negotiate with owners of papers, Biggar, and his boss in Ottawa, managed to interest highly-placed and socially-influential persons to do the negotiations on behalf of the Public Archives. One of the favourite sayings of Doughty was: "Why bark yourself, if you can get a dog to do it for you; they normally do it more efficiently"; It was Lord Minto, the former Governor General of Canada, who in 1908 convinced Captain Hope of Kirkenbright in Scotland to permit the copying of the famous Selkirk Papers. This turned out to be a luck move as the originals of these valuable documents were subsequently destroyed by fire. The PAC transcripts have now the status of originals. This source, the Papers of the Earl of Selkirk, founder of the Red River Settlement, the present Province of Manitoba, is the most important early historical evidence of that Province.

During the next thirty years the searches for private papers in England, and on the continental Europe, were conducted with a missionary zeal. In those years the Public Archives acquired the originals, or copies, of papers of such famous persons as Marquis de Montcalm, Brig. Gen. James Wolfe, James Murray, Sir Jeffery Amherst, Viscount Townshend, the Earl of Dartmouth, the Earl of Chatham, Lord Shelburne, Sir Guy Carleton, Bishop Inglis, Sir John Graves Simcoe, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Durham, Sir Charles Bagot, Joseph Howe, The Baring Brothers, Sir George E. Cartier, Sir John A. Macdonald, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, just to mention a handful of French, British and Canadian figures who helped to shape the destiny of Canada.

These rich pickings did not come to Canada as an accident. There was a mastermind behind all this. There was also a systematic plan that made it possible. The plan was a stroke of a genius. Why not organize all prominent families in England and France into an Association

(6) PAC 1908, p. 53

dedicated to preservation of records of their glorious past? With this aim in mind, Doughty approached several influential families in England and France with the view to organizing such a society, composed of descendants of persons prominent in the affairs of Canada. The response was cordial and rewarding. Lady Minto, the wife of the former Governor of Canada, wrote on 25 May 1923 to HRH the Duke of Connaught saying that Sir Campbell Stuart (a friend of Doughty) suggested "an effective means of assisting the Canadian Government in its efforts to obtain all the information possible relating to its history. . . ." She went on to say that "there are undoubtedly numerous memoirs and documents preserved in family archives, which would form the basis of an adequate history of the Dominion, and some of these might be published from time to time in suitable form." (7) The Duke of Connaught replied the following day to say that "an association such as proposed should be of real service to Canada. Through its members would be made known sources of history which are unsuspected. . . ." (8)

Accordingly, a Canadian Historical Society was formed listing among its objectives the research to discover historical sources and the preservation of records. No lesser eminence than His Majesty the King accepted the patronage of this society. The membership included the names of virtually all governors-general of Canada. At the inaugural banquet of the Society, which was held in London on 7 November 1923, the Prime Minister, Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King, made a strong plea to the founding members "to discover the sources of information to enable (the Archives) to secure important documents. (9) Mr. King suggested that there must have been in the hand of the members of the regiments which came to Canada, and their descendants, records and diaries, which have been brought back to England, and are now in possession of their families. If the Society, the Prime Minister argued, could be the means of bringing to light these various documents, it would be of great help to Canada. (10) This plea was supported by several prominent speakers, among them, Sir Winston Churchill.

About the same time a similar society was organized in France. Once again it included the most distinguished families. The president of the Republic consented to accept patronship, the Duke of Levis-Mirepoix became the president, Marquis de Montcalm agreed to preside over the Council of Families. Biggar was made the secretary of the two chapters, and Sir Campbell Stuart, the indefatigable champion of searches for manuscripts, was elected the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The two societies became a powerful tool in the hands of the Dominion Archivist. Searches for sources were now often conducted for us by members of the societies, yielding a rich harvest.

In 1935 Doughty was knighted and became Sir Arthur. He had already retired from office, but habits are hard to break. There is a story that when Sir Arthur was received at a luncheon at Buckingham Palace, he was impressed with the gilded menu of this memorable occasion. Convinced that this document must be preserved for posterity, Sir Arthur quietly "accessioned" the menu, and with the air of a cat that just swallowed the canary went on eating his luncheon. But Doughty's reputation for unorthodox searches were well established by that time, and his hosts must have known about it, or else saw him pocket the document. At the end of the luncheon the Monarch presented Sir Arthur with another copy of the menu with a comment that "all important documents should be kept in duplicate".

(7) A. G. Doughty, the *Canadian Archives and Its Activities*, 1924, p. 17

(8) *Ibid*, p. 18

(9) *Ibid*, p. 34

(10) *Ibid*, p. 34

Doughty was succeeded by Gustave Lanctot, whose tenure of office coincided with the Second World War. Very little in the way of searching was done outside of Canada. So when in 1948 Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, the fourth Dominion Archivist took over the helm, he had a difficult job of re-building our research organization in Europe. Doughty's French and English societies of 20 ties and 30 ties were allowed to die; their usefulness had ended. Moreover, Dr. Lamb had a style of his own, which soon began to assert itself in all archival functions. To begin with, he was conscious of the new postwar generation of historians and researchers. No longer were scholars willing to wait 100 years for the papers to be opened for public scrutiny. They wanted them now, and up to date. The walls of restrictions began to crumble before the onslaught of determined researchers. The 100-year rule gave way to the 50-year, which in turn was replaced by the 30-year formula. But even this liberalization is not satisfactory to researchers, and demands for further reduction in the waiting period are voiced strongly and insistently.

When Dr. Lamb became the Dominion Archivist, there were few historical sources in our custody for the period since 1867. Perhaps his most important single contribution to the institution was that he systematically began to fill the huge void. He started with the papers of politicians; the colonial secretaries, the governors, the prime ministers and the cabinet members. His yearly trips to London and Paris became something of a legend. Like a Santa Claus, he came one a year loaded with valuable papers. He easily tripled our holdings during the twenty years of his tenure. Like Doughty, Lamb had his agents. But he preferred to do the complicated searches personally. This approach proved particularly effective with the heavyweights of Canadian politics, business, military and religious life. Lamb's strength was his ability to impress upon the prospective donor the propriety of placing his papers in the Public Archives. He managed to convey the impression that the existence of these papers at the Public Archives constituted a form of recognition of contribution of the individual. It was as if a permanent *niche* was created for such an individual, which would forever commemorate his worth to the Canadian society.

Kaye Lamb was also a magician with a microfilm camera. In the annals of application of this new medium of copying, his name should be inscribed in gold letters. It took Brymner, Doughty and Lanctot 75 years to copy the 2,000,000 pages of documents which they located all over the world. During the twenty years of his tenure, Lamb not only microfilmed the originals of these hand-written transcripts, thus providing researchers in Canada with a true image of the originals, but he was able to unleash his cameras at sources in Europe, and on this continent, that his predecessors did not dream of. The camera operators went systematically through the records of the Colonial Office, Admiralty, War Office, Foreign Office, Post Office, Treasury, the collections of the Hudson's Bay Company, The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Missionary Society, the British Museum, The Scottish Public Record Office, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, just to mention a few institutions in Great Britain. Similar programme was developed for France. Altogether this operation produced for us more than 11,000 reels of negative microfilms, and twice as many positives. Translated to pages this enormous wealth may be measured in more than 16,000,000 exposures. From private sources we acquired copies of papers of Edward Ellice, Lord Elgin, the Duke of Newcastle, Viscounts Cardwell and Monck, the Earls of Howick, Carnarvon,

Granville, Kimberley, Derby, Aberdeen, Minto; the Marquis of Dufferin and others. The originals of papers of Sir Robert Borden, Arthur Meighen, W. L. Mackenzie King, Louis St. Laurent, John G. Diefenbaker and Lester B. Pearson, all of them prime ministers of Canada, were also added to our holdings. The domestic programme was just as active. Four cameras were hard at work in Ottawa filming the papers that were not available for deposit in original form. The same cameras were also engaged in protective microfilming of our own materials and for which there was demand by other archives and learned institutions. These films are now being used for inter-library loans all over the world.

It was also during the last years of Dr. Lamb's tenure that a formula was developed that finally allowed us to move into the field where our previous searches were unsuccessful. I am talking about the hundreds and thousands of archival repositories all over the world that had, and still have, rigid restrictions against copying of their sources. Most archives jealously guard their collections, and many are outright hostile at any suggestion of making copies for other institutions. Some of them have numerous collections that are of vital interest to the Public Archives. At the same time, we are conscious of having in our possession papers that may be of similar interest to others. So we started a barter trade: *Quid pro quo*. Several of these exchanges have already been made, others are being negotiated.

Now I have spent considerable time talking about searches conducted by us in the past. It would be manifestly unfair to leave you with the impression that this is where we stand now. The needs of scholars change rapidly. The popularity of subjects fade. New interests develop. The number of historians writing about the War of 1812 or the Civil War is dwindling. The new breed of historians, political scientists, sociologists, economists, right down to behaviourists, quantificationists and other modern chips of the old blocks, are looking for new evidence. The prestigious despatches from governors, important minutes of meetings of state councils, and heavyweight correspondence of top politicians are losing their lustre. More and more we find that researchers are looking for a different type of evidence. Census returns, assessment rolls, parish registers, account books of unnamed general merchants, price lists of goods, schedules of duties on imports, and a variety of other records seem to be gaining favour with the scholars. This changing demand for new sources has not escaped our attention. Indeed our acquisition programme is being continuously adjusted to accommodate these needs.

I would like now to present to you the programme which we developed in Ottawa during the last two years, the *SYSTEMATIC NATIONAL ACQUISITION PROGRAMME*, and to which I had already referred earlier in this paper. What is the purpose, the objective of this programme? To begin with, our team sat down to define the aims of our institution. What type of material did we collect in the past? What sources are in demand at the present time? What other institutions accumulate similar sources? Competition is a sign of health; it could also be a handicap as it may impair the efficiency of research, particularly when related materials are scattered among several repositories.

There was no problem in defining our objectives. We are a public research institution dedicated to the acquisition, preservation and making public of historical sources relating to the development of Canada as a nation. By statutory obligation, tradition and future

requirements we search for, and acquire, manuscripts and records, covering the entire spectrum of Canada's political, military, economic, religious, social and cultural history. Some of these activities are naturally limited by the federal nature of our government, and by the existence of provincial and local archives, which have a legitimate sphere of interest. This sphere of interest has been recognized, and is an important factor in our SNAP programme.

Our first duty is to acquire and preserve the records of the federal government, and its predecessors, the various crown corporations, national organizations, institutions and business concerns, and individuals who occupied either elective or appointive positions with the federal government or its various ramifications. We are also interested in the records of institutions, and papers of individuals who made important contributions in the field of business, finance, education, arts and science, particularly if these contributions made an impact on the whole country, or on a large part of it.

But these are generalizations. We needed more precise definitions of the sources we were to search for. Who were the persons whose papers we wanted? What positions did they occupy in public or private lives? Did other incumbents of these positions merit inclusion in our programme? How low in the political, military, religious or social scale we had to descend before the papers became devoid of any meaningful evidence? Should only the papers of ministers, generals, bishops, chairmen of boards of corporations, university presidents and above be preserved? Or should we go below to deputy ministers, colonels, canons, presidents of corporations, deans of faculties? And how does one measure an author, an artist, or a musician? The number of books published, paintings completed, symphonies composed? These questions still agitate our minds, and there is an enormous grey area between the elite whose papers are historically significant, and the ordinary citizen who may not have any at all.

The same criteria applies to records of institutions, organizations and business corporations. Here an additional question arises. Assuming that the institution is significant, what portion of its records should be preserved? For how long? There was no easy answer to these questions. However we were able to obtain some guidance from precedents. We reviewed in some detail the frequency of use of similar materials in our search rooms in Ottawa. We compared the rate of circulation of these sources over lengthy periods of time, and patterns began to emerge. We have now definite proof that some sources were high on the popularity list, while others were notorious dust-gatherers. Some of the "old-timers, such as the Haldimand Papers retained popularity with researchers throughout the entire period under investigation. On the other hand the Count Nesselrode-Bodisco correspondence which was transcribed from the Soviet State Archives in Moscow was never consulted while in our custody. Neither did any researcher look at the Hantzsch Journal, which we copied from the original in Dresden, Germany.

The *Register of Dissertations*, which is a list of graduate theses at the various universities, and which we compile at the Archives, gave us further guidance. By analyzing trends in historiography and related disciplines, we were able to identify other areas for which our sources were inadequate. More specific suggestions came from our reference archivists who face frequent inquiries about our sources, and the feasibility of undertaking research projects.

It was no surprise to us that, in spite of our rich holdings, our sources for some areas were decidedly poor.

The arduous task of systematically identifying persons, families and various organizations, institutions and business companies, that fitted our criteria, was gathering speed. Our files grew in number and size, and although we are still a long way from our goal, the project is already yielding some results. Some preliminary contacts were made, and as most of our candidates were still in the prime of their lives, their papers were understandably not available for the archives. This did not matter to us. We were "playing long shots". The contacts we established were important to us and would pay off later. Our plans were to approach our targets more than once. At the pinnacle of their career, while going into semi-retirement, and when moving into complete retirement. In our communication we offered advice on how to protect their papers, how to arrange them meaningfully, and where to fill out gaps with recollections. The ultimate purpose of this procedure was to convince these individuals to make provision in their wills for transfer of their papers to the archives.

Perhaps you may see now where I am driving at. Our aim was to eliminate, or to reduce as much as possible, all searches for sources. We also wished to eliminate the demeaning aspects of these tasks. I am speaking now of situations where over-zealous searchers, in an effort to obtain the custody of papers of a deceased person badgered and harassed the bereaved widow, often before the body was given a funeral. Maintaining decorum is a noble art, but it has in the past cost the Public Archives several important collections. The *SNAP* programme, we hope will make it unnecessary to bother the widows, as the papers would have been committed to an archives by then.

In the case of corporate bodies our approach is somewhat different. Based on the theory that it is less painful to cut a dog's tail gradually, we suggest a piecemeal transfer of records, say every time the administration under goes a major change, or at specified periods of time. Coupled with this suggestion is a request to allow us to destroy the historically marginal materials. In fact he becomes designated as the official repository of records of that corporate body, and will receive all future transfers as a matter of procedure.

I already imposed upon your patience for longer than is prudent. In conclusion I ought to say that the programme which I first unfolded before you as an important "retroactive" corollary, which is really a highly systematized extension of the searches of former Dominion Archivists. Using the new criteria, we are reviewing our entire holdings in an effort to fill out the many gaps. This programme is tremendously complex, and is probably a suitable subject for a separate systematic treatment.