



ASA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Debby Shoctor, President

On a typical Edmonton January day, Michael and I set out in a blizzard to meet with the Hon. Lindsay Blakett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, at 9AM at the Legislature building. Even though I left an hour early, I was late, but arrived to find the ever-reliable Michael already there, waiting to meet the Minister. Thanks goodness, once again, for Michael, who had also prepared a folder to hand to the Minister containing all kinds of goodies, including our spectacular calendar for 2011, "Growing Up Albertan," which I think is our best yet. Thank goodness, also, that the Minister was delayed by the weather himself, which afforded us time to catch our breath, and enjoy some small talk with Marilyn Kimura, the acting Assistant Deputy Minister.



When the Minister and his assistant joined the meeting, he was very interested in what we had to say, and in the world of Archives in general. Although he had been to the Provincial Archives, and had met Provincial Archivist Leslie Latta-Guthrie on numerous occasions, he was not all that familiar with the ASA and the type of work which we do on behalf of ALL the archives in Alberta, including the PAA. Michael and I were pleased to have been granted this half-hour with the Minister, which in actual fact stretched into 45 minutes. It was something we had decided upon at the beginning of my term as President, and something the ASA hadn't done since 2001.

I had met the Minister twice before, once at a Citadel Theatre function, and once at a special meeting on space requirements for Arts, Culture and Heritage groups. At those prior meetings, I was struck by his interest in, and knowledge of, Arts in the City of Edmonton. He in fact told us that he was a big supporter of the Arts, but that many of his colleagues were not as convinced, so that it was a struggle to keep provincial funding for the Arts at the level he would like to maintain it at. This meeting, however, was about Heritage, another aspect of his portfolio, and we weren't quite sure how it would go. He in fact started the conversational ball rolling by asking what is the difference between

an Archives and a Historical Society, giving us an entrée into the topic of Archival practice, with which he was, like most non-practitioners, none too familiar. Thanks again to the prudent interruption of my discourse on fonds-level description by the ever-vigilant Michael, I managed not to bore the Minister to death with a treatise on RAD, but to give him just a smattering of insight into the varying worlds of Archives, Libraries and Historical Societies as opposed to Museums, with which most Albertans are more familiar.

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The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation.

The ASA provided the Minister with an outline of how the mandate of our Society fits closely to the "Spirit of Alberta," the province's Cultural Policy "Bible" for the Ministry of Culture and Community Spirit, and how we use the funds given to us each year through AHRF to their best advantage, distributing them amongst our institutional members through our Access to Holdings Grants Program, and using the balance to administer our offices, databases and promote Archival knowledge and education throughout the Province and across the Country.

To this end, the Grants Committee will soon be meeting to distribute the ASA grant money and to adjudicate the NADP grants. Michael also prepared a survey to send out to members regarding their recent use of our grants program in order to gather data with which to improve our performance. Our Education Committee is busy preparing courses and workshops as well as the Institute for the coming year. Our Communications Committee is busy already working on plans for next year's calendar. The ANA Committee recently had to have emergency meetings via email when we had a crisis which temporarily shut down our database servers. As well, Michael and I, along with Ellen Scheinberg from the Archives of Ontario, are preparing a survey to send out to ACA members across the country about non-archival items in archives, the results of which will be presented at the next ACA meeting in Toronto in June. And of course, the Board as a whole has met regularly since our AGM last May.

In sum, Michael and I felt that our meeting with Minister Blackett was productive and worthwhile, and something which we should repeat on a regular basis. We received positive feedback about the meeting, and even shared a laugh or two about how his mother still has his kindergarten report cards, along with his first toothbrush, in a box in her basement back in Ontario – yet another example of Archives-Museum convergence? We'll have to wait and find out. Until next time,

ARCHIVES WEEK 2010



Lisa Atkinson, Michael Gourlie, and Leslie Latta-Guthrie at the Archives Week lunch.



Brenda McCafferty with the just-released 2011 ASA calendar, Lougheed House, Calgary.

Archives Week photos continued on page 4

A RARE GIFT: THE ASA ACCESS TO HOLDINGS PROGRAM FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

Michael Gourlie, Executive Director/Archives Advisor



Aside from our first one-on-one meeting with the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit (at which Debby did an exemplary job of representing the ASA!), this winter is following its typically slow pattern for advisory services, with few site visits or travels around the province (a good thing, given the weather conditions this year!). But the inactivity on the advising side is more than made up for by the spike in activity pertaining to the annual grants adjudication. In addition to the usual commenting on drafts and coordinating the adjudication meeting itself, this year in grants has another project – an assessment of the ASA's Access to Holdings program.

Providing funds to ASA institutional members for projects to improve access to records, the program had last been examined in 1996, when the previous Archives Advisor had reviewed past adjudications and recommended the scoring system that, with some minor changes, is still in use. As part of its current business plan, the ASA undertook a review of the past three years of grants adjudication in order to assess the program's impact, determine if it still met members' needs, and gauge members' level of satisfaction with how the program was administered. Drawing on the ASA's own adjudication records as well as a member survey, the evaluation compiled some impressive statistics on the program's achievements.

On the quantitative side, the ASA spent \$162,270 on the Access to Holdings program between 2008-2009 and 2010-2011. These funds include National Archival Development Program grants totalling \$73,028, which allowed the ASA to leverage its operating grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation to fund more projects. Of the ASA's 42 institutional members, twenty members did not apply at all during the three year period, eleven applied once, six applied

twice, and five applied all three years. Of the 22 institutions who applied to the Access to Holdings program in the past three years, only two did not receive any funding in the three-year period under examination, while seventeen were successful for every application they submitted, whether it was just once or in each of the three years. The ASA funded 35 of the 40 projects for which it received applications, resulting in the availability of 102 new or revised fonds level descriptions, approximately 160 metres of textual records, and over 45,000 items (photographs and other materials).

To get qualitative results, the ASA conducted an online survey using SurveyMonkey to obtain members' opinions of the program. 21 members responded, which almost equals the number of institutions who submitted applications over the three-year period. The overwhelming majority of respondents felt that the grant program met their institution's needs, and most were satisfied with the forms, adjudication process, and reporting requirements. Some concerns were expressed about communicating feedback and reasons why applications were unsuccessful. Overall, the feedback about the program

was positive, with some respondents referring to it as "a rare gift in the granting world" (in relation to its non-matching requirement), "vital", and "an important source of funding for small archives."

I would like to thank the institutional members for their responses, and the results of the review will be discussed by the Grants Committee and the ASA Board at their meetings and subsequently made available on the ASA website.

ARCHIVES WEEK 2010



Doug Cass, Lynette Walton, and Bonnie Woelk at the Archives Week lunch, Lougheed House, Calgary.



Trudy Cowan and Apollonia Steele at the Archives Week lunch.



Michael Gourlie and Archives Week lunch speaker Trudy Cowan.



Apollonia Steele and Leslie Latta-Guthrie at the Archives Week lunch, Lougheed House, Calgary.

*Jane Bowe
McCarthy and
Michael Gourlie
at the
Symposium on
Spiritual Heritage.*



Judy Kovacs speaking at the Symposium on Spiritual Heritage.

ARCHIVES WEEK 2010, HINTON MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Marilyn Campbell, Hinton Archives

How does one measure the success of Archives Week? Personally, I have come to not count the numbers but the fact that people respond to my advertising and want to find out more about our services and support the collection of history in our community.

To celebrate Archives Week this year, I planned three days of programming. The first day I made myself available for members of the public to come to the library and have a demonstration on how to use the ASA database for their own research. It was a chance to show them that Hinton Coal Branch Archives now has a presence there making our records available world wide.



The second day was a Coffee House enhanced by fine china and treats! The conversations round the table were all about Hinton's history. After the coffee house we moved to the Archives for an Open House. I gave a brief tour for those who had not been to our facility. Following the tour, I presented them with research questions I had made up, in an effort to get my guests to use our Archives. It was fun and I hope showed them how our Archives can be a resource for their personal research.

Thursday evening was the grand finale of our week. I hosted an evening of storytelling. Janet Russell and Chris Dalziel both members of the local Toastmasters group, presented stories

from our collections in the Archives. Joan Melvin, also a member of the Toastmasters, read stories her brother and mother had written about growing up in this area. I read stories told by my mother of growing up on the Prairies in the dirty 30's. The evening wrapped up with a power point presentation of photos I had selected from our collections that depicted growing up in Alberta. The power point was set to the tunes of "Grandpa tell me bout the good ole days" by the Judds.

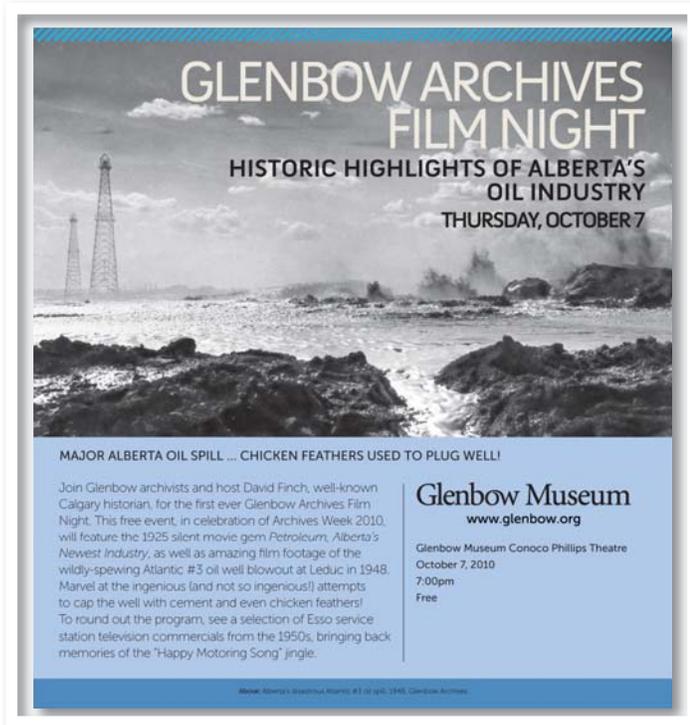
I hope in some small way I have raised the awareness of the Coal Branch Archives in Hinton.



GLENBOW'S FIRST FILM NIGHT

Susan Kooyman, Glenbow Archives

On Thursday, October 7th, Glenbow Archives held its very first Film Night and it was a great success. We had an appreciative, full-house audience of 220 in the Glenbow Theatre, and we even had to turn away a few latecomers for lack of room. We were delighted, as the event was planned at a very late date and we truly had no idea if anyone would attend.



We had committed to holding an event this year in honour of Archives Week, although we had no idea what that event would be. We have always been inspired by the very successful film nights held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta over the years, so when several petroleum-related archival films came to light at the exact time that Alberta's oil sands and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico were top news stories, we decided to do a petroleum-themed Film Night.

It was a good choice, as the topic genuinely resonated with the audience. The playbill consisted of a 1925 silent movie brought to our attention by Irene Kerr of the Museum of the Highwood, when she phoned about her concern in storing this nitrate film. It turned out that we too had a copy of this silent movie gem, called "Petroleum, Alberta's Newest Industry", and it was definitely worth showing off. At virtually the same time, Imperial Oil Archivist Lynette Walton here at Glenbow, discovered a film about the 1948 blowout of the Atlantic #3 oil well at Leduc. The contents had astonishing parallels to the disastrous BP spill. In both events, albeit 62 years apart in time, the most bizarre

things were stuffed down the wells in attempts to stop them! This was one we definitely had to show the public. With the addition of a handful of sing-along Esso commercials from the late 1950s, we had ourselves a well-rounded program.

Now we needed to let the world know. It was far too late to announce it in Glenbow's fall Calendar of Events, so we opted for evites, online newsletters and twitter instead. We targeted our audience and sent our electronic invitations only to specific groups, including the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Imperial Oil, the Petroleum History Society, and the Chinook Country Historical Society. All were more than happy to distribute our invitations to their staff and members. We also sent evites to all Glenbow staff and asked them to forward them to friends and family who might be interested. The resulting crowd has convinced us that this is a perfect way for a budget-less archives to advertise a special event.

The Film Night was successful for Glenbow on several levels. We were joined in our Archives Week celebrations by 220 people, who now know that we exist. We educated them about the challenges facing Archives, especially making records in obsolete formats available to the public. We discovered that inviting targeted audiences via evites works. And as a bonus, we have received donations from members of the audience which will cover the costs of converting several nitrate films to accessible digital formats. We couldn't be happier.

THE ARCHIVIST AS INVESTIGATOR: IDENTIFYING, DESCRIBING AND PRESERVING PHOTOGRAPHS OF ABORIGINAL LIFE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Rene Georgopolis, Musée Héritage Museum Archives

The Musée Héritage Museum in St. Albert received a collection of cellulose nitrate negatives depicting seminarians, priests, First Nations and Métis peoples, gatherings, events and children at Indian Residential Schools during the early 20th century. These photographs, which waited in the museum backlog for years, needed to be identified and processed. As a Master of Information Studies candidate in archives and records management at the University of Toronto, I was hired with National Archival Development Program (NADP) funding to process the photographs in the summer of 2009. This article explains the process I took to identify, arrange, describe, preserve and make publicly accessible these images for which little information was known.

The Accession

In 1995, a resident of St. Albert found 207 cellulose nitrate negatives in her attic and gave the negatives to her local museum, the Musée Héritage Museum. The photographs include scenes of seminarians having fun swimming, cross-dressing or giving each other bunny ears. Other scenes include an ordination, gatherings of priests and bishops as well as nuns posed beside their students. Construction work, aboriginal families, campsites, events, ceremonies, interiors of churches, residential schools and children comprise other content captured in the photographs. The donor did not know the custodial history of the negatives nor could she provide any information regarding the images' content; however, she informed the museum staff that her uncle was a Roman Catholic priest in the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) order. Since oblate priests were depicted in the images, the donor assumed the negatives belonged to her uncle.

Previous Research/Processing

Some consideration was given to the donation by Musée Héritage Museum staff prior to my work. Originally, it was



Father Ernest Lacombe with Dene children at Le Goff, Cold Lake, Alberta, 1929.

Photograph courtesy of Musée Héritage Museum

assumed that some of the photographs were images originating in and around St. Albert. Hobbemma, a reserve south of Edmonton, was another location attributed to the majority of the images and consequently, museum staff labeled the donation Hobemma fonds. The donation was catalogued as museum artifacts in its subject category of Hobemma. The negatives were developed in a dark room and placed in plastic sleeves. The few identifications made were noted by placing sticky notes on the plastic enclosures in which the images were kept. These sticky notes identified places and people. Although much of this metadata was later proven to be incorrect, the research previously conducted provided clues.

Needs

Preservation

The negatives showed preliminary signs of deterioration, such as ambering and silver mirroring, and thus were in need of preservation. It was determined that the critical moisture indicator (CMI) method would be employed. The CMI method involves creating dry packaging for the negatives and then storing the negatives in cold storage to ensure long-term preservation. The Musée Héritage Museum did not have cold storage available so a frost-free freezer was purchased for appropriate cold storage.

Identification for Arrangement and Description

In addition to preserving the photographs, the context in which the images were created needed to be determined. An urgency to identify the images existed since any living memory of those people depicted in the images would soon be lost as the children subjects in the images were likely 80 to 90 years old in 2009. Since little information was available from the donor, my job was to identify the provenance of the photographs, identify the subjects and locations in the images,

and determine how the negatives entered the custody of the resident in St. Albert.

Digitization

Another need for the photographs was to make them accessible to the public. Scanning serves the function of making the images accessible for identification and description, for providing copies to the relevant communities, and for making the images accessible for use in the archives for the long-term. Newer developments in digital technologies and photography offered the ability to extract more information from the images than could be found from the dark room prints. More information helped in the identification process.

The negatives were scanned at 1600 dpi in tagged image file format (tiff). From the tiff files, access files were created in jpeg format at 300 dpi and the images were sized appropriately for creating prints. A set of working prints was created for the museum and, after preliminary research was concluded, two sets of prints were made to give to relevant communities. Once the research was complete, metadata was added to the images using Dublin Core metadata elements. Then, the digitized images in addition to their descriptions were submitted to the Archives Society of Alberta's (ASA) database.

The Research Location

When beginning the research process of the project, I referred to all the previous work done on the images. The location of the images was a logical place to begin since the location was one of the broadest identifications needed. Identifying locations leads not only to more information regarding the people depicted in the images but also may provide hints as to who was the photographer of the images. Brock Silverside's *The Face Pullers* identified the location for two of the photographs as LeGoff in Cold Lake, Alberta.¹ Previous museum staff had labeled the negatives the Hobemma

fonds so that location was considered as a starting point. Other possible locations indicated by previous museum staff included St. Albert, Onion Lake and St. Joachim's church in Edmonton. I conducted a search for all five locations in collections of online images from the early 20th century, in published materials and at the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). By examining the buildings at the various Catholic missions of the five locations, some locations were identified. Hobemma and St. Albert were not the location of any of the images but a number were taken at Onion Lake, Saskatchewan and Cold Lake, Alberta as well as a few at St. Joachim's church in Edmonton.



Boys in front of Catholic church at Onion Lake, Saskatchewan, 1920s-1930s.

Photograph courtesy of Musée Héritage Museum

The majority of the images still did not have identified locations. I enlarged the search by mapping out the Roman Catholic residential schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The order of nuns depicted in the images also gave clues to the location, as the Grey Nuns and Sisters of Assumption could be identified by their habits and were the only two orders of nuns appearing in the images. Potential locations could thus be eliminated based on the order of nuns that were employed by individual schools. From this mapping of residential schools, I only found one more location, that of Saddle Lake, Alberta.

The websites I consulted to view buildings at relevant Catholic missions included the Glenbow Archives, the Saskatchewan Council for Archives' Our Legacy and

the Assembly of First Nations Indian Residential Schools Unit.² By matching images in our collection with those in the various websites and at the PAA, more and more photographs were identified as originating from the four locations.

The Photographer

Another important concern was being able to identify the photographer. In one of the images, a shadow can be seen with a headpiece similar to an oblate priest. As already mentioned, only Roman Catholic missions were documented in the images and the priests, seminarians and brothers in the images were only from the order of the OMI. Considering the oblate focus of the photographs, the photographer most likely belonged to the oblate order. As searches were made at various archival holdings, the photographers of similar images, time periods and locations were noted. The sizes of the negatives were also considered since negatives with the same size could indicate the same photographer. In the collection of 207 negatives, only two sizes of film were used: 14 x 8.5 cm and 10.7 x 6.3 cm. A list of potential photographers was made by comparing the sizes and content of photographs taken by other oblates, and the biographies of these photographers were checked.

Other findings from previous museum staff was considered while investigating the potential photographer. A few of the priests in the images had already been identified, so their biographies were investigated. Two of the photographs contained a figure identified as Edmond Pratt, OMI. As I examined more photographs, I discovered numerous instances where Pratt was potentially depicted. Determining whether or not the same priest was depicted was difficult since this potentially similar face was variously bearded and clean-shaven and ranged in age. Since this face seemed so prominent in the photographs, Pratt's biography was consulted. All four of the identified locations matched locations

where Pratt served. The other locations where Pratt worked were noted and then searched for further identifications.

I concluded that Edmond Pratt, OMI was the photographer since his biography helped identify the other locations – Fort Resolution, North West Territories and North Battleford, Saskatchewan – that were depicted in the collection's photographs. As a result, six locations were identified and in those images depicting Pratt, he appeared to be the approximate age that matched the dates in which he worked at the various locations.

Aboriginal Communities

One of the most pressing needs for the project was to identify the people in the images since a living memory of these people would soon be non-existent. The intention of the museum was to actively involve the aboriginal communities that were the subjects in the photographs. The museum's aim was to have the communities depicted in the photographs actively involved in the description of their documented history.

To begin the task of involving the relevant communities, a community contact was important. Since the Royal Alberta Museum (RAM) has a permanent display on Alberta residential schools, the curators of the exhibit were consulted for the purposes of acquiring more information about residential schools in the prairies. The curators at the RAM provided a contact for Frog Lake reserve that has close ties with both Saddle Lake, Alberta and Onion Lake, Saskatchewan reserves. Onion Lake was a very important locale to have community involvement since the majority of the images were taken at two of the Onion Lake residential schools.

Two photograph identification sessions were arranged at the Frog Lake Healing Centre with three museum staff, including myself. On the first day, approximately thirty survivors of residential schools and

their families arrived to view the images and on the second day five people viewed the photographs. Many of the people were recognized and the names were given in Cree and/or English. Those viewing the photographs looked at the images and would let us know when someone was identified but offered little further information.

On the first day of our visit, one elder from another reserve told us how she did not trust archival institutions as she disagreed with paying for photographs of her ancestors. We ensured her that we were giving the prints from our holdings back to the community and that we would help her with research at other archival institutions in any way we could. Another issue that occurred was that we were not equipped with a Cree translator. We attempted to transliterate the Cree names to the best of our ability and with help from those identifying the individuals but whether or not all the transliterations were written correctly is unknown. Additionally, most of the survivors who would have a living memory of the residential schools were older and only one came out to the sessions. She remembered many of the people but forgot their names. To bring out the elderly to view images which bring up negative memories was probably difficult so the prints were left at Frog Lake for the elders to identify on their own time.

On the first day at Frog Lake, we contacted representatives from Onion Lake and Saddle Lake reserves. The woman from the healing centre at Onion Lake invited us to Onion Lake and she arranged to have some elders attend. The day we visited Onion Lake there was a funeral, so many of the elders were unable to view the photographs; however, a few elders attended the session in Onion Lake. They were very open about their experiences at the residential schools and they shared some painful memories, thus, giving us some important context for the schools. One

of the elders went out of his way to show us where the second and third residential schools were situated and he recalled playing in the church of the second residential school before it burned down and after it was abandoned. From the discussions with the three elders at Onion Lake, many of the people were identified. Upon return to the museum, we had another set of prints made and sent these prints out to Onion Lake for identification.

Our involvement with the community resulted in researchers visiting the museum to view the photographs. We also received visits from our contacts from the communities and were provided with more identifications. A year after the project, the museum is still in contact with the Onion Lake reserve and more people have been identified.

Other Sources of Information

PAA photographs, the Grey Nuns in Edmonton, the Archdiocese Archives and the Mission Oblate, Grandin Archives were consulted to get more information about the priests and nuns in the images. Through these various sources, some of the religious figures were identified. With the help of the Mission Oblate, Grandin archivist, I interviewed an oblate priest who knew Edmond Pratt, OMI in attempts to gain more insight on the photographer's life. Unfortunately, little information was gathered as the priest only remembered the pipe Edmond Pratt, OMI smoked.

I also identified one teacher at the school in Le Goff in Cold Lake by looking at local historical books created in Cold Lake and area and contacted the teacher's children to gather more information about the school. Over a telephone interview, I uncovered the names of the teacher's children who attended the school; however, information about the other children was not given by my contact, although the man I spoke with was one of the children in the images.



Teacher Charlie Hebert and students at Le Goff, Cold Lake, Alberta, 1920s-1930s.

Photograph courtesy of Musée Héritage Museum

I researched the history of the missions at the various locations and made descriptions at the series level for each mission. Additionally, some of the photographs may depict Pratt being ordained in St. Joachim's church. I visited St. Joachim's church in Edmonton with the working prints to see if any further locations could be recognized. The layout of the bricks at St. Joachim and the structure of the building which still stands was also shown in one of the images.



Seminarians at the side of St. Joachim church in Edmonton, Alberta, ca. 1918.

Photograph courtesy of Musée Héritage Museum

The Donor

Another element of information that was unknown was how the donor acquired the negatives. The donor's relation to Edmond Pratt, OMI was unknown. By searching the Musée Héritage Museum's newspaper clippings for information on

the donor's parents, I learned that the donor's father used to be a brother in the OMI order before he married the donor's mother. The couple was always very active in the religious community and lived at Rivière-Qui-Barre, Alberta, where Father Pratt served as a priest in his later life. Thus, it is assumed that the donor's parents somehow acquired the images through their acquaintance with Father Pratt when they lived in the community.

After the Research

After having gathered all the information on the photographs, the images were intellectually arranged by location. The numbers, which had been originally applied to the negatives in 1995 in no particular order, were kept on the negatives. The images were dated in approximation according to the photographer's biography. After describing at the series level, the images were then described at the item level. In the future, additional information that arrives will be added to the item descriptions. The cellulose nitrate negatives were also preserved according to the CMI method.

Conclusion

From much research and by exploring a multitude of areas for information, the photographer was identified as well as the possible connection the donor had with the photographer. Several locations were identified and these included North Battleford and Onion Lake in Saskatchewan, Fort Resolution in Northwest Territories and Edmonton, Saddle Lake, Cold Lake and Frog Lake in Alberta. Many priests, brothers, bishops and nuns were identified. A relationship was developed with a few Aboriginal communities for which the photographs were significant and consequently, identifications were made and stories from the communities were included in the descriptions. The communities also received images from their histories as

well as the accompanying descriptions. These photographs, which were taken from 1918 to the 1940s, have now become accessible to the public via the Musée Héritage Museum and the ASA databases. The living memory of the images was recorded before this memory had been lost. The physical negatives have been preserved at the earliest stages of degradation to slow the process of deterioration. In conclusion, the project was successful in preserving the negatives, connecting documents to their communities and making the material accessible to public.



Children in front of Le Goff, Cold Lake school, Alberta, 1920s-1930s.

Photograph courtesy of Musée Héritage Museum

Endnotes

¹ Brock Silversides, *The Face Pullers: Photographing Native Canadians, 1871 – 1939* (Saskatoon: Fifth House Publishers), 1994.

² Assembly of First Nations, <http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/photos.html> (accessed October 15, 2010); Glenbow, <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archives-PhotosSearch.aspx> (accessed October 15, 2010); Saskatchewan Council for Archives, <http://scaa.sk.ca/ourlegacy/> (accessed October 15, 2010).

A WINDOW INTO THE SOUL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Regina Landwehr, University of Calgary Archives

Thanks to funding made available from the Lois Hole Digital Library, the University Archives at the University of Calgary is pleased to announce a new on-line resource, the Institutional Reports Collection. It consists of nearly 2,000 individual institutional or university reports which are available for research at www.universitypublications.ucalgary.ca. The digitized collection, maintained in the University repository *ContentDm*, can be sorted and searched by title, creator, date and subject and is full text searchable as well. The reports were produced by University's academic and administrative offices and are representative of the whole gamut of issues and deliberations the University has been engaged in from when it was still a branch of the UofA before its establishment as an independent university in 1966 to the present. These reports offer a window into how the university evolved, the issues it dealt with and struggled with, the impacts it felt from changing social, cultural and economic priorities and sentiments of each time, and the decisions it made about how to grow, in what physical form and intellectual shape. The collection accumulated over a couple of decades and continues to grow. Provenance and custodial history were noted by the University Archives as the reports arrived either individually or as part of transfers of associated administrative records. The rationale for building this collection as a physically separate entity from associated records is to facilitate easy and quick access to that part of the administrative record which is considered open for research by the public immediately.



The digitization of this rich collection of administrative records is part of the University Archives' digitization strategy to make university publications of non-academic provenance that exist in print form only accessible to a wider audience on-line. Another step in this direction was the creation of an on-line portal called 'University Publications' (click on 'home') which brings together all types of non-academic university publications of archival value in one virtual place. Some are maintained on-line by their creating university units and some are held in print by the University Archives. Included here are annual reports from various administrative and

academic levels, university calendars, newsletters, pamphlets, convocation booklets, yearbooks, and campus and student newspapers. The purpose of the portal is to create awareness of the range of publications available at the university, suggest their relevance for interrelated research topics and provide a convenient one-stop-shop point from which to access or inquire about these sources. The goal is to make all of these sources available in digital form, as funding permits.

The impetus for this digitization project came during the University of Calgary's 40th anniversary year

in 2006 which saw a surge in the use of archival materials held at the University Archives in 2006. Of particular significance was a new 4th year course in Canadian Studies in which students investigated the university's place in western Canadian culture based on one of 24 broad and wide-ranging subject areas, including medical research, women, ethnicities and cultural diversity, disability services, sciences, and environmental initiatives. Primary sources held at the University of Calgary were specifically requested by the instructor to be used by the students.

Due to the fact that most records produced by campus units are closed to public access for a period of 25 years after their date of creation, it was difficult to provide sufficient records as study material for a class of about 30 students. Instead, Archives' staff selected relevant material from its open report collection to make available to the students, many of whom had never been in an archives, or experienced the use primary source materials before. The report collection provided users with readily available access to information about the University, its programs and interactions with various communities and stakeholders on and off-campus. Archivists pre-selected approximately 700 reports which corresponded to the 24 subject areas and prepared study kits for students to work on simultaneously in the subject area of their choice. They did so over a period of several weeks by consulting the material in the Archives and Special Collections' Reading Room.

One of the outcomes of this experience was our realization that the Institutional Reports Collection is eminently suitable to familiarize students with the concept of source criticism being a hallmark of inquiry based learning. On the one hand the reports can be evaluated as discreet sources of information on a chosen subject. They can also be regarded as stepping stones to more in-depth examination of issues as represented in archival sources of related origins such as are accessible in the University Archives and elsewhere. The new resource is destined to quickly become a staple

in archival literacy instruction in the classroom in other courses at the UofC. While the digitization project came into being in response to a need for appropriate source material for teaching at UofC, we are hopeful that it will also become a valued source for other types of users who are investigating issues around post secondary education in Alberta.

Questions about this collection can be directed to Regina Landwehr rlandweh@ucalgary.ca.

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MAN SORTING HIS BLACK FOX SKINS FROM HIS LOT OF 35000 DOLLARS WORTH

UPCOMING CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

The Law of Unintended Consequences: the Right to be Forgotten, the Duty to Remember

Inspired by current issues in social media, the web, and mobile communications, which are producing a documentary heritage quite different from the traditional one, and made even more relevant by recent events such as the WikiLeaks revelations, the ACA UBC Student Chapter is presenting its third annual International Symposium on February 11, 2011 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver Campus.

Speakers for the 2011 Symposium include:

Seamus Ross, University of Toronto

Agnes Jonker, Universiteit van Amsterdam

Karen Anderson, Mid Sweden University

Paul Conway, University of Michigan

Marnie Burnham, Library and Archives Canada

Ewa Maria Piorko, Library and Archives Canada

Jean-Francois Blanchette, University of California Los Angeles

Marietta Minotos, National Archives of Greece

Visit the Student Chapter website for a complete program, speaker biographies and detailed information about this event.

<http://www.slais.ubc.ca/people/students/student-groups/aca/symposium2011/index.html>

The cost of tickets for this year's symposium is \$20 and includes lunch and refreshments. Register online at: <http://www.slais.ubc.ca/people/students/student-groups/aca/symposium2011/registration.html>

Email aca.slais@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

Sharing Truth - Creating a National Research Centre on Residential Schools

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's "**National Research Centre**" Conference takes place in Vancouver, B.C. from March 2 - 4, 2011.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was established pursuant to a settlement agreement arising from Canada's largest ever class action lawsuit. The Commission is one part of the multi-part settlement agreement, relating to settling claims arising from the treatment of Aboriginal children in residential schools over approximately a century of Canadian history.

Part of the Commission's mandate calls on the Commission to establish a National Research Centre that will exist after the Commission has completed its work. During the life of the Commission, the Parties to the settlement agreement are required to provide all relevant documents to the Commission. In addition, the Commission will be documenting the experiences of Survivors via audio and video recordings. These statements will also be housed in the National Research Center.

Although the Commission's mandate will not be concluded until 2014, it is time to begin planning for the National Research Centre and this forum represents a significant effort on the part of the commission to hear from various experts around the world.

The Commission believes that the establishment of such a National Research Centre in Canada will be an important and perhaps the most lasting legacy of the settlement agreement.

The Conference has assembled a group of international experts on this topic that is perhaps unique in Canadian history and should be enriching for all, whether they are considering making an application to be chosen as part of the National Research Centre, or whether they wish to learn more about the work of the Commission or the various international experts who will be speaking at the National Research Centre conference.

Please visit the website at www.trc.ca for more information about the Conference.

Back to Basics??

The Association of Canadian Archivists will hold its annual conference at the Delta Chelsea in Toronto from June 1-4, 2011.

The 2011 ACA Programme Committee is developing a conference program that examines the core functions and theoretical underpinnings of the work that archivists undertake in order to understand how they are holding up in the face of changing technologies, a changing user and donor base, and the increased demands on shrinking budgets. By examining the historical precedents in light of the current archival practices of today the committee hopes to enliven discussion and spark conversations about the intersection of theory and methodology in the current landscape.

The conference will explore such topics as:

"Acquire"

- What do we want to acquire? Has this fundamentally changed or merely morphed? What might a new landscape look like?
- Documentation strategies: new emphasis on an old practice.
- Does the acquisition of electronic records affect core functions and core competencies of the archivist?
- Old "New Media" – acquisition concerns and possibilities.

"Arrange and Describe"

- Language and descriptive standards – who do they serve and how should they evolve.
- The electronic/hypertext environment – does it fundamentally alter our notions of interrelatedness and context presenting new arrangement challenges.
- Archival description in the age of wikis, social tagging, and user-generated data
- How do traditional archival concepts cohere with contemporary information challenges which question the meaning of custody, reproduction and distribution of version, fixity and stability of form, and collaborative authorship?

"Preserve and Make Available"

- Who are our researchers, and does the audience affect the nature of work an archives undertakes?
- Digitization projects and the role of archivist as curator.
- More Product, Less Process (MPLP): reactionary measure or revolutionary step?
- What effects are changing privacy and intellectual-property rights having on access or acquisition?

For additional information on all aspects of the ACA conference, visit the Annual Conference page of the ACA website at <http://archivists.ca/content/annual-conference>.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Terry Reilly of Libraries and Cultural Resources at the University of Calgary has been seconded to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) from December 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013 as Manager, Document Acquisition and Collections Management.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and to inform all Canadians about what happened in the schools. The Commission will document the truth of what happened by relying on records held by those who operated and funded the schools, testimony from officials of the institutions that operated the schools, and experiences reported by survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience and its subsequent impacts. (<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=4>)

Given this mandate Terry will be playing an important role in this significant chapter in the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians. Libraries and Cultural Resources is extremely proud of Terry's accomplishments in being sought for this position and in our ability to help the Commission in its work through this secondment.

Carolyn Hill has retired from the City of Wetaskiwin Archives, effective December 31, 2010. Her tenure at the Archives lasted 25 years and included major acquisitions, such as the Carl Walin Studio, the development of new facilities, and numerous outreach projects in the community. The new City Archivist is Angela Smith. Congratulations to both Carolyn and Angela!

ASA honorary member Jo-Ann Munn Gafuik is among the contributors to *Better off Forgetting? Essays on Archives, Public Policy, and Collective Memory*, edited by Cheryl Avery and Mona Holmlund and published in September 2010 by the University of Toronto Press.

Erin Isaacs, formerly of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, has taken a position with the Alberta Ministry of Environment as a Senior Records Officer.

Sara King, formerly of the Red Deer and District Archives, has taken a contract with the United Church of Canada –

The South Peace Regional Archives has received a 2010 Alberta Heritage Award from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for outstanding achievement in heritage publications. The award citation notes, "Among the many initiatives of the South Peace Regional Archives in Grande Prairie, the following publications strongly reflect the Archives' commitment to the historical preservation of the South Peace Region: *A Grande Education: One Hundred Schools in the County of Grande Prairie, 1910-1960*; *Grande Prairie City: A Pictorial History from 1906-1958*; *Flying High: The City of Grande Prairie 1958-2008*; *Remembering Grande Prairie 1958-2008*; and *War-Brides in the South Peace*. SPRA supporter Elizabeth Sheehan also received an Alberta Heritage Award for outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of Alberta's heritage, with the award citation praising the dedication of "her time to recording events and collecting valuable artifacts with a long-term view of their historical significance to the people of the Peace Region and to all Albertans. Congratulations to all in Grande Prairie!

archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The **Archives Society of Alberta News** is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

Archives Society of Alberta
PO Box 4067
South Edmonton Post Office
Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8

Editor contact information:

Telephone: (780) 424-2697
Fax: (780) 425-1679
Email: mgourlie@shaw.ca

Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the **Archives Society of Alberta News**, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

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