

SCAA

*Serving archives and archivists
throughout Saskatchewan*

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We're on the Web! <http://scaa.usask.ca>

Have you visited our web-site and checked out our links to your Virtual Exhibits? We want to provide links to all exhibits put up by our members. Our SCAA Virtual Exhibits are found there: inter-institutional virtuals now include "Main Street, Saskatchewan" and "Saskatchewan Presents: An Exhibition on Theatre and Drama," along with our previous exhibits, "Saskatchewan in Two World Wars" and "Saskatchewan and the Visual Arts." These are inter-institutional exhibits. Our thanks to everyone who contributed to these! And if some of you have virtual exhibits that aren't linked, please contact Tim Hutchinson at tim.hutchinson@usask.ca

SCAA Newsletter

Herald Issue

Volume 1, Number 1

October , 2002

FIRST OFFERINGS OFF THE NEWSLETTER PRESS!

Welcome to the first edition of the SCAA s newsletter!

We hope to carry on the good tradition of keeping those in the busy historic world of archives in touch with each other throughout the province, like archival newsletters of old!

What we are doing, larger archival happenings, upcoming events and important things like planned staff respite (parties!!). Consider this your personal invitation to wing all of your news to Outreach to be included in the next issue!

Being our first issue, we will have a bit of review this time around, but bear with us, we ll get to the news soon enough.

But first, more than a rhetorical question: what is a publication without a fetching title?

Readers and members, what would you suggest? Perspectives? Prairie View? Send in your suggestions and you could win an acid-free prize! And don t forget to send your news, too, and letters to the Editor.

Archives is a dusty, intriguing, sometimes bureaucratic, treasure-filled world. Tell us about your chief treasure. Describe a day in the life of an archivist at your shop.

In plain words, we want to hear from you!

WHO ARE WE THESE DAYS?

The SCAA represents 46 community, municipal, university, religious, and provincial archives and more than 30 professional and volunteer archivists throughout Saskatchewan

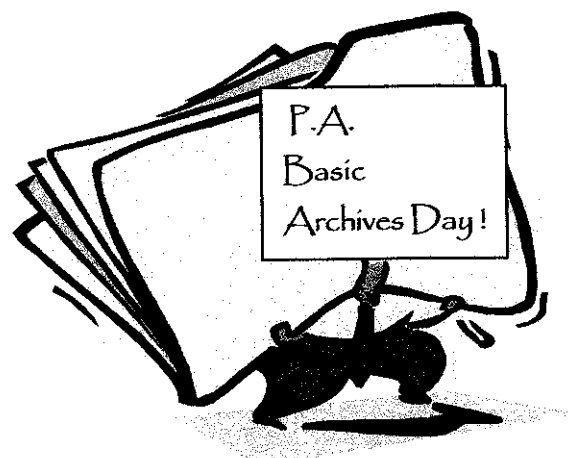
2002-2003 Executive

- President: Tim Hutchinson, University of Saskatchewan Archives
- Vice President: Linda Putz, SAB
- Treasurer, Stephen Roth, SAB
- Institutional Member at Large & CCA Representative, Cheryl Avery, U. of S.
- Individual Member at Large and Chair of Education Committee, Joe LeClair, SAB

From the virtual world...

"ADDRESSING DIGITIZATION," MAY 10-11, 2002

It's here. We cannot ignore it. So said Terry Kuny of Xist Info. Systems, Ottawa, when he led us in an intriguing day and a half on how the virtual affects archives and its information flow. Terry is a digitization expert who has designed many projects of national scope for Heritage Canada, the National Archives, the National Library; he works abroad as well. Deciding what to scan, managing the project, telling a catching story in your exhibits and how to measure the success of a project were all covered, and more. 40 archivists and librarians from as far away as La Ronge attended, and scanning demos and a dinner overlooking the waters of Wascana were added features. The conclusion? That we have a great deal to talk about among ourselves as we learn together, that we can learn from each other's projects on the go, our own virtual exhibits, etc. You can catch the highlights of Terry's address at <http://www.xist.com/kuny/dlib>.



Basic Archives Day presented by SCAA Outreach was held in Prince Albert on November 14, 2001, bringing together a dozen archivists and historians from Arcola to Rosetown and La Ronge. The Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan Archives in Prince Albert did a fine job of hosting us in their sunny board-room and inspiring us with their state-of-the-art RAD-compliant archives, as well as meeting our lunch and caffeine needs! Thanks to Verna Redhead, Rae Benson and Jackie Hobbs, the archivists there! Basic Archives Day cut a wide swath: the purpose of archives, determining what to collect (mandates), facilities requirements, basic archival concepts, a bit on conservation, and time to share common concerns. We made many new archival friends that day. *And we made history*, as in all likelihood our dramatization of archival concepts using team charades had to be a first! "Provenance, anyone...?"

Are SAIN & CAIN worth it?

Here is an assessment from University of Saskatchewan History
Professor W.A. (Bill) Waiser:

I have been a frequent user of archives for almost thirty years now and have come to depend heavily on their holdings, especially for the research for my six books. Because travel to different out-of-province archives can be expensive, I try, whenever possible, to secure beforehand some idea of what material (content, volume, format) is available--it saves time and scarce research money.

The CAIN project is a powerful research tool. In experimenting with the prototype, I entered the subject name for my first book and was rewarded with ten hits--listing the collection name, archival source, brief description, nature of records, and most importantly, contact information. If this kind of search engine had been available twenty years ago, it would have greatly simplified and enhanced my research strategy for the project. I then entered the name of my current research project and was directed to two sources that were new to me. I used CAIN to send this data to my office computer and later accessed the contact information to send messages to the archives. One day later, I was speaking via email to a research archivist about these new sources and their importance to my current writing project.

The CAIN project has lived up to its expectations--and more. I personally look forward to using CAIN on a regular basis and will insist that it be one of the first research tools that my graduate students consult. I can also see CAIN being used by the general public, in particular genealogists. The creators should be commended--it is a researcher's dream.

"I'm In SAIN, are you?" T-SHIRT Contest

Be among the first 10 to send Outreach your SAIN entry and you'll win a Saskatchewan cotton T-shirt "I'm in SAIN, are you?" A collectors' hot item, one-size; in pasteurized cream.

FRANK GLASS – ROSETOWN'S ARCHIVIST

Frank Glass - volunteer archivist and a guiding force behind the Rosetown and District Archives - passed away on March 6, 2002, at the age of 93.

He was born in London, England on November 25, 1908 and was raised on the family farm in the Oldbury District, north of Maymont. Upon his retirement from the Department of Highways in 1973 he pursued his love of history mixed with an interest in photography and was a force in the creation on the Rosetown Archives and also the Rosetown Museum. Even though he was in a long term care facility in Elrose he took along his computer and kept working on the organization of history for the Rosetown area to his last days.

I met Frank in 1997 while employed as Outreach Archivist for the then-SCA and found him to an engaging and determined man with the energy of a person half his age. At a time in life when most other people are long-since content to sit back and watch the world go by Mr. Glass was busy teaching himself how to use computer databases and travelling to Saskatoon to attend archives workshops.

Says the current Archivist in Rosetown: "He was a force to be reckoned with and he will be missed in the community." He was a good reminder that learning is a life-long affair.

J. Jeffrey O'Brien
City of Saskatoon Archivist

Ivy Buttar, 1927-2002

The Rosetown Archives has lost yet another long time contributor to the gathering of Rosetown's history. Ivy Buttar became the archivist in 1989 and was active on the joint board of the Rosetown Museum and Archives. When the museum moved to its new home Ivy remained as the archivist at the Rosetown Library and Archives. She gathered and organized Rosetown history from 1989 to 2000, when she decided that it was time to pursue her retirement interests. Her dedication to history was remarkable.

Sharon Clark
Archivist of the Rosetown Archives

Highlights of Fall, 2001 Workshop

“Preparing for a Conservation Assessment at Your Archives”

Conservation needs are key concern for any archives. A foundational “know thyself.” And surely a guiding light for future work. Those applying for CCA grants are also aware that the “CA” is a prerequisite for CPCAR grants of the future. On October 25-27th an SCAA workshop, “Preparing for a Conservation Assessment at Your Archives” was held in Saskatoon. **Cynthia Ball**, a paper conservator from Jasper, gave us the expert scoop on conservation assessments: what they mean, how to prepare for one and how to make use of the information gathered. Fourteen archivists from southerly points (Swift Current, Regina) and northerly (Melfort, Prince Albert) took part. A wine-and-cheese evening was followed by a lively day session at the WDM that included slides, a feel for environmental monitoring equipment (hands-on) and the richness of Cynthia’s wide experience in archives conservation. The next day we met at the University Archives for a session on disaster planning and a facilities tour. Special thanks to **Cheryl Avery and Tim Hutchinson** for the Saturday hosting.

Insight on On-sites!

It’s nearing that time again as we work out details for on-site conservation assessments! There is really no preparation involved, beyond completing a preliminary questionnaire and being there when the conservator comes to call. He or she wants to see you as are, even if it’s overworked and silverfished, with boilers shooting extra steam.

The purpose is to assess your needs and help your archives set short and longterm goals. Comments on last year’s on-sites indicate archivists found it very productive. A chance to take good information back to their Boards. While many confessed that anticipating the on-site assessment felt like waiting to see the doctor, post-visitation reports indicate that it was a positive educational experience, “a chance to confirm things we thought were right,” an opportunity to ask tailor-made questions and a pleasant way to get a handle on the global picture. As one put it, “we learned a lot about ourselves just by completing the preliminary questionnaire!”

Cynthia Ball, archival conservator from Jasper began on-site conservation assessments at ten archives on January 29 of last year, with onsites done at Arcola, Whitewood, Lutheran Church Canada-Central Chapter, Regina; Canadian Bible College, Regina; Saskatoon Gateway Players; Saskatoon Summer Players; Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan; Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert, North Battleford City Archives and the Rosetown District Archives.

Each archives received a canvas-pouch tool kit containing a variety of useful archival items (PH pens, copper wire, cotton gloves, erasers) that were purchased by the SCAA and prepared by Cynthia Ball.

On-site conservation assessments are generally a prerequisite for grants. Our conservator this year is Jane Dalley, a freelance conservator newly arrived in Regina. We expect to have about 6-7 more completed this year. If you have not had one and would like one, please call Outreach at 374-7143.



La Société Historique de la Saskatchewan CAIN Photo Project

A short-term CAIN project of la Societe added approximately 700 digitized photo-images to a larger Fransaskoise cultural project, **La Musée Virtuel Francophone de la Saskatchewan**, the creation of which will soon be available at www.societehisto.org/musee/. It is a step toward documenting the lives, interests and activities of the Fransaskois community within the last twenty years, including Hart-Rouge and other musical groups and adding to a larger historic project that involves more than 900 pages of documents and a collection of 10,000-12,000 photographs. Among the historic treasures to be encountered is the English translation of the writing of Louis Riel's secretary, HonorÉ Jaxon (Louis Schmidt), amassed from various sources.

Discussions, Teamwork and New Friends

Attending the Alberta Archives Institute, May 13-18, 2002

by Maxine Holm , Central District, Lutheran Church-Canada

The Institute is an intensive, immersion-style experience, where the fundamentals of archival science are introduced and studied in order of their place in the archival process. Each component builds upon the last until the entire process of acquisition, appraisal, arrangement, description, preservation and access are covered and their intricate inter-relationships revealed. While the Institute is not a complete education, it is a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental elements that make up the work undertaken by members of the archival profession. The Institute delivers information archives workers need in order to assess both their institutional programs and their future training needs. The Institute also provides the prerequisite knowledge for participation in special topics, workshops and seminars offered regularly by the ASA (also the SCAA). The above description truly fits what was presented! The main instructors, Michael Gourlie and Margery Hadley, were assisted by a range of guest instructors. It was a full six days/evenings of programs, discussions, team work, social breaks and making new friends.

For a number of reasons this Institute was timely and very beneficial:

- I am a 'fairly new' archivist;
- the archives I work in was assessed in February;
- the archives I work in received a CCA grant for rehousing.

THE SAIN REPORT by Cheryl Avery

The Saskatchewan Archival Information Network (**SAIN**) now has 529 fonds-level and 216 series-level descriptions on SAIN, from 15 institutions, including the University of Saskatchewan Archives, City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Archives, Melfort and District Museum, Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert Archives, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College Library, Saskatoon Gateway Players, Saskatoon Public Library Local History Room, St. Thomas More College Archives, University of Regina Archives and Special Collections, and University of Saskatchewan Libraries Special Collections. This represents participation from approximately 1/3 of our membership.

We still plan on linking full finding aids to these descriptions; hopefully, the first of these will be up on SAIN relatively shortly. With some examples in place, institutions will be able to judge the benefits of having their finding aids accessible in either EAD, HTML, or PDF formats.

In addition to the fonds-level records on SAIN, we have also begun work on a provincial photograph database. We will also be partnering with Nova Scotia in a pilot project with our photograph database, based on the Open Archives Initiative: this will enable a search for our photographs, together with 'thumbnail' images, from a central location (the CAIN site). A similar initiative can be viewed at Images Canada, at <http://www.imagescanada.ca/index-e.html>.

Like CAIN, a search result leads directly back to the host institution. Being able to search the province's holdings for photographs concurrently will be a tremendous resource; adding 'thumbnail' images of those photographs, where copyright has been cleared to do so, will really enhance the utility of the project. So many institutions have begun describing their photographic holdings that, with agreement on some basic necessary data elements, we should be able to combine the databases without too much difficulty. Please note: this would be similar to CAIN, in that concurrent search capability at one location does not replace the need for maintain its institutional database; rather, it simply provides one more avenue for access.

The CCA Board recently asked for some statistics from each province to help assess what was required in order to facilitate participation on the provincial databases and CAIN. This process included asking how many fonds or collections we already had, how many we expected to add on an annual basis, the extent of our unprocessed backlog, and the number of our holdings we had described according to RAD.

Roughly 60% of SCAA member institutions responded as of February 12th, 2002 and the results are quite useful. The 25 responding institutions estimated 7,575 existing fonds or collections, with annual accrual rates of over 1,105 metres per year. The good news: the amount of backlog, or unprocessed collections, was relatively low—just under 26%. The bad news: just under 6% of fonds or collections had RAD-compliant descriptions.

The SAIN committee this year includes:

Cheryl Avery: cheryl.avery@usask.ca

Cameron Hart: mac231@yahoo.com

Crista Bradley: cbradley@archives.gov.sk.ca

Ruth Millar: ruth@publib.saskatoon.sk.ca

Tim Hutchinson: tim.hutchinson@usask.ca

Please feel free to contact any one of us with your ideas for future developments or improvements to SAIN.

E dible Archives

E *Historic recipes from the mid-18th century from the archives of Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Montrose and Monifieth and Angus, compliments of the Angus Local Studies Center*

(www.angus.gov.uk/history/archives)

Margaret Scott, Lady Logie (1710 - 1781) carefully preserved a bundle of recipes amongst her papers. They were wrapped up in an advert for George Kerr, Tinsmith in Fountain Close, Edinburgh and labeled as "receipts worth while to keep." Some are written in her own hand, others were taken from letters sent by friends. Printed recipe books were not common and women carefully collected and preserved them. Lady Logie was from the powerful Scott family who owned many of the estates in the vicinity of Montrose. She lived on Newmanswall estate and also had a town house in Montrose High Street. She lived as a widow for over 30 years. All of her children predeceased her. Her recipe for kitted salmon was a dinner party dish. It is of special interest since Lady Logie's relatives, the Lairds of Logie, Commieston, Rossie and Brotherton, owned most of the salmon fishings in the area and were major exporters. Kitted salmon was a pickling process which was part salt and part vinegar.

To Kitt Salmond

"Boile your salmond with a strong pickle of salt as usual, and after it is boiled take it from the pickle, lett it stand till cold, scume all the fat from mixe and boile it with Jamaica pepper and a little black pepper and a few Bay leaves, when it is cold, take half of this pickle and half vinegar and putt over your salmond, I have not one exact weight for the epicerie that is just as you would have it keeps long"

Orange Wine " fit to drink in a Month"

"Take 50 Bitter Oranges, pair off the outter rynds, squeeze them, and put the juice into a bowl, take out all the seeds, and put them up in a Bag, take 13 Pints of Good Water, and 12 pounds of fine sugar, put sugar and water into a Clean Kettle with the whites of 8 Eggs, Boyl the sugar and water 3 Quarters of an hour on a Clear fire, and Scum it well, then put the above seeds and rynds, into a clean stand, pour on them the boiling syrop, and when it becomes as cold as Wort fit for Barm, put to it a Mutchkin good new Barm, which must be first mixed with four or five spoonfulls of the Syrop of Lemons, both being beat together before it be put to the Liquor. Let it be slightly covered and work 48 hours, then turn all in a barrel with rynds and seeds, with the Liquor, and with the juice of 50 oranges, which must be till then preserved, with a little sugar, with 4 pints good hard sack, Rhinish wine or Lisbon wine, let it stand 10 or 12 Days, after that draw it off in clean bottles, put a little bit of sugar in every bottle, let the corks be a little slack for 2 days, then drive them hard."

Remembering Stan

Cheryl Avery's remembrance of Stan Hanson, University of Saskatchewan Archivist, colleague and friend, who passed away on October 31, 2001.

Archivists are, I suppose, used to dealing with passages of time and of changing circumstance. We receive materials when careers and lives are in transition; when even the most cautious bureaucrat is certain there is no longer a need to look back; when families are emotionally removed enough to let us have materials that document the lives of previous generations. And we sift through all of this material appraising its worth as memory and history, determining what is of permanent value, what we can safely leave behind as passing and inconsequential.

To say Stan Hanson was a force of nature let loose upon the archival community would be an understatement. His energy was extraordinary. Younger colleagues following in his wake could find it bewildering. Although he joked not to take it seriously, that it was only a poorly-paid government job, he believed archivists owed the profession time and effort, and he was on the forefront of the establishment of the Association of Canadian Archivists, of the Canadian Council of Archives, of the National Archival Appraisal Board.

And he loved it all. Meeting donors, hauling boxes, processing records, answering enquiries, debating theory, arguing with administrators and recalcitrant funders—perhaps especially arguing and debating—he enjoyed every aspect of the whole. His was a practical approach, a working archivist's approach. He was not afraid to try new ideas, either on a national or local scale. Many an hour was spent at the U. of S. Archives discussing potential projects and if some of them in all honesty should have exceeded our grasp we never worried. It was worth doing, we could do it! Stan had energy that was infectious and he had the courage to act.

While sifting through the materials of recorded memory, archivists always learn secrets. We learn people's secrets and I know Stan's, though I doubt he ever hid it well. It is this: he had a good heart. He was perhaps the most genuinely generous person I have ever met. Underneath his quick and sometimes barbed wit, underneath his gruff positioning, he was absolutely supportive, interested in people, a loyal friend, a man you could trust. And however hard he worked, however much work was waiting, we always had fun.

Stan loved history and loved archives. But these were secondary concerns: everyone who knew Stan knew where his heart really was, and that was with his family. He was justifiably proud of his children, delighted in their achievements, was concerned for their future. It is impossible to think of Stan without thinking of him in the proper context: his true partnership with Glenys, his love for Lawrence and Melanie, for Catherine and Dan.

This is a passage that archivists may never get used to. Instead of documenting history for once we would give much to reverse it. Over those sad days following Stan's death, archivists from across the country called, appraising the life of our colleague and good friend. How are we to sift through these memories? What assessment might we give? Our judgement is clear. We feel fortunate and honoured to have been able to acquire these memories. Collectively they reveal a life well and fully lived, and we will preserve them. Stan has given us memories, has given us a history worth preserving.

Meet a Member...

Raising history at

WHITWOOD

from French counts to 1910 oak shelving, Whitewood archives breathes history...

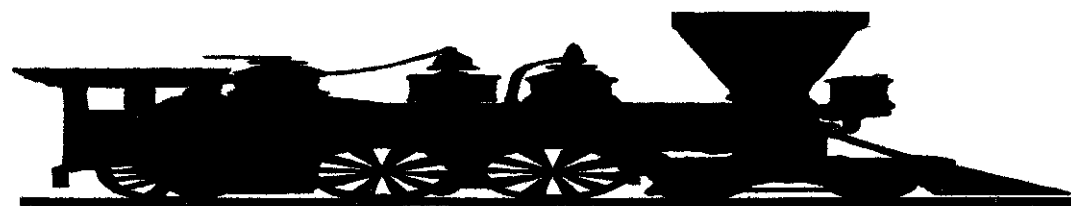
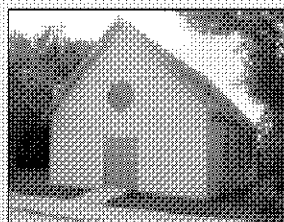
M McKay Historical Society, known to most as the Whitewood Archives, is one of the newer members of the SCAA, collecting the local history of Whitewood and environs, and of south-east Saskatchewan as it comes in. It is especially interesting for a number of reasons. The first is that Whitewood was home to a number of French counts in the 1880s. The second is that it had a ranching dimension to its past as well as the homesteading experience. And being just fourteen miles down the road from Broadview, the hometown of Saskatchewan historian, John Archer, history is simply in the air!

The Whitewood Archives is located just off Main Street in a restored/sympathetically-renovated Methodist church from 1892. It has a new foundation, the original siding, and six stained-glass windows. It is wheelchair accessible, has two research lofts and a climate-control furnace. An inlaid pine ceiling, the product of mega-hours of work, adds elegance, while 1910 "Off Season Merchandise" oak cupboards acquired from an old store provide historic shelving for its Hollinger boxes.

Its holdings are mainly memoirs, district histories, newspapers, and photographs dealing with homesteading and ranching, and some rare books. A growing focus is the French counts' settlement and the continued relationship with their families. A microfilm reader was recently acquired largely for newspapers of the district, and there is a good stock of original ones as well.

The wide interests of the McKay Historical Society are reflected in every part of Whitewood, from the many historic homes it owns, saving them from destruction, including the home of the first post-mistress in the NWT, to the log school it restored. Its latest acquisition promises to put history in drive-a turn of the century democrat that will raise dust around town.

Raising history around Whitewood is Blaine Coleman, chief archivist.
An inspiration to us all.



HOLLINGER BOXES CATCH TRAIN TO SASKATCHEWAN

In mid-September we eagerly awaited a certain run of the westbound CP. Yes, there it was! A box-car loaded with grey Hollingers. It had rumbled its way across Ontario and the prairies, and made it to Saskatoon, signalling the successful transfer of a thoughtful gift of the National Archives of Canada to many of our SCAA member archives.

320 new-to-you standard archival boxes were distributed to seven SCAA members for the cost of freight alone, giving them an excellent, inexpensive rehousing boost. The National Archives does not use the typical Hollinger box because much of their material is stored off-site. It prefers a different type of acid-neutral, somewhat larger container.

It's an example of the team concept of caring for archives, beyond "we-think-we-can."

And the Winners Are...

Winner of the Conservation Assessment workshop doorprize, *Preserving Archives and Manuscripts* by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler was Frances Westlund of the Melfort and District Museum.

Lila Henderson of the Saskatoon Summer Players won the Basic Archives Day doorprize, an up-to-archival-standards photograph album!

Preservation Management Guidelines...did you get yours? If not, call Outreach, 374-7143



creative-use bouquet goes to...

Humboldt Museum and Gallery for a unique photo-display unit! They got a linoleum sample book (sturdy metal type) and refitted it with thin coroplast to make an inexpensive, large and sturdy album for duplicate photos that visitors can flip and enjoy!