

Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists Newsletter

SCAA – President's Message

May 2004

Well, another year has drawn to a close in the happenings of the SCAA. Our grant reports are almost done, and we look forward to a new season of activity. Much has been accomplished. Another six global conservation assessments were completed for institutional members, despite a mid-year change from an in-province conservator to out-of-province services. Thanks to the work of Cameron Hart thirteen member institutions now participate in our SAIN Photo Database Project, and additional entries to SAIN itself are being made daily by many archives. Our twelve CAIN/Archives Canada virtual exhibits have drawn active participation of many member archives, and thanks to a dedicated team of archivists leading the effort, these exhibits are becoming a reality. We also held two very successful workshops, and have more planned for the upcoming year. As ever, Kathy Szalasznyj has jumped in whenever necessary to provide that vital link between archivists; outreach archivists truly are an 'essential service'. Thank you, Kathy for your continued enthusiasm and resourcefulness.

As we head into summer, just a reminder to mark off June 19th for the Council's AGM in Regina. Please also remember to renew your membership for 2004/05! More information on the AGM is found elsewhere in this newsletter and agenda packages will be going out to members shortly.

In closing I wish to thank the Executive, Cheryl Avery, Joe LeClair, Mark Vajcner, Carey Isaak, and Cheryl Brown as well as all members who worked on Council committees and projects, for the many hours of dedicated effort.

Enjoy the year ahead!

Linda Putz

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 19, 2004

University of Regina Archives & Spec. Collections

113 Dr. John Archer Library (Main Floor)

1:30 p.m. please try to attend!



Canadian Council of Archives

from Jeff the Chair... 2004- 2005 Grants Committee Report

ABOUT GRANTS

The Grants Committee met on January 9th in Davidson. This year the Committee was once again faced with a situation in which requests for funding far outstripped available monies. The allocation from the Canadian Council of Archives for Regular Programs (used mostly for Control of Holdings projects) dropped from 60,325.00 in 2003-2004 to 47,850.00 this year. The CPCAR allocation went to 35,624.00 this year. Requests for funding in these categories were \$58,450.56 in Regular Programs and 53,346.54 for CPCAR.

Choosing which applications to decline and which to fund was a very therefore a very difficult process. It was even more unfortunate this year in that a number of applicants turned out to have let their memberships lapse, meaning that otherwise quite worthwhile projects could not even be considered. In the end we managed to spend exactly the amount we were allocated, as the table below indicates.

CPCAR	Allotment	35,625.00
Institution	Project Name	Amt
Humboldt & District	Disaster Plan and Supplies Purchase	\$3,284.98
Melfort & District	Disaster Plan and Rehousing supplies	\$3,536.00
U of R	Photo Preservation Copying	\$3,125.00
SCAA	Global Assessments	\$8,150.00
Gateway Players	Environmental & Storage Control	\$750.00
SCAA	Bulk Purchase	\$15,500.56
Total:		\$34,346.54
Surplus:		1,278.46

(Surplus transferred to Control of Holdings)

Control of Holdings

Allotment	47,850.00
Surplus (from CPCAR)	1278.46
Total	49,128.46

Institution	Project Name	Granted
STF	Saving Face - Part III	\$4,148.16
SCAA	Outreach & Education	\$22,135.15
SCAA	Photo Database	\$15,755.20
MJPL	Friends COH Project	\$4,317.95
North Battleford	Guthrie Collection	\$2,772.00
Total		\$49,128.46
Surplus:		0.00

Mark Your Calendar

May 27 to 29 in Montreal, Quebec. Annual conference of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA). Stay abreast of ACA news in general by visiting their website at <http://archivists.ca/home/>.

May 31 to June 1 in Montreal, Quebec. ACA Institute. This 2-day advanced level seminar is sponsored by the ACA Education Committee. This year's Institute will focus on monetary appraisals of archival materials. The course instructors are Marcel Caya, Sam Kula and Carmen Carroll. For further information visit http://archivists.ca/prodev/aca_institute.aspx.

June 3 in Winnipeg. The Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries (CIDL) will hold an open meeting to advance a national digitization policy for Canada. Together with this policy debate, there will be discussions on the need to ensure a coherent approach to the provision of funding for the development of Canadian digital content. Visit <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/cidl/cidle.html> for more information.

August 2 to 8 in Boston, Massachusetts. Annual conference of the Society of American Archivists. Visit <http://www.archivists.org> for more information.

August 23 to 29 in Vienna, Austria. 15th International Congress on Archives. The theme for this quadrennial conference is "Archives, Memory and Knowledge." Visit <http://www.ica.org/> for more information.

Bulk Purchase, the Idea that Became REALITY!

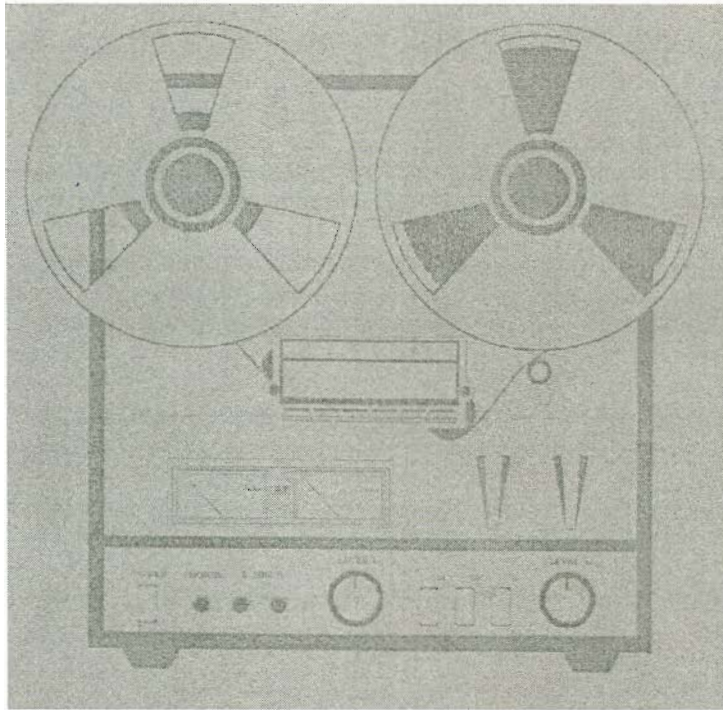
Remember the bulk purchase orders we tallied last fall and attempted to get a matching grant for? We got it! And so, before long, you will be contacted about your order, your financial commitment to the project. It's a great deal for us all. Stay posted for more details.

An Update on Membership

Many thanks to Cheryl Brown, Treasurer, and Carey Isaak, Secretary, for their hard work in creating an up-to-date Membership list, and to all institutions and members who responded to recent queries. We are pleased to say we have 37 institutional members and 20 individual members (professional and volunteer archivists). We're a growing force for history in these parts!

And besides that, another dozen institutions and fifteen archivists are just around the corner, needing that extra reminder to rejoin if they have let it slip. We will be approaching them shortly and our ranks will in all likelihood, increase even more.

We will refresh our list of institutional members on our website very soon, but will not put up email addresses, only mailing addresses. However, if your email address changes, please inform Outreach at 374-7143 or at outreach-scaa@shaw.ca. It's still the quickest way to spread the archives word.



The Modern Information Carriers Workshop, March 4-5, 2004

No, not archivists carrying boxes....but the life of optical disks and various magnetic tapes (cd, audio, video). A whole circle of archivists gathered in Regina to hear Tom Strang and Joe Iraci of the Canadian Conservation Institute discuss their tests, findings and experience with modern information storage.

We will not forget Tom's "cooler and drier is gooder" and Joe's "it's not like we haven't thought about this." Yes, we are all thinking about longevity as formats and technology change. It was a

wonderful professional workshop, informative, open to questions and good exchange among members. For CDs, the end of Kodak Gold CDs was lamented, but another on the market Matsui MAM-E (also a gold CD) seems to be on the top of the list for archival storage. However, it is a very complex subject, with the quality of your equipment (DVD burners, CD burners) also figuring into the picture.

We are doing our best to locate a supplier of Matsui MAM-E should our members be interested. Perhaps a bulk purchase could bring savings here, too.

Now here are some snippets of wisdom, jotted by Outreach in the margin of the informative manual we were given:

1. Keeping things in the dark is not enough, you have to keep them cool.
2. Even a 5 degree drop in temperature lengthens archives life 4X.
3. Place valued records in moisture-proof enclosures.
4. Polyethelene can be used intelligently in archives: sheds water, absorbs infra-red rays and in fire, shrinks and is peel-able.
5. Colour negatives put into polyethelene bags can be labeled ("not turkey") and put in the deep freeze for preservation purposes.
6. Don't leave stuff where it is going to get hot and shrink.
7. Not every broken disk is a lost cause (hard to believe but true) sometimes it is still playable, depending on where the break is.
8. There is not a single CD that does not have errors.

Workshops for 2004-2005

What would you like to see? Write Outreach at outreach-scaa@shaw.ca. Our Executive is interested in your ideas and visions for ongoing education in archives.



Aboriginal Archives

A Special Interest Group of the Association of Canadian Archivists

The Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), issued in October 1996, identified a number of archival, records management, historical, and cultural issues which provide a collective challenge to the Canadian archival community. The move to establish a special interest section within the ACA has

largely resulted from the recognition that Canadian archivists must contribute in their own unique way to the future of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

A meeting was held during the Annual Conference of the ACA on 4 June 1997 in order to open a dialogue between archivists (including Aboriginal archivists) and non-archivists on the subject of Aboriginal archives. This meeting resulted in the appointment of Terry Cook as interim chair of a steering committee to establish the Special Interest Section on Aboriginal Archives (SISAA). The steering committee has sought expressions of interest in joining SISAA through an article in the ACA Bulletin, a number of regional archival newsletters, the ACA web site, and via the ARCAN-L listserv. SISAA received formal recognition as a Special Interest Section by the ACA Board of Directors in November, 1997. Any questions or comments on SISAA may be directed to Edward Atkinson, Chair.

SEE http://archivists.ca/special_interest/ for more details

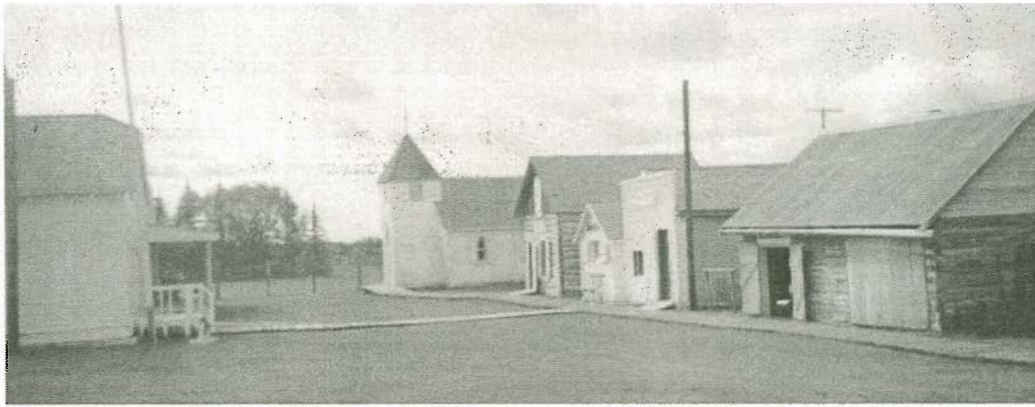
Purpose of SISAA

- provide members of the ACA with a forum to discuss a wide range of archival issues relating to records created by Aboriginal peoples and records concerning Aboriginal peoples created by non-Aboriginal peoples;
- serve as an interface between the community of Canadian archivists and Aboriginal communities and organizations;
- form a base of expertise, advice, and support on archival issues that can be shared with Aboriginal communities and organizations;
- provide ACA members at large with information on archival issues of significance to Aboriginal peoples.

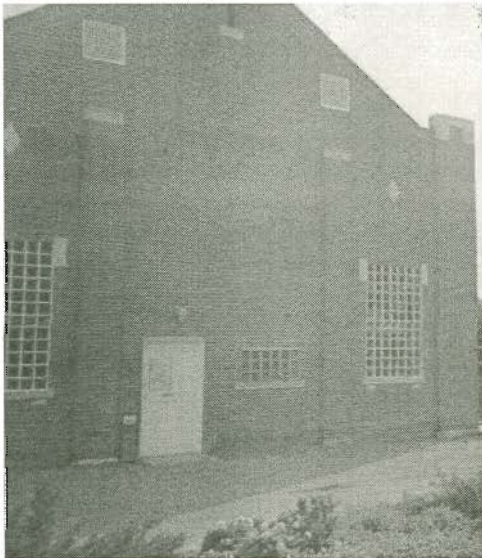
Objectives of SISAA

- promote awareness of and membership in SISAA among members of the ACA;
- promote awareness of SISAA within the Canadian archival community as a whole, and among Aboriginal communities and organizations through the use of the Internet, notices in Aboriginal and other relevant magazines, newsletters, and newspapers, and through direct mailing where necessary;
- build a foundation for a permanent membership and communications infrastructure, with the particular goal of attracting Aboriginal membership and reaching out to Aboriginal communities and organizations;
- building on the analysis and recommendations offered by the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1) identify archival issues of greatest concern to archivists and Aboriginal peoples, and 2) prepare a strategic plan that will prioritize these issues and plan action steps for the medium term that will be carried out by ACA members in partnership with archival institutions, other cultural institutions, regional and international archival associations, educational institutions, Aboriginal communities and organizations, and other interested parties.

MELFORT and DISTRICT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



A pleasant walkabout for prince and countrymen,
Prince Andrew is among its recent visitors



The sturdy main building



Frances Westlund celebrates 100
of Melfort, that is....

Combining museum and archives activities is the Melfort and District Museum and Archives, adding a vibrant dimension to life in Melfort and surrounds. Melfort has participated in numerous projects including CAIN and a School Districts history; now a business study of Melfort is on the horizon. Frances takes leadership roles in both the museum and archives fields. History is clearly “her thing.” Summer students are often employed at the Museum through Young Canada Works and other project grants.

Thomas Collection Added to Archives and Special Collections at the University of Regina

submitted by Mark Vajcner

The Lewis H. Thomas book collection was recently transferred to the care of Archives and Special Collections.

Consisting of over 1300 titles, the collection contains a good selection of seminal works of Canadian history and political biography. Many of the books focus on prairie history and the Riel rebellions. The collection also includes several masters and honours theses for which Thomas served as supervisor.

Thomas donated his books to the University of Regina Library in 1980. The collection was transferred to Archives and Special Collections in December 2003.

Thomas was a professor of history at Regina and later at the University of Alberta (see the detailed biography). He also served as provincial archivist and as editor of *Saskatchewan History*. While Thomas donated his library to the University of Regina, his archival materials are held at the University of Alberta.

Researchers may consult this collection from 10 AM to 4 PM, Monday to Friday in our reading room.



The fonds of prominent historians such as Lewis Thomas and A.S. Morton have been preserved in our Archives. A. S. Morton's historical geography journals, painstakingly copied on onion-skin paper, are held at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon office. There is also a rich Morton Collection at the University of Saskatchewan Archives.

NEARING THE END OF THE FLICKS !

Virtual exhibits have been a main occupation this year and it has been a real learning experience. They're all headed for the finish line now, and the fruit of our labour will add up! We had a marvelous showing from our province, with so many produced! We hope to post a "Best Practices" summary of tips for those interested in doing virtual history.

Funding of SHF Grants Transferred to SaskCulture Affects SaskCulture Funding Programs?

by Mark Vajcner

The recent provincial budget has brought about some major changes that will have an impact on the cultural community in Saskatchewan.

The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation, which has responsibility for heritage activities, saw a \$1.3 million reduction in its budget allocation. This has made for some tough cuts to both its programs and operations, including a decision not to continue funding the grant component of the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF).

SHF grants have supported such projects as the compilation of heritage inventories; research projects in the areas of archaeology, architecture, palaeontology, history and natural history; conservation activities ranging from small objects and paper documents to archaeological sites and buildings; promotional and educational activities; and the publication of new, well-documented materials on heritage.

Instead of departmental funding, Culture, Youth and Recreation requested that responsibility for this much-needed program be transferred to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. The lottery trust supports arts, culture, sport, and recreation activities across the province.

SaskCulture Inc., as trustee for the culture section of the lottery trust, will now be responsible for SHF grants. In a letter explaining the transfer, Bryan Foran, President of SaskCulture's Board of Directors stated that "SaskCulture feels very strongly that the cultural vibrancy of the province would be weakened without the support provided by the Foundation" he added, "in addition to the strong programming need of the heritage community, SaskCulture, and its lottery partners – Sask Sport Inc. and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. felt that it was in the best interests of the Trust Fund to support this change".

These three organizations, responsible for distributing lottery funding, have reorganized their various funding arrangements so that \$189,000 from the culture section of the lottery trust can be put toward the SHF grant program. This funding commitment will decrease each year, until 2006.

Foran's letter continues, "For those members that receive funding through the Culture Section of the Trust it is important to know that the Culture Section was already anticipating some level of reduced funding for the upcoming fiscal year. For the last couple of years the Culture Section of the Trust has allocated a portion of its reserve funding along with its net proceeds to enable the recipients to be supported at the same level or with a small element of growth". The letter suggests cuts in funding to those organizations that currently receive grants through SaskCulture.

SaskCulture is currently preparing a spending plan for 2004/05.

THE SCAA LOGO HUNT is still on... we need entries!

Come on, archivists and friends of archivists, to the drawing board!

Fax your vision to 653-0768