**ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION,
ARCHIVES SERIES**

- 1) *A Guide to Pamphlets in the Ontario Archives Relating to Educational History, 1803-1967.* 104p.
- 2) *A Guide to Published Government Documents Relating to Education in Ontario.* 47p.
- 3) *A Guide to Items Relating to Education in Newspapers in the Ontario Archives.* 90p.
- 4) *Analysis of Record Group 2 Ontario Archives C 6 C 1865.* 52p.

All by Roy Reynolds. Toronto; O.I.S.E., Department of History and Philosophy of Education, 1972. (Archives Series, 1-4) \$2.00 each.

These are the first four of what is to be nine sets of guides to Ontario educational history sources available in the Department of Public Records and Archives, Province of Ontario. The project was originally initiated by the Department of History and Philosophy of Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The guides are designed to facilitate access to 200 years of government records pertaining to educational matters in Ontario. They not only indicate where materials are, but also what form they are in and something of their content.

The guides must be judged by their usefulness in saving work for the educational researcher, and in this regard there are some shortcomings. The quality and consistency of the annotations varies considerably, and in numerous instances it would be necessary to explore further the raw data files to determine what issues are actually included. The guides would be enhanced by the addition of indexes of themes and names. (The first volume has an index but inexplicably the others do not.) Furthermore, the clarity of the guides would have been improved by a more judicious use of headings, sub-headings, and layout.

The first volume deals with pamphlets on Ontario education from as far back as the late 1700s. For some reason, the majority of the pamphlets deal with higher education. They are briefly but effectively annotated. The second volume details educational references appearing in the *Journals* of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, the Province of Canada and the Province of Ontario, as well as noting published materials available in the Government Records section of the Archives. Although the guide is thorough, it is difficult to identify themes and trends without the aid of an index.

The third volume deals with the vast array of newspaper holdings available in the Archives. Since it was necessary for the compiler to be selective in his

analysis of what is there, he chose to pull a sample of publications and identify the kinds of items that might be considered representative of certain time periods. This approach could provide the researcher with some leads, but he would still find it necessary to search the files in a more systematic manner than that outlined in the guides. It would probably have been more useful to operate within a thematic approach, and to present newspaper comment on specific issues rather than representative comments from the newspapers themselves. The compiler does go to a lot of trouble selecting and identifying issues from various small town and larger city newspapers, and this is quite helpful.

In the fourth volume, because of the quantity of available materials, the compiler chose to analyse the educational correspondence of one year – 1865. The measurements of files are provided and I suppose it might be helpful for the researcher to be aware that the file of outgoing correspondence between 1847-1875 takes up 19 feet. The classification of letters is useful, but this entire volume is difficult to justify.

There is no question that these guides will help the educational historian do a more effective job in a shorter time. There are some mechanical problems of layout and of criteria for annotation, but overall, the first four volumes in the series should prove useful.

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PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN CANADA

"The Development of Trade Book Publishing in Canada", by H. Pearson Gundy, in *Royal Commission on Book Publishing: Background Papers*. Toronto: Queen's Printer and Publisher, Province of Ontario, 1972. pp. 1-37 (of 395 + xi p.) \$3.75, paper; \$5.00, cloth.

The Spread of Printing. Western Hemisphere. Canada, by H. Pearson Gundy, series edited by Colin Clair. Amsterdam: Van Gent; London: Routledge & Kegan Paul; New York: Abner Schram, 1972. 86p. \$9.75 U.S.

Professor Gundy's essay in the Royal Commission report is one of several dealing with historical aspects of Canadian publishing. Altogether, the nineteen essays on the industry comprise the most extensive survey of book publishing that has appeared in Canada. Without more space for comment, it would be impossible to deal fairly with all of these essays. In any case, they are likely to be topics for comment for years to come. In brief, they are uneven. Some writers have dealt with strictly defined subjects within short spans of time. Others, such as Professor Gundy, C. J. Eustace, and Sheila Egoff, cover wide territories that require more effort in research, and more space for detail, than