

**S.J. McKEE ARCHIVES  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2008**

**I. APPRAISAL**

A monetary appraisal was arranged for the John Welsted fonds in December 2008. Gary and Janice Shoquist from Northland Books out of Saskatoon, SK performed the appraisal of approximately 4500 slides depicting human and physical geography of Manitoba and other areas. The slides were created by Welsted, a former faculty member at Brandon University, as visual aids for use in his teaching and for use in publications by himself and the Geography Department. They constitute a unique record of the geography of southwestern Manitoba in the later half of the twentieth century.

In work completed towards Henry's thesis, a revision of the McKee Archives' appraisal process was begun. The new approach will strive to make appraisal more accountable and transparent.

**II. ACCESSIONING, PROCESSING, ARRANGING AND DESCRIBING**

Twenty-three new accessions were added to the Archives' holdings in 2008. Of particular note were the Baker family fonds, and the Joseph H. Hughes collection. The former is a collection of approximately 200 letters written by William Baker, who left Liverpool and settled in Oak Lake, to his son William who remained in England. The Hughes collection contains Brandon civic records, Hughes & Co. business records from 1882-1920. Joe Perry, the local property manager for Hughes & Co. visited the Archives to shed light on the custodial history of the records and identify photographs in November.

The Archives also acquired the records of two important former faculty members from the Brandon College era: John Weldon Grant and William Whyte McCutcheon. The Weldon Grant collection contains original artwork from Trinidad & Tobago by David Moore. The McCutcheon fonds contains various records from a long career in education, including McCutcheon's time as the first Dean of the Faculty of Education at Brandon College beginning in 1955.

Photograph albums/scrapbooks from Brandon College alumni Marianne Scott and Lois and Gordon Daly were also added to the Archives. The content required extensive genealogical research and identification initiatives. The albums document Brandon College life in the early 1930's and the mid to late 1940's.

The Archives was aided in accessioning, processing and description from the following Historiography students: Andrew Dagley, Scottie Martens, Sarah Ramsden, Brian Canart, Sara Hallam, Marc Usunier, Erica Smith, Jill Sutherland, Laurel Neustaedter, Aimee Brown, Kylie Staslia, Christine Shumay and Tim Banman.

Donna Lowe an associate of the Archives in the Music Library of the John E. Robbins Library accessioned and began processing and describing the Brandon Folk, Music and Art Society, Inc. fonds and the Francis Chaplin collection. Both projects will continue into 2009.

### **III. REFERENCE AND RESEARCHERS**

The Archives responded to a variety of inquiries through e-mail and telephone, as well as personal visits to the Archives this year. A significant number of inquires continue to be related to interest in historical images of Brandon. Questions related to genealogical matters were also attended to on a fairly regular basis.

Archival staff continue to provide archival reference services for the Public Communications Office, Alumni Relations, and the *Brandon Sun*. The University Archivist assisted Mr. Larry Bidlake in placing a remarkable family album containing images of the London YMCA c 1920. The album has a new home among the records of the London YMCA held at the University of Birmingham. Tom Mitchell also assisted Ray Howell in the selection of images to adorn the walls of the new corporate offices of the Westoba Credit Union and hunted down sources for the author of a forthcoming book on Tommy Douglas.

Britt Lawson of McKenzie Seeds examined the McKenzie Seeds fonds for materials to construct a website for the company. Michael Kearns, a native of Brandon but now of England, dropped by the archives looking for materials that he might use in a film production. Reference services were provided to a number of local actors involved in the annual in the Gossip in the Graveyard in which local "celebrities" buried in the Brandon cemetery are brought back to life for an evening visit; the Manitoba Liquor commission in search of advertising images; local historian Ed Stozek in search of sources for his current book project; and a PhD student completing research on residential schools spent time in the archives examining sources relevant to her research.

Angela Graham, retained as a researcher by the Manitoba Historical Society sought advice and biographical resources. Students from Dr. James Naylor's Historical Methods class used a number of fonds and collections for papers required in the course. These included the William Wallace fonds, the Leland Clark fonds, the J.H. Hughes fonds, and files held in the archives dealing with the Brandon Jewish community, communism in Brandon, the sad story of Spanish influenza epidemic, the Winnipeg General Strike, and the career of Brandon based radical social gospel advocate A.E. Smith.

Professor Dale Lakevold and members of his Creative Non-fiction class visited the archives and received an orientation to the operation and holdings of the archives. In addition, students from the English for Academic Purposes class, taught by Ms Patricia Birch, made their annual pilgrimage to the archives.

#### **IV. EXHIBITS**

An earlier exhibit, “Images of a Prairie City” (2004) was repurposed for the Northern Great Plains History Conference over September 24-27, 2008. The exhibit was left in place over Homecoming Weekend (October 17-19) for the dedication of the Tommy McLeod Curve Gallery.

C.M. Henry curated an exhibit of Brandon College and Brandon University artifacts in the Brandon College Alcove as part of Homecoming weekend.

On December 1, 2008 a new exhibit, titled “*translate*” was mounted by the Archives in collaboration with local artist Barb Flemington. The exhibit included six of Flemington’s art pieces – etchings from archival blueprints of historical campus buildings onto slate chalkboard claimed from the Brandon College Building prior to renovations in 1996. C.M. Henry selected ten photographs from the Brandon University Photograph Collection, the Lois and Gordon Daly fonds, the Francis Percival fonds, the Arend Visser collection and the Clark Hall scrapbooks to accompany the artwork.

#### **V. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Tom Mitchell attended the Digital Summit on January 25, 2008. The Summit was organized by the AMA and related organizations to examine the current state of digital projects in Manitoba and plan for the future.

From June 1-4, 2008 Tom Mitchell attended the Congress of Humanities of Social Sciences in Vancouver and attended meetings of the Canadian Historical Association.

In Mitchell’s absence, C.M Henry and the Archives hosted the Association for Manitoba Archives’ Canadian Conservation Institute workshop on the care and handling of photographs from June 4-5, 2008. The workshop, taught by Greg Hill, was held in the study space on the Second Floor of the John E. Robbins Library attended by 26 individuals from the archives and museum communities in Manitoba and Ontario.

Tom Mitchell, as a member of BUFA, was out on strike from September 29 to October 15, 2008.

In September, C.M Henry joined the Board of the Association for Manitoba Archives.

In September Kristina Oldenburg, Reference Librarian (sabbatical replacement) used a number of photographs from the Archives in a Rural Development Institute class bibliographic information session.

In October, Tom Mitchell re-joined the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee for the City of Brandon. In 2008, Mitchell also joined the Research Ethics Committee for Brandon University and, with the revision of the Senate by-laws, he has become *ex officio* a member of the Senate Library Committee.

On December 5, Tom Mitchell showed Melissa Patience, a Vincent Massey student, around the Archives for the day, introducing her to the activities of the Archives and the University Archivist. The placement was part of a business class at Vincent Massey to give students experience with a “manager” of an organization.

Throughout 2008, Tom Mitchell in conjunction with Reinhold Kramer worked to complete the typescript for a book dealing with the Citizens’ Committee of 1000 and the Winnipeg General Strike. As 2008 ended the manuscript was near completion.

Throughout 2008, C.M. Henry continued work on her Master’s Degree thesis dealing with archival documentation and records management practices. The draft of the thesis was completed in December and the projected defense date is early March 2009.

## **VI. RARE BOOKS**

Talks with the Library continued regarding more effective means of storage for the Aboriginal Writers Special Collection: no other significant initiatives were undertaken in 2008.

## **VII. HIGHLIGHTS**

Dr. Beverly Hicks dropped by in April to announce that she has successfully defended her PhD dissertation a good portion of which was based in research at the S.J. McKee Archives.

In August, with local artist Barb Flemington, Tom Mitchell and CM Henry visited the attic in the former Brandon Citizens’ Science Building and came away with a plethora of historical artifacts.

In October while BUFA was on strike, C.M. Henry worked with Rex Turgano of Andornot Consulting to design and install the image handler for the Archives’ database and website. The image handler allows scanned copies of images held in the Archives to be attached to their corresponding description and viewed as part of the description on the website.

C.M. Henry  
Tom Mitchell  
January 2008