

Canada's ethnic past — a collection of memorabilia

Where would one go to find a passenger list from an Italian ship carrying immigrants to Canada? How about a Ukrainian family bible? Or a 40-year old edition of the *Canadian Hungarian News*?

Canada's National Ethnic Archives is a storehouse of memorabilia relating to Canada's ethno-cultural groups. Each year, hundreds of historians, genealogists and other researchers sift through part of the Archives' millions of pages studying documents that range in date from 1500 to 1977.

It's encouraging to learn that archival materials are not the stereotypical dusty old records — repositories for cobwebs — in which only the most devout historian has any interest. Far from it, they are bits and pieces of everyday life: routine correspondence, diaries, family bibles, scrapbooks, paintings, photos, movie film, sound recordings.

Recently the National Ethnic Archives proved a valuable resource to Canadian filmmaker Brian Nolan. While researching a 90-minute television documentary on the Japanese internment in Canada, Mr. Nolan discovered about 5,000 feet of rare, exciting film footage showing Japanese life in

Western Canada from 1932-50.

"It's almost the only existing footage showing that lifestyle during that period," Mr. Nolan explained. "Although the work is that of an amateur, the content is so good I don't think anyone can criticize it. I think it's a treasure."

The Japanese footage was in excellent condition when acquired by the Archives. This is not always the case, however. A special conservation and restoration section has been set up to restore and preserve records for future generations.

Where frequent use poses a problem, copies are made and original materials preserved for special consultation. Moreover, stacking areas are temperature- and humidity-controlled for added protection.

An integral part of the Public Archives of Canada, the National Ethnic Archives is located at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3. The main reference room is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For those living outside Ottawa, a reference staff answers inquiries. In addition, portions of the collection are microfilmed and may be borrowed by researchers through libraries elsewhere in Canada.

First woman appointed chairman of ILO Metal Trades Committee

Mrs. Lucille Delaney-Caron, of the International and Provincial Relations Branch, Labour Canada, has been appointed the first woman chairman of the International Labour Organization's Metal Trades Committee, which held its tenth session in Geneva at the end of April.



Mrs. Lucille Delaney-Caron

She is only the third woman appointed to the chairmanship of an ILO industrial activities committee.

Mrs. Delaney-Caron, a graduate of Ottawa's Carleton University in industrial sociology and industrial psychology, joined Labour Canada in 1973 as promotional officer for the Women's Bureau. Later she became the Bureau's assistant director. In October 1975, she assumed her present position of co-ordinator of the International Information Services of the International and Provincial Relations Branch.

Summing up her reaction to the ILO appointment, Mrs. Delaney-Caron said, "I am pleased both on a personal basis and because it may open the way for other appointments of women to functions considered mainly masculine."

She added that a chairman of an ILO industrial activities committee did not need to be an expert in the subject matter; rather the role is to ensure smooth functioning of the committee in accordance with the general policies and standing orders of the ILO governing body.



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