

Department of Films has substantial holdings of documentary films and unedited film portraying Canada's role in the two World Wars.

#### **Films, film strips, slides, etc.**

Films of Canadian interest are particularly well-represented and documented in Britain. Conference participants will probably have already seen the catalogue of films for Canadian studies, *Seeing Canada*<sup>15</sup>, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. Many of these together with similar titles are available for sale, loan, or hire from various agencies in the United Kingdom.

The National Film Board of Canada has its own office in London, at Macdonald House in Grosvenor Square. It issues catalogues of films and audio-visual materials available for sale. It does not operate a lending library, but the NFBC Travel Film Library at the same address offers a free loan service to travel agents.

A selection of NFBC films, plus titles issued by other government departments, is available on free loan from the Canada House Film Library in Trafalgar Square. The library issues a catalogue which is periodically revised. Several of the Agents General have films for loan or hire, either direct to institutions, as is the case with British Columbia (advance notice required), or through an agent. Both Ontario and Quebec have films distributed in this country by Guild Sound and Vision, with available titles listed in the company's *Sponsored film library catalogue*. Some NFBC and other sponsored films and documentaries are available for hire from the Central Film Library, the Scottish Central Film Library and the Welsh Office Film Library.

Several libraries hold films as part of their research collections. The Scott Polar Research Institute, for example, has films on Arctic whaling and the life of the Netsilik Eskimo, as well as transparencies and slides on Arctic exploration and topography. Other libraries have material on the Canadian film industry: the British Film Institute is strong on reference works, bibliographies and historical surveys, while the University of Stirling has the John Grierson Archive, which is a rich source of information on the early years of the National Film Board of Canada.

#### **Sound recordings**

On the basis of the survey Canada House and the Commonwealth Institute appear to have two of the best collections of Canadian recordings devoted to music and the spoken word. One important collection which I did not visit is the British Institute of Recorded Sound. The Institute holds commercial recordings of serious music, with a fair number of discs issued by the Canadian Broadcasting Company, and occasional material appearing on the labels of other record companies. Its collection of records from the BBC Sound Archives may also include items of Canadian interest. In general terms the Institute suggests that its Canadian holdings are not as large as they would like.

Other specialized collections include: Scott Polar Research Institute, tapes, discs, magnetic tapes and cassettes relating to the work of the Institute — Eskimo languages and folksongs, interviews with explorers, sounds of birds, whales, porpoises and other fauna, taped lectures given at the Institute; Imperial War Museum Department of Sound Records has recordings relating to twentieth century conflicts, with a considerable amount of material in the BBC Sound Archives series *World War, 1939-45*; the Beaverbrook Papers in the House of Lords Record Office contain tape recordings on Lord Beaverbrook's activities in Canada.

#### **(6) Data banks and data bases**

Although during the course of the survey I obtained useful information on Canadian material in the Social Science Research Council Survey Archive at the University of Essex, I did not get very far with the investigation of library access to computerized data banks in Canada itself. In fact at that time it was not possible to receive information on-line from Canada, but only from American or British hosts offering Canadian produced data bases. Recently, however, the Post Office's International Packet Switching Service (IPSS) has been extended to Canada, and UK on-line users have a telecommunications link to Canadian hosts, such as QL Systems, via GTE Telenet and IPSS. I am grateful to the Online Information Centre, 3 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PL for their help in providing information on access to Canadian data banks.

A useful directory of data bases and data banks with a Canadian content has been published by Espial in Toronto<sup>16</sup>. An American host offering several Canadian produced data bases is SDC Search Service's ORBIT, which includes:

BUSINESS (index and summary guide to business and government news developments reported in major Canadian newspapers)

CBPI (corresponds in coverage to *Canadian Business Periodicals Index*. Prepared by Information Access of Toronto)

CNI (Canadian current affairs from five major Canadian newspapers, also prepared by Information