



International Institute for Conservation — Canadian Group
Institute International pour la Conservation — Groupe Canadien
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February, 5th, 1982

Mr. Charles A.E. Brandt
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Winnipeg
Manitoba

Dear Sir:

The committee responsible for organizing the IIC-CG Conference wishes to inform you that it has received and accepted the topic you propose for your paper. It therefore invites you to send an abstract (200 to 500 words) of the text you are to give.

Would you kindly send the abstract before the end of February to Ms. Nicole Brindle whose address you will find below?

The committee wishes to thank you for your participation in the Conference program.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nicole Brindle'.

Nicole Brindle
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P.S. Do not worry if your abstract has already been sent to Mr. R.Bédard.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ARCHIVES

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives date from 1671, and are deposited in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Manitoba Archives building, 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, Canada R3C 1T5.

The Company's documents for the first two hundred years 1670-1870, with the exception of maps, have been microfilmed. A copy is deposited in the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, and the Public Record Office, Kew, England. Copies of the Rules and Regulations governing the Microfilm Copy and the originals are enclosed.

For the purposes of classification the Archives are divided into nine main sections:

Section A - London Office Records

Section B - Records of HBC establishments and administrative headquarters in North America.

Section C - Records of Ships owned or chartered by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Section D - Records of Governors of Rupert's Land, Commissioners etc.

Section E - Records relating to the Company but not business documents per se, for example, personal diaries.

Section F - Records relating to Companies connected with or subsidiary to the Hudson's Bay Company.



Section G - Maps, both manuscript and published
(not including maps which are parts
of documents).

Section H - Records relating to the Company's
transactions in land.

Section Z - Miscellaneous documents.

Section A contains the Minute Books of the Governor, Deputy Governor,
and Committee; London Letters Outward, general and official; Letters
Inward from the Officers in North America; Grand Ledgers; Indent books,
Lists of Officers and Servants; Fur Sales Catalogues, and other
documents.

Section B is sub-divided, generally, into five classes: Journals;
Correspondence Inward and Outward; Accounts; Reports; and
Miscellaneous.

The Journals, which date from 1705-1943, have daily entries and contain
information on the weather, Indians, and occupations of Company servants.
The travel and exploration journals are of great historical interest.
For the first two hundred years of the Company's operation there are
journals for approximately 210 posts - from North West River in present
day Labrador to Victoria, and from Fort Good Hope on the Mackenzie River
to the Snake River Expeditions in the Northern Pacific States.

The account books are particularly useful as they contain lists of
goods sold, the prices in made Beaver, the Servants and Indian accounts
and other details. There are over 1,500 account books classified for
York Factory post alone.

Section C - The greatest number of records in this section consist of Ships' Logs. There are also seamen's wages books and portledge books. The logs are of particular interest as they contain meteorological information, passenger lists and other information.

Section D - Governor George Simpson's voluminous correspondence Inward and Outward is classified in this Section and is undoubtedly one of the most valuable runs of correspondence for the period 1821-1860.

Section E - contains some of the most interesting documents in the Archives, including Andrew Graham's observations on Hudson's Bay, census records for the Red River Settlement, and the invaluable Peter Fidler journals of travel and exploration.

Section F - There are few North West Company documents extant but by far the largest known collection is classified in this section, along with the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, and Buffalo Wool Company records.

Section G - The Company's Map collection, which also includes charts and plans is a very small but specialized one. There are maps of travel routes, plans of forts and charts of harbours.

Section H - Land Records. These records are scheduled to be classified in 1981 and 1982. They will be of particular interest to urban historians as they are one of the major sources for Western Canadian settlement patterns.

SUMMARY:

The Hudson's Bay Company being the oldest chartered trading Company in the world has exceptional records. They contain the only known documents for numerous 18th century settlements in Canada, including Churchill, Manitoba; Moose Factory and Albany, Ontario; Rupert House and Eastmain Quebec; Cumberland House, Saskatchewan; and Edmonton, Alberta. They are of particular value to serious scholars because of their continuity. In its 309 years existence, for instance, all the Company Minute Books have survived except for the years 1670-71, 1674-1679.

Since 1938 the Hudson's Bay Company has been publishing its documents under the Hudson's Bay Record Society Series. To date 31 volumes have been published. A list is attached.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Joan Craig, "Three Hundred Years of Records", The Beaver, Autumn, 1970, pp 65-70.
- R. H. G. Leveson Gower, "The Archives of the Hudson's Bay Company" The Beaver, December 1933, pp. 40-42, 64.
- D. W. Moodie, "The Hudson's Bay Company's Archives: A Resource for Historical Geography", Canadian Geographer, XXI, 3, 1977.
- D. W. Moodie and Alan Catchpole, "Archives and the Environmental Scientist", Archivaria, Summer, 1978, pp. 113-136.
- Arthur J. Ray, "The Early Hudson's Bay Company Account Books as Sources for Historical Research: An Analysis and Assessment". Archivaria, Winter 1975-1976, pp 3-38.

October, 1979.