

cludes a useful summary of the investment network behind the commissioning of the hotel, one that underlines the intriguing happenstance of familial, professional, and service contacts. More might have been included on the statutory financial requirements, and on how these have altered over the intervening decades, so as to demonstrate the commercial politics of modern urban development. That latent privatization of the public domain through manifestation of supposedly commercial improvement is a tale but little or poorly told in the literature of town planning and political economy. Similarly, a closer comparative reading of the layout, accommodation categories, and

service facilities of the hotel would have augmented the historical contribution of the book and its visual ethnography of a site of civic memory.

Despite the relative absence of critical and contextual analysis, this visually based approach to architectural history is worthwhile. The inclusion of the popular visual record offers a legitimate means to counterbalance the more recent tendency to concentrate on the theoretical and discursive fabrication of the built environment. Architecture, more than any other cultural production, involves the popular and the commonplace in its strategies of economic, functional, and symbolic representation.

Canada and Asia: Guide to Archives and Manuscript Sources in Canada

G. Raymond Nunn

London and New York: Mansell, 1999. 2 vols. 1304 pp. \$371 cloth.

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There has been a lengthy discussion on an archives list-server recently about how students are not making sufficient use of archival resources. A perusal of the sources relating to Canada and Asia in these two volumes should give any students sufficient information to develop studies on Asian-Canadian subjects. The index has approximately 50,000 entries and is the key to the mammoth compilation. It brings together material from various archival

institutions in Canada and enters them under both subject and location.

Raymond Nunn's extensive research trips came after the publication of *Asia and Oceania: A Guide to Archival and Manuscript Sources in the United States* (Mansell 1986). Although Canada was not a colonizing country, he noted that its research collections had features similar to those of the colonial powers. These included Asia-related documents of government departments (particularly external affairs and immigration),

executive offices, military records, and archives with references to missionary activities. Asia has been defined as the geographical area from Afghanistan in the west to Hokkaido and the Kuriles in the east, but excluding the former Soviet Asia and including the Pacific Islands, Turkey, and Iran.

The listings consist of textual and microfilmed government records, manuscripts, theses and dissertations, photographs, sound recordings, film, documentary art, and newspaper clipping collections. The National Archives of Canada generate the greatest amount of space with a total of 403 pages (Government Archives Division records groups [276 pp.] and Manuscript Division [115 pp.]). The next largest listings consist of the United Church of Canada Archives in Toronto (232 pp.) and the Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives in Toronto, with 94 pages (owing to their overseas mission programs). The BC section consists of 75 pages covering 10 institutions, of which 21 pages refer to the British Columbia Archives; 27 to the Special Collections and University Archives Division of the

UBC Library (of which 13.5 pages refer to theses); 6 to the City of Vancouver Archives; and 8 to photograph listings for the Vancouver Public Library.

Of course, a printed list is going to be out of date as soon as it is printed. Websites and tools such as the British Columbia Archives Union List, which the author used, are updated constantly as new holdings are acquired. New institutions such as the Vancouver Chinese Cultural Centre develop archival components. Much of the lists are dependent on the reliability of the existing finding aids and the assistance of the reference archivist(s). If the finding aid does not state that cannery plans within the records of the Insurers' Advisory Organization contain locations of Japanese and Chinese bunkhouses, then the compiler cannot list it.

Raymond Nunn is to be congratulated for painstakingly compiling and indexing a work that shows researchers the rich heritage that constitutes Canada's relations with Asia. I will return to his informative two volumes time and time again to assist researchers.