

Warwick Braithwaite Collection

Mrs Lorna Braithwaite has presented on long-term loan works composed by her husband, Warwick Braithwaite, a New Zealand conductor and pianist. The collection comprises his original music scores and libretti, and includes correspondence, scrapbooks and ephemera which reflect his lifelong association with opera.

Paul and Diny Schramm Collection

Paul Schramm was an Austrian-born concert pianist, composer and conductor. His wife Diny was born in Holland and was a pianist, teacher and President of the Leschetizsky Association, founded to continue the work of Theodore Leschetizsky. They came to New Zealand in 1938 and performed throughout the country. Their collection was acquired by donation and purchase and includes papers of the Leschetizsky Association, rare editions of early printed music, music scores of compositions and arrangements by Paul Schramm, music teaching materials, correspondence, scrapbooks and ephemera.

Reports from Visiting Scholars

Summaries of lectures to the Library's staff given by Robin Fisher, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, on 'Recent Developments and New Sources in Canadian Historical Writing'; and by Robert Ellwood of the University of Southern California, the Fulbright Research Scholar at the Turnbull during 1988.

In Canada, as is presumably the case in New Zealand, most archival users are genealogists and local historians. While recognizing that academic historians are a minority group in reading rooms, the following comments are about their writing and the implications of their work for archival collecting. Many of these developments may have already happened in New Zealand, a few may be indications of things to come.

In the early 1970s many Canadian historians abandoned the search for a national synthesis based largely on the study of federal politics, and turned instead to the study of what one historian has called Canada's 'limited identities'. This proliferation into many new areas of history has had a profound effect on archives and archival collecting. The papers of political leaders in Ottawa no longer provide the staple for historical writing.

The phrase 'limited identities' was first used in the context of a call for the writing of regional rather than national history, and many historians have followed that advice. The upsurge in regional and local history has been accompanied by the development of regional and local archives, institutions that do not merely replicate the National Archives of Canada at the regional level. Census records, for example, particularly for Ontario and Quebec where they are available for longer periods of time, have become a major source for detailed local studies. The census abstracts provide very specific information that enables historians to reconstruct the ebb and flow of population and economic development in, say, a single county. Census material is only made available after one hundred years and so it has had less impact on the history