

The Archives Matter / Les Archives importantes

Introduction

Irving Abella and Harold Troper chose a quote about the importance of archives as the concluding words for *None is Too Many's* 1983 edition. The book ends with an excerpt from a 1940 letter written by a Canadian Pacific railway agent:

The day will come when Immigration will be under debate, and then the Ottawa Immigration Service will be judged by [its] records. For us it will not be unimportant to have these records at our fingertips. They shall then find us as their bad conscience (Abella and Troper 1983: 285).

This observation was proved right by the revelations and far-reaching effects of the publication of *None Is Too Many* in the 1980s. It continues to resonate no less powerfully now, as increasingly detailed cataloguing methods and new means of disseminating the contents of archival collections continue to make available new materials related to Canada's wartime immigration story.

In this section we look at World War II era immigration-related materials housed in heritage repositories in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick, especially in light of the new resources and new areas of research that are now available.

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Introduction

Pour conclure l'édition de 1983 de *None Is Too Many*, Irving Abella et Harold Troper choisissaient une citation rappelant l'importance des archives. Le livre se termine en effet avec un extrait d'une lettre d'un agent de la *Canadian Pacific* datant de 1940 :

The day will come when Immigration will be under debate, and then the Ottawa Immigration Service will be judged by [its] records. For us it will not be unimportant to have these records at our fingertips. They shall then find us as their bad conscience (Abella and Troper 1983: 285).

La véracité de cette observation a été démontrée par les révélations et le large impact de la publication de *None Is Too Many* dans les années 1980. C'est encore plus évident aujourd'hui. Grâce à des méthodes d'inventaire plus précises et à la diffusion des collections d'archives, il y a toujours plus de nouvelles sources disponibles sur l'histoire de l'immigration du Canada pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

Dans cette section, nous analyserons des collections traitant de l'immigration pendant cette période se trouvant dans des centres d'archives en Ontario, au Québec et au Nouveau Brunswick, à la lumière des nouvelles ressources et recherches disponibles aujourd'hui.

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