

Inscription of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in UNESCO's *Memory of the World Register*

In June 2007, Hudson's Bay Company Archives records spanning the first 250 years of its history, 1670 to 1920, were added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) *Memory of the World Register*.

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives is considered internationally significant as it documents the activities and growth of the one of the oldest chartered trading companies in the world, spanning the first 250 years of its existence. It is unparalleled in its continuity and scope and includes an extensive collection of records from all aspects of its business activities, including those originating from both European and North American headquarters.

Beyond its corporate perspective, the records of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives shed light on the history of North America, providing insight into exploration, social and cultural development, the settlement of western and northern regions, political administration and governance, the history of Aboriginal peoples and culture, changes in animal populations over time and data related to the natural environment.

About UNESCO's *Memory of the World Register*

The *Memory of the World* Programme was established by UNESCO as a means to preserve, promote universal access to and increase awareness of the most significant documentary heritage collections in the world. Since its inception in 1992, the register has inscribed over 200 documents and documentary collections worldwide. Included among these are the diaries of Anne Frank, the Magna Carta, the Gutenberg Bible and the manuscript of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

More information about UNESCO's *Memory of the World* visit:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/memory-of-the-world/homepage/>