

IN MEMORIAM/DÉCÈS

John Garner passed away on February 3, 1996. He had been a member of the CHA since 1947.

Robert S. Gordon. Few individuals have assisted the historians of Canada more than Robert S. Gordon, who died on November 30, 1995. He was an unquestioned leader, over three decades, in developing methods to assemble and appraise the country's historical materials. In addition, the Canadian Historical Association owes him an enormous debt for his management of its financial affairs as Treasurer from 1957 to 1979. With the capable assistance of Marielle Campeau, Bob Gordon provided a hard-working headquarters staff for the Association at the Public Archives of Canada. He showed competence and innovation in devising measures to restrain expenditures and increase revenues at times when the Association's future was precarious. He devoted innumerable hours, chiefly evenings and weekends, to CHA affairs and could not have been more zealous if it had been his private business. Bob Gordon was born in Japan in 1923. He grew up in Poland and as a teenager fought with the Polish resistance in the Second World War before he was captured and spent three and a half years in a German prisoner of war camp. Fluent in six languages, he worked at the end of the War as a lieutenant in British Army Intelligence. He came to Canada in 1949 to attend McGill University where he obtained an honours degree in Canadian history. After work at the archives of the Anglican Church and a brief stint as records manager with Algoma Steel he was employed in 1957 by the Public Archives of Canada. Here he spent thirty three years in the Manuscript Division, becoming its Director in 1965. A few months after his arrival at the Archives Bob was persuaded to undertake the duties of Treasurer of the CHA. In accepting he was obliged to postpone indefinitely the post-graduate work in Canadian history that he had commenced. Most of the developments which were designed to improve research services at the Public Archives of Canada in the next three decades were originated or directed by Bob Gordon. As Editor and Director of the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories he visited most archives, libraries and museums from coast to coast in 1962. The ULM was published in 1968 with a second edition in 1975 and subsequent supplements. It contains more than 30,000 entries drawn from more than one hundred repositories. Gordon developed the Systematic National Acquisition Program to ensure a comprehensive scope of sources of Canadian history at the Public Archives. Other developments to improve research services included a program of distributing finding aids on microfiche and a diffusion program to deposit significant records on microfilm in provincial archives. He was the author of a definitive report on acquisition policy at the Public Archives of Canada. As an incentive to donors Gordon developed under the auspices of the Canadian Historical Association a system for the appraisal for tax purposes by a

National Archival Appraisal Board and procedures for the evaluation of donations to Canadian institutions and certification by the Canadian Cultural Property Review Board. From its origin he served as a member of the Appraisal Board. He was a consultant to government departments on tax credits and the Cultural Property control list and guide. Bob had an international reputation for appraisal and the detection of forgeries, and in Canada he appraised such significant records as the Hudson Bay Company, Molson and Eaton's archives. He was a member of many archival and historical associations, a member of the Council of the Society of American Archivists, Vice President of the Manuscript Society and Secretary of the Literary and Arts Archives Committee of the International Council on Archives. Bob Gordon was the recipient of many awards for excellence. He received the Centennial Medal in 1967 and the Jubilee Medal in 1977 for services to the Canadian Historical Association. He was appointed a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and received an Award of Distinction from the Manuscript Society. After retirement Bob opened the Autograph Gallery in Ottawa where he assembled a collection of more than 10,000 signatures of historic and contemporary personalities. Here, every January 11, he gathered friends together to drink a convivial toast "to the memory of Sir John A." One of the most widely known of Canadian archivists, Bob Gordon will be remembered with respect, admiration and affection by a wide circle of friends and colleagues in Canada and abroad and with gratitude by the Historical community which he served with such efficiency, energy and dedication. He is survived by his devoted wife Jakki and children Stephanie, Drew and Alexandra.

Wilfred Smith and David Farr

A.M. Keppel-Jones passed away in 1996. He had been a member of the CHA since 1960.

R. David Hume died April 15, 1996. He had been a member of the CHA since 1957.

