Société historique du Canada

IN MEMORIAM/DÉCÈS

Robin B. Burns died in 1998. He had been a member of the CHA since 1966.

Dr. J. F. Leddy died in September 1998. He had been a member of the CHA since 1952.

Barbara Roberts, professor of Women's Studies, at Athabasca University, on June 24, in Victoria, age 56, of cancer. Dr. Roberts was an activist feminist, pacifist, and socialist historian whose scholarship and community work demonstrated her passionate commitment to the betterment of society. Born in Riverside, California, she was a 28-year-old secretary and single mother of two sons when she first entered university in Canada. She taught at universities in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, under the rough conditions and miserable wages available to the non-tenured before taking a tenure-track position at Athabasca University in 1989.

The author or co-author of four books and numerous articles, Barbara's historical and feminist scholarship helped to change the way we approach history in Canada. Both a passionate Canadian nationalist and a devoted internationalist, she worked with scholars around the world to produce her accounts of the history of women's resistance with an emphasis on peace activism and labour struggles.

Barbara's first book, Whence They Came: Deportation From Canada 1900-1935 (1988) is a good example of her painstaking search for the history of social justice and social injustice in Canada. Her co-authored A Decent Living: Women in the Winnipeg Garment Industry (1991) located human rights issues in women's struggles for justice as members of the labour force. She was most proud of her recent biography of peace activist Gertrude Richardson, A Reconstructed World: A Feminist Biography of Gertrude Richardson (1996). A Reconstructed World is the work of a mature scholar. It skilfully and thoughtfully connects the private and public, the academic and the grassroots in a moving portrayal of one women's resistance to the ideologies that glorified martial violence and of the personal costs of a life dedicated to social change.

A CRIAW research grant will be established in Barbara's name to help fund research and publication in areas Barbara was so committed to support. Please send donations to CRIAW in care of Dr. Linda Kealey, History, Memorial University, St. John's NF A1C 5S7.

Alvin Finkel and Cathy Cavanaugh

Dr. Richard M. Saunders died recently. He had been a member of the CHA since 1946.

C'est avec beaucoup de tristesse que les employés des Archives nationales ont appris la mort de l'ancien Archiviste fédéral Wilfred I. Smith, 1919-1998.

Wilfred Smith est né en Nouvelle-Écosse en 1919 et il a étudié à l'Université Acadia. Il a combattu lors de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, en tant qu'officier détaché auprès de l'Armée britannique. Après la guerre, il est retourné à l'Université Acadia pour y obtenir une maîtrise en 1946. Il a également obtenu un doctorat de l'Université de Minnesota en 1968.

Wilfred Smith est entré aux Archives nationales en 1950 à la Division des manuscrits, pour en devenir ultérieurement le directeur. Nommé Archiviste fédéral adjoint en 1965, il a succédé à W.K. Lamb en 1970 comme Archiviste fédéral. Importante fut sa contribution à la collectivité des historiens. Fellow de la Society of American Archivists, M. Smith était aussi membre de la Commission des monuments et sites historiques et du Comité permanent des noms géographiques. Il a été membre du Comité exécutif et Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil international des archives. Il est devenu officier de l'Ordre du Canada en 1985.

Wilfred Smith était également un universitaire de haut niveau. Pendant sa retraite, il a complété un livre sur le programme CANLOAN, programme auquel il avait participé pendant la guerre. Au moment de sa mort, il avait déjà effectué un travail considérable pour une biographie de sir Charles Tupper. Il laisse aux employés des Archives nationales le souvenir d'un homme accueillant et chaleureux.

Staff of the National Archives were saddened to learn of the sudden death of the former Dominion Archivist, Dr. Wilfred I. Smith, 1919-1998.

Born in Nova Scotia in 1919, Dr. Smith was educated at Acadia University and served as an officer on loan to the British Army during the Second World War. Following the war, he returned to Acadia, where he received his MA in 1946. He completed his education with a doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1968.

Dr. Smith joined the National Archives in 1950. He archival career began in the Manuscript Division, where he eventually became Director and then Assistant Dominion [National] Archivist in 1965. He succeeded W. K. Lamb as Dominion Archivist in 1970. His participation in the Canadian historical community was extensive. In addition to his role as Canada's national archivist, he was a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists as well as a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. He served on the Executive Committee and then as Deputy Secretary General of the International Council of Archives. He became an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1985.

In his private life, Dr. Smith was a scholar in his own right. He completed a well recognized book on the military CANLOAN program, in which he participated in during the war. Following his retirement from the Public Archives in 1984 until his untimely death, he had done extensive work on a biography of Sir Charles Tupper. However, it was his warmth and kindness as well as his commitment to the staff of the Archives that will be most fondly remembered.