

IN MEMORIAM

Philip G. Lawson of the University of Alberta has died.

Eleanor Luxton, of Banff, Alberta, died in June of 1995. Ms. Luxton was also a longtime member and supporter of the Historical Society of Alberta.

The Canadian historical profession has recently lost one of its best-known, most dedicated and wide-ranging members, Joseph Levitt, 1920-1995. Raised in an East Montreal immigrant family, Levitt earned his status as professor over many years. His university career was stopped by the advent of World War II. A member of the Communist Party (which he left in 1956), Levitt volunteered for the Canadian Army following the Nazi invasion of the USSR. He served with distinction as a guardsman in the tank corps, received the Military Medal in the 1944 battle of Rouen and was shortly thereafter wounded.

After the war he worked in several factories in Ontario, concentrating mainly on union activity. He married Kari Polyani, subsequently economic professor at McGill, with whom he had two sons. Several years after his divorce, Levitt married again and is survived by his widow, Marnie. Returning to his university studies at night, Levitt completed his MA in history at the University of Toronto. Encouraged to continue, Levitt took up doctoral studies under Ramsey Cook, who later claimed that Levitt's thesis on Bourassa was one of the best pieces of graduate student research carried out under his supervision. In the 1960s Levitt accepted a history teaching position at the University of Ottawa, where he helped to reform the programme and establish the department's reputation through his writings and extensive professional network.

Approaching questions of Canadian history from the standpoint of the Left, Levitt's research interests ranged widely. Beginning with French Canadian nationalism (*Henri Bourassa and the Golden Calf* 1969), Levitt moved through Anglo-Canadian nationalism (*A Vision Beyond Reach: A Century of Images of the Canadian Destiny*, 1982) to nuclear and diplomatic history (*Lester Pearson and Canada's Role in Nuclear Arms Negotiations*, 1993) and finally to social policy. His last unpublished work includes manuscripts on Ed Broadbent's struggle to contain the corporate sector and on the social vision of Cy Gonick, editor of *Canadian Dimension*.

Levitt's influence spread far wider than academic, where he was respected for his curiosity, research and influence upon graduate students. For many years he acted as consultant for the National Archival Appraisal Board. His enthusiasm and social democratic ideals led him to become an informal councillor to the NDP and especially to its leader, Ed Broadbent. Levitt participated in the discussions against the Waffle, for nuclear disarmament and enlightened social policy, remaining friends with all. His large web of friendships, which he vigorously fostered through visits, lunches and letters, included people of many social and ideological backgrounds. Because of his interest in the Cold War and its threats, he founded the Ottawa chapter of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms and the successful Forum on Nuclear Politics, which included members from the Left and Right, who would ordinarily not have come together in the same room.

Two main concerns absorbed Levitt's last retirement years; the future of the Left and of his country. He wrestled, as did so many others on the Left, with the hope that social democracy might still become the alternative to collapsed communism and rising market fundamentalism in Eastern and Central Europe and at home in Canada. As well, his love of Quebec led him to agonize about the threat of Quebec separatism and the referendum. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the referendum's somewhat positive, if somewhat ambiguous, result.

Robert H. Keyserlingk, University of Ottawa

The Department of History, Acadia University, and the broader scholarly community have suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. James Stokesbury on 14 September 1995, following a car accident.

Born in Connecticut in 1934, Jim came to Acadia as a student, following a stint in the American Navy. Graduating in 1960 with both an honours degree in history and the university cup for outstanding athlete of the year, he proceeded to graduate work at the University of Western Ontario and Duke University, receiving his Ph.D. from the latter in 1966.

Returning to Acadia in 1965, Jim spent his entire academic career in the service of its history department. He was one of the most active and respected members of the Acadia community, serving at various times as head of the department, assistant dean of arts and science, and member of almost every committee and board on campus, including the Board of Governors and the Senate.

Jim's publishing activity was mainly in the area of military history. He was probably best known for his widely read "Short History" series, including his *Short History of... World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the American Revolution*. His *Short History of the Civil War* will be published this fall. His great strengths as a researcher and writer were his ability to digest great amounts of information, reduce complex issues to manageable size, and convey the information in lucid, clear and sparkling prose.

As a teacher, Jim was remarkable. Few professors in the University were as popular with the students, for the right reasons. He brought to the classroom the same qualities which made his books so widely read - clarity, conciseness, enthusiasm and great personal warmth. In 1988 he deservedly won the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was particularly influential in the lives of the many honours and graduate students who worked under him during the past 30 years.

Jim is survived by his wife Elizabeth and three children. The James L. Stokesbury Memorial Scholarship in History has been established at Acadia in his honour. Donations may be sent to the Office of Support Services, Acadia University.

Acadia has been deprived of one of her most prolific writers, an outstanding teacher and a dedicated supporter. We in the History Department have in addition lost one of our dearest friends.

Barry Moody, Head, Department of History, Acadia University