

Minutes of the Annual Meeting. June, 1989, Laval University

1. The meeting was called to order by Cornelius Jaenen. Motioned to adopt minutes was passed unanimously. (Susan Trofimenkoff/Allison Prentice)

2. The President asked for a minute of silence for members of the Association who had died last year: Alexander Johnston, John W. Holmes, Bernard Vigod, Gerald Craig, Alfred Ernest Loft, Gerald Sanford Graham, William Roger Graham, E.T. Salmon and the Honourable Richard A. Bell.

3. The minutes of the annual meeting held at the University of Windsor 10 June, 1988 were adopted unanimously. (Linda Kealey/Allen Seager)

4. President's remarks

1988-1989 has been particularly busy. Among the year's accomplishments, the president highlighted the appointment of a full-time office manager which has allowed major improvements in the organizing and scheduling of the association's activities. Essential membership information is being computerized and the society envisages being able to produce, in the near future, a handbook containing the constitution and its amendments, resolutions of the general assembly, council and executive committees, as well as information and terms of reference for the committees reporting to council and the sub-groups affiliated to the CHA.

The president discussed the question of the location of the Society's office. The National Archives of Canada proposes to reoccupy the office space where the Society is now located. Negotiations have been initiated with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to establish our headquarters in the building they occupy in Vanier. Such a move would entail some important financial adjustments.

The quality of the Newsletter has improved this year and improvements will continue in the future. The President announced that the Newsletter will take over the annual reporting of departmental news from the Canadian Historical Review.

The President reported that the lobbying efforts of the CHA have met with some success again this year. The Society intervened to urge the new Museum of Civilization to establish a permanent historical section and to maintain their research and publications programmes. The Society lobbied on behalf of Native students whose post-secondary education grants were retrenched and continues to monitor the Access to Information legislation and the rights of authors etc...The Society has also been active in other fields of the profession, principally through its several committees, including the Committee for the Bicentenary of the French Revolution, the Regroupement des chercheurs en histoire des travailleurs du Québec, and the Canadian Committee on Women's History. The project, initiated last year, to set up a liaison in every history department has met with success.

The President finished his report by asking the members about the future of the Society and the directions which they would like to take; he asked them to consider why such a

small percentage of historians in Canada are members of the association. He felt that while the Society has been active this past year, there is more than it can be doing to ensure that the work of historians retains its relevance to students, teachers, other disciplines and the reading public.

5. Treasurer's Report

Since the auditor's report would not be ready until the fall Serge Bernier was only able to present a partial report on the financial status of the Association.

The Treasurer projected a \$10, 000 deficit and noted that it could be higher because of additional expenses that will arise with the move of the headquarter to a new location, and with the move the Association will have to pay for many services that were previously provided by the National Archives. At the last council meeting the Treasurer was asked to review the Association financial affairs in light of these additional expenses and prepare recommendations on a way the Association can further reduce expenses and increase revenues. This matter will be discussed at the November Council meeting.

The Treasurer briefly reviewed the new travel policy that was instituted this year. He was pleased to report that with this new system the Association was able to respond more effectively to members' needs in this area. He also noted that the same system will be used for Victoria but he mentioned that it will be difficult to fund as many people in 1990 since he expects to receive between \$17, 000 and \$19, 000 from the SSHRC next year and it is evident that travel cost will be higher for members. In the meantime other sources for funding will be pursued.

6. Report of the Nomination Committee

This year the committee, chaired by José Igartua, was composed of Allan Greer, Mary Lynne Stewart and Christine Piette. It is important to note that few nominations were received this year and the committee had to work hard to solicit nominations for the four vacant council members, two nominating committee vacancies and the vice president for 1990-91. In proposing the nominations, the committee tried to take into consideration candidates' regional background, area of specialization and gender. Also, a special effort was made to solicit a nomination for council from the graduate students. José Igartua thanks members of his committee for their help.

The President then reviewed the new nomination procedures for Vice-President established at the McMaster meetings and announced the nomination of Professor Michael Marrus for 1990-91.

The President then called for further nominations from the floor.

Move that Gail Cuthbert-Brandt be nominated for Vice-President. (Susan Trofimenkoff/Craig Heron)

Asked by the President, Ms. Cuthbert-Brandt agreed to accept the nomination.

7. Prizes

The winners of the Canadian Historical Association publication prizes were announced.

The Sir John A. Macdonald Prize consisting of \$2,000, for the best book in Canadian history in 1988 was awarded to:

Veronica Strong-Boag, The New Day Recalled: Lives of Girls and Women in English Canada, 1919-1939 (Toronto, Copp Clark Pitman, 1988).

The Sir John A. Macdonald Prize Committee was especially impressed by the depth and conciseness of this work which, it said "without being too general an overview, provides a wealth of information on women in English Canada between the two world wars. The themes are richly integrated in an organization which follows the roles, status and modes of everyday living associated with the stages of childhood, adolescence and adulthood. This reconstitution of lives of girls and women is supported by a wealth of documentation, very skillfully used. Its findings and methodology enrich the scholarly community and make it a well deserved recipient of the Macdonald Prize." Professor Strong-Boag teaches history at Simon Fraser University.

Honourable Mention was made of:

Peter Neary, Newfoundland in the North Atlantic World, 1929-1949 (Kingston and Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1988);

Bruce S. Elliott, Irish Migrants in the Canadas: A New Approach (Kingston and Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press/Belfast, the Queen's University of Belfast, 1988); and

Craig Heron, Working in Steel: The Early Years in Canada, 1883-1935 (U.B.C. Press and McClelland and Stewart, 1988).

The Wallace K. Ferguson Prize, also consisting of \$2,000, for the best book published in a field other than Canadian history, was awarded to:

Donald Finlay Davis, Conspicuous Production: Automobiles and Elites in Detroit, 1899-1933 (Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1988).

The prize committee felt that this work represents a major contribution to both urban history and business history in the U.S.A.. "It mines a rich vein of material generally neglected by historians of the automobile industry and presents new and original interpretations of the rise of Detroit as a major manufacturing centre and the relationships between the social aspirations of its elite and business decisions".

Davis turns Veblen's concept of "conspicuous consumption" on its head by showing how motor car manufacturers, driven by the desire to maintain and increase their social status, were led into patterns of "conspicuous production" of prestigious automobiles for sale to their social equals rather than the mass market. The author also investigates the struggles over

local urban issues, including that of public transport, between the old elite and upstarts like Ford. He shows how such conflicts affected business alliances and weakened the original leaders of the automobile industry locally and in national politics, resulting in Detroit's financial crisis in 1933. Professor Davis is a member of the history department at the University of Ottawa.

Roderick Phillips, Putting Asunder: A history of divorce in Western society (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1988) was given an honourable mention.

Regional History Certificates of Merit are awarded annually by the Regional History Committee for "meritorious publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional history" in Canada. The Canadian Historical Association awarded Certificates of Merit to the following individuals and organizations.

For QUEBEC:

Gaston Deschênes, L'année des Anglais. La Côte-du-Sud à l'heure de la conquête (Sillery, Pelican/Septentrion, 1988).

This illustrated work highlights a forgotten period of the Conquest: the occupation and pillage by the English army of a region soon to be known as the Côte-du-Sud, downstream from Québec. With precision and rigour, the author has produced a well-documented account.

For ONTARIO:

Donald B. Smith, Sacred Feathers: the Reverend Peter Jones (Kahkewaquonaby) and the Mississauga Indians (University of Toronto Press, 1987). This study of the Reverend Peter Jones is as fine a biography of a 19th century native as we are likely to have. In addition it conveys a sense of place and illustrates the richness, variety and resiliency of native society as it came to terms with a heterogeneous European society. Although firmly rooted in an academic tradition, this book has broad appeal for the general reader and is, therefore, a model study in regional history.

For BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON:

Howard White of Harbour Publishing, Raincoast Chronicles; and for his promotion of regional history. For the past several decades, Howard White has been a tireless promoter and creator of quality British Columbia regional history. Through his imaginative Raincoast Chronicles and Harbour Publishing, he has nurtured and brought into being a remarkable range of works which capture the essence of British Columbia, particularly the Coastal Region.

For the ATLANTIC REGION, Certificates of Merit were given to both:

Georges Arsenault, Les Acadiens de l'Île, 1720-1980 (Moncton: Editions d'Acadie, 1987) and Professor J. Murray Beck for his distinguished lifetime contribution to the history of the Maritimes in general, and of Nova Scotia in particular. Les Acadiens de l'Île is the first full study of the history of the Acadians of Prince Edward Island from the first settlement to the present. As such it is a major contribution to the history of the Atlantic region, which also deserves to be read by all those interested in the history of francophone Canada. Though

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written for a general audience, this history is the result of thorough and detailed research, and will become the standard work on its subject.

For over 20 years Professor Beck has been making major contributions to the political history of the Maritime Provinces, particularly to that of Nova Scotia. His Government of Nova Scotia (1957), rich in historical detail, was a pioneer work, among the first academic studies of the region in the post-confederation period. Professor Beck's work culminated in his fine biography of Joseph Howe (1982-3). Still active in retirement, he has recently completed a two-volume history of The Politics of Nova Scotia (1985, 1988).

For the THE WEST AND THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES both Paul Voisey, Vulcan: The Making of a Prairie Community (University of Toronto Press, 1988) and The University of Manitoba Press for the Manitoba Studies in Native history. Voisey's book is one of the most comprehensive local histories ever published in Western Canada. Voisey applies a range of interdisciplinary perspectives and comparative analysis, and his skepticism of settlement models promises to breathe new life into Prairie settlement historiography.

The five volumes which have so far appeared in Manitoba Studies in Native History represent a significant and innovative addition to the growing body of native history scholarship in Western Canada. The series demonstrates a strong interdisciplinary focus, combining a variety of approaches to understand the history of native people.

The Hilda Neatby Prize, established in 1985 to encourage the publication of scholarly articles in women's history in Canadian journals and books was awarded to E. Patricia Tsurumi for:

"Serving in Japan's Industrial Army: Female Textile Workers, 1868-1930", which appeared in the August 1988 issue of the Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire.

In this study of female textile workers and national industrial strategy, Patricia Tsurumi describes the rise of the Japanese textile industry and the evolving labour recruitment and management strategies of government and entrepreneurs. Throughout the period, women were called upon to fuel industrial expansion. Their role within the rural family economy, the difficult conditions under which they laboured, and their heroic struggles to sustain their own culture, despite the indoctrination of government and industrialists, are skillfully analysed and superbly recreated.

Professor Tsurumi drew upon an impressive variety of sources ranging from government reports to working-class songs and oral histories. The prize committee felt that this article makes an original and scholarly contribution to the history of Japanese women and to the history of women's wage labour in general. A graduate of Harvard University, Patricia Tsurumi is a member of the History Department of the University of Victoria.

At the end of the prize announcements the President informed the assembly that the CHA had presented certificates of merit to the editors and staff in Toronto and Quebec of the *Diction-*

ary of Canadian Biography during a lunch held in their honour at a restaurant in Quebec earlier this week. Frances Halpenny and Jean Hamelin accepted the certificates. The President then read the citation that he delivered at the lunch:

Thanks to the tenacity and diligent work of all those associated with the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Canadian historians and the public in general have at their disposal an indispensable reference tool. This monumental publication is the product of many years of concentrated effort which drew on the research skills of historians from one end of Canada to the other who meticulously combed archives and libraries in search of biographical information. It was not an easy task to coordinate such a large group of historians for such a complex project; preliminary list after preliminary list, bibliography after bibliography in order to create this monument of erudition. Furthermore, careful and consistent editing of author's submissions resulted in a publication of remarkably high quality. Finally, bringing together anglophone and francophone historians in a collaborative work in order to publish English and French editions, establishing editorial offices in Toronto and Quebec, to distribute, supervise and review resulted in not only a dictionary, but a unique publication of the genre. With the completion of research on the nineteenth century and the retirement of senior editor Frances Halpenny the Canadian Historical Association is proud to honour the editors, the staff of both offices and the hundreds of researchers who contributed to this excellent work.

8. Election Results

The results of the election were announced. The following members were elected to Council:

Michael S. Cross
Micheline Dumont
T.D. Regehr
Suzanne Zeller

and to the Nominating Committee:

Louise Dechêne
Ernest R. Forbes

9. Cornelius Jaenen turned the meeting over to the new President Jean-Claude Robert. On behalf of the CHA the new President thanked the following people: Marielle Campeau for twenty-five years of excellent service as the Association's Assistant Treasurer; conference hosts, Laval University; the Programme Committee and in particular, its chairperson Réal Bélanger for an exceptionally well organized conference; our special invited guests, professors Jane Lewis and Maurice Agulhon; all those who presented papers, chairperson and commentators; outgoing members of the council, John Beattie, André Lévesque, Wendy Mitchinson, Doug Owrap, René Durocher and Blair Neatby from the executive; Lyne St-Hilaire-Tardif and Dan Moore for diligent work in the demanding position of English-Language Secretary over the past four years.

10. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. (J. Cossette/D. Moore)