

## Plus ca change...

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## PLUS CA CHANGE...

WITH THIS ISSUE *ACADIENSIS* ENTERS its 20th year of publication. The journal has come a long way since the first issue. There are as many articles in this issue as there were in the first two issues and more review articles than in the first two years of the journal's life. The range of topics and approaches has widened considerably, reflecting the growth of an ever more sophisticated regional historiography. Articles from the journal appear regularly in a variety of reprinted collections and its scholarly reputation is well established. The number of subscribers has nearly doubled and there are few major research libraries in Canada, and increasingly abroad, in which one can not find copies of the journal.

In this issue there is neither a documents nor a bibliography section. We will continue to carry the occasional document but, because of the growing volume of papers submitted to the journal and our desire to avoid a lengthy delay before publication, that section will not appear in every issue. The bibliography was omitted from this issue only because of the difficulties of replacing Eric Swanick as editor of that section. Every regional scholar owes Eric an enormous debt of gratitude for establishing the bibliography section. With the assistance of colleagues in the other Atlantic provinces, Eric produced for every issue of the journal a bibliography unrivalled in its thoroughness and completeness. It has proven an invaluable research tool for scholars in the field. Unfortunately, after Eric became head of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, he found the burden of supervising the bibliography increasingly onerous and this spring he reluctantly submitted his resignation, which the editorial board even more reluctantly accepted. No one can fully replace Eric, who was indefatigable in digging out references, but Beth McGahan has agreed to take on the responsibility of supervising the preparation of the bibliography which will re-appear in the next issue.

This issue also marks the end of my responsibilities as editor. Gail Campbell has already taken over from me. When David Frank returns from sabbatical in January 1991, he will re-assume the position for a three-year term and then Gail will, in turn, replace him. My career as an editor of the journal is over. There comes a point when every editor loses enthusiasm and has to accept that it is time to pass on the responsibilities to a new generation. When I retired temporarily as editor once before and David Frank replaced me, no one noticed. In fact, several people, thinking that I was still editor, complimented me on the steadily improving quality of the journal. I suspect that David will have to undergo the same humbling experience after Gail takes over. The work of editing a journal is time consuming and exhausting and I look forward to devoting time to my own research and perhaps even to submitting an article to the journal. Obviously I arrived at this decision with mixed emotions. Editing *Acadiensis* was arduous but it brought many intellectual and emotional rewards. Not the least of these was the opportunity of working with a network of fine and dedicated scholars, from whom I learned a great deal. Without their voluntary assistance in assessing

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the ever-increasing volume of papers submitted to the journal and their willingness to submit their own work to our rigorous assessment process, *Acadiensis* could not have survived. It certainly could not have flourished.

Indeed, one of the strengths of *Acadiensis* from the beginning was the sense of community that existed among historians of the Atlantic region. Regardless of our particular area of geographic or thematic specialization, regardless of our ideological or political persuasion, regardless of where we were born or where we lived, we felt ourselves engaged in a collaborative effort. As John Thompson points out in his review article in this issue of *Acadiensis*, we were members of the “limited identities” generation and we sought to reshape the contours of Canadian history so that it would reflect the reality and diversity of the Canadian experience. In an editorial in the first issue of *Acadiensis* I declared — using an expression coined by Ken Windsor who had been one of the strongest promoters of the journal — that its purpose was “to recover the past of the Atlantic region”. I leave it to future students of Canadian historiography to assess the extent to which *Acadiensis* has succeeded in its objectives. But the objectives remain unchanged and I am confident that under my successors the journal will steadily make progress toward achieving them. I wish them well.

PHILLIP BUCKNER