

AT THE MEETINGS

The Kingston Conference. . .

The first national conference on the history of Canadian science and technology successfully ran its course on 3-5 November in Kingston, Ontario. Over a year in the planning, the conference was the culmination of four years of informal and formal meetings of historians and archivists. The organizers, Norman Ball, C.E.S. Franks, Jean-Claude Guédon, Bruce Sinclair, and chairman A.W. Tickner, did an admirable job in arranging a valuable and intensive weekend.

We were all pleased and encouraged to see nearly 150 participants; drawn from all academic fields, from education, libraries, government, and industry, the group was a yeasty mixture. One disappointment was the dearth of Canadian historians who have yet to discover us. While the participants were largely drawn from the Toronto-Ottawa-Montréal triangle, it was a pleasure to see scholars from Victoria to Halifax.

Highlights of the Conference:

- Keynote addresses by Trevor Levere (Toronto) and Raymond Duchesne (Montréal) drew attention to the uniqueness of Canadian science. Levere pointed out how Canadian science in the 19th century differed from both British and American models, while Duchesne noted the differences between franco-phone and anglophone medical practice in the 19th century as a probe to discern the differences in style.
- Papers by Yves Mougéot (HSSRC), who showed that very few grants had been made for our subject by the Canada Council due to the few applications, by Ian Montagnes (University of Toronto Press), who pointed out the pitfalls of historical writing for publication, and by Hugh Wynne-Edwards (MOSST) who gave us a vision of a Canadian science and technology badly in need of guidance.
- A session on archival resources for Canadian science and technology, with papers by Peter Gillis (PAC), who discussed governmental records for sawdust pollution in Canada, by Jacques Bernier (Laval), who noted the problems in researching the history of medicine in early Quebec, and by Skip Ray (York), who described the valuable sources for history of science and technology in the Hudson's Bay Company papers.
- A wide variety of workshops--each with a paper, commentary, and discussion--covered museology, history of medicine, teaching materials and course organization, archives and, on a more theoretical level, innovation and adaptation, discovery and invention, and institutional frameworks for science and technology.
- A delightful after-dinner talk by J.W.T. Spinks, former