

## HSTC Bulletin

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bulletin

## HSTC Newsletter

## Bulletin d'information HSTC

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## BULLETIN D'INFORMATION HSTC NEWSLETTER

### THE SECOND KINGSTON CONFERENCE

The Second Kingston Conference, Critical Issues in the History of Canadian Science, Technology and Medicine, was accorded by most participants as a very successful meeting, one which went far beyond the first conference in 1978. The previous meeting was devoted to taking inventory of the work being pursued in these subjects and to mapping out strategies to improve teaching, increase research and raise the national consciousness concerning our scientific and technical heritage. There is no doubt, in retrospect, that the 1978 conference and its published proceedings -- *Science, Technology and Canadian History* -- stimulated workers on several fronts. The present conference was designed to allow this disparate group to come together and share their researches. To that end, the programme was primarily devoted to invited speakers; the Executive of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association (CSTHA), together with two members of the 1978 organizing committee, sought advice throughout the country in order to bring the foremost researchers together to explore several discrete, important problems. Since the field is so new, vast and unexplored, there are few such areas with more than a few devotees, but with perseverance and much assistance, the organizers were able to establish six areas in which substantial work is moving forward. These areas include:

- 1) Scientific Institutions in Canadian History;
- 2) New Directions in Canadian Transportation History;
- 3) Challenges to Public Health in Canada;
- 4) The Selling of Science to Canadians;
- 5) Technology in an Urban Setting;
- 6) The Interpretation of Science and Technology in Museums.

The eighteen participants represented six universities and four public agencies. At the plenary session, which was devoted to a review of the sessions and lessons they may have had for further work, the consensus was that the quality of papers was as high as those heard at more traditional historical conferences and that the new discipline need not apologize for its work.

Continuing a theme of the 1978 conference, we included four historiographical workshops to provide forums for the diverse viewpoints in the field; both leaders and participants considered the sessions worthwhile and stimulating. In addition to those sessions deliberately organized in advance, work-in-progress sessions devoted to history of science, of technology, of medicine and of innovation were well attended.

Particularly heartening is the fact that ten of the forty-three who read papers at the conference are students; their professionalism bodes well for the field in future.

Considering that November is normally a poor time of year for a major conference and that the Learned Society meetings tend to be the major annual event for academics, we were pleased to welcome to Kingston 110 registrants, coming from Halifax to Victoria. The local participation rate was much better, too, than in 1978. Despite a very full schedule of events, attendance at sessions remained high throughout, but we cannot underestimate the value of the social events as catalysts for the field. There is no doubt that many new contacts and friendships were forged at the meeting. This is absolutely necessary for a young discipline to gel because no one organization has ever brought together such a diversified group, including academic historians, students, active and retired scientists, archivists, museum directors and curators, librarians, political scientists, sociologists, and freelance researchers.

The CSTHA was placed on a firm footing and plans are underway for a biennial conference in 1983, the unanimous and enthusiastic desire of the whole group in the general meeting. Perhaps the most important result of the Kingston Conference was the renewed *entente* between the professionals and active amateurs and the realization that, due to the youth of our discipline, we need not follow the narrower paths of other fields but can explore our scientific and technical heritage in new ways.

#### CANADIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE LEARNEDS

Although the CSTHA/AHSTC will not meet with the Learned Societies in Ottawa this June, a number of Canadian science and technology papers will be given to the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science and to the Canadian Historical Association. These include:

Chris de Bresson, 'Customized Product Innovation -- the Bias of Technological Innovation in the Canadian Equipment Manufacturing Industry, 1945-1978'

Raymond Duchesne, 'Historiography of Canadian Science'

Philip Enros, 'Towards a History of Research and Development in Canada: Industrial Research in Ontario, 1900-1930'

W.E.K. Middleton, 'The RCAF and the NRC, 1929-1951'

R.V.V. Nicholls, 'The Pre-1836 Railways of British North America'

Elizabeth Quance, 'Bell and the Six Nippled Breed: A.G. Bell's Sheep Breeding Experiments on Cape Breton Island, NS'

John Weiler, 'Approaches to the Study of Canada's  
Industrial and Scientific Heritage'

The CSHPS meetings will be held at the University of Ottawa  
from 9-11 June 1982.

ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

On Saturday, 27 February 1982, a large and enthusiastic meeting formed the Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. Marilyn Miller, a member of the newly-elected executive, explains the goals of the organization:

Industrial Archaeology is the exploration of man's industrial past. Within this broad field are numerous exciting areas of endeavour that provide scope for both serious academic pursuit and amateur enthusiasm. Many organizations already promote IA: automobile clubs, railway societies, canal and steamship preservation groups. As well, many museums are involved in IA activities: pioneer grist mills, mining museums, agricultural museums. Finally, there is a growing list of publications that relate to the field of IA.

But offsetting this interest is an unawareness by the general public in Ontario's industrial past. Significant sites are lost while many are simply ignored. In order to enjoy the pursuit of Industrial Archaeology, a group of interested individuals formed a steering committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a society.

The goals of the proposed Ontario Society of Industrial Archaeology are as follows:

- provide a liaison organization between individual societies involved in IA to promote individual group activities;
- act as a research/recording society to document Ontario's industrial past;
- provide a means of education/awareness of heritage industrial resources in the province by means of meetings, tour and publications;
- act as a lobby group to obtain political awareness of IA and to solicit funds for worthy projects.

We are currently planning to seek affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society to benefit from their organizational framework, and receive sponsorship for obtaining charitable tax status.

For further information, write to the undersigned at 142 Evelyn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6P 2Z7.

Marilyn Miller  
Toronto

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCES IN BELGIUM

The Belgian branch of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) is organizing two conferences of interest to Canadians. On 15-18 September 1982, a meeting dealing with 'Study, Preservation and Presentation of the Heritage of Spirits and Strong Liquor Industry' will be held in Hasselt, Belgium. The conference, limited to fifty active participants, will concentrate on the experience of researchers and conservationists and on preserved remains. A second conference, to be held in February 1983 in Beringen, Belgium, will deal with coal mining history and heritage, both technical and socio-economic. The conference language will be English or French, if English translations provided.

Both conferences are intended as working sessions for the comparison of international experiences, not just local. If interested persons cannot attend in person, the organizing committees wish to have papers dealing with various national initiatives and bibliography in these two industrial sectors; this can be reproduced for distribution.

For further information, contact: Mr Adriaan Linters, Projekt Industrieel Erfgoed, Begijnhof 59, B-3800 St.-Truiden, Belgium.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) has published the 9th edition of the *Union List of Scientific Serials in Canadian Libraries* in two volumes. This is the primary locator of journals for historians of Canadian science and technology; the 1981 edition lists 50,000 titles in 262 libraries. Hardcover edition is \$95 (NRC #19473), softcover \$55 (NRC #19474) and can be ordered from the Publications Section of CISTI, c/o National Research Council, Ottawa K1A 0S2.

CISTI has also published the *June 1979-June 1981 Supplement* to the bibliography devoted to *Scientific Policy, Research and Development in Canada* by J. D. Babbitt. This volume is the sixth covering these topics since 1935. All are available from the address above; the latest volume (NRC #19945 is \$5.00).

The US National Library of Medicine has recently published its *Bibliography of the History of Medicine*, No. 16 for 1980. Being international in scope, it covers Canadian medical history. The volume sells at US \$10.65 for Canadians and may be ordered from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

The Langdale Press has published the third volume of *Canadian Papers in Rural History*. Of interest to our readers are essays dealing with domestic architecture in Ontario and with plowing technology in 19th-century Canada. The volume (hardcover) is \$14.95 and is available from Langdale Press, R.R.1,

Gananoque, Ontario K7G 2V3.

#### WISCONSIN PRESS SERIES

The University of Wisconsin Press announces a new series of books, Wisconsin Publications in the History of Science and Medicine, under the general editorship of William Coleman, David Lindberg, and Ronald Numbers. The series will be broad in coverage, both chronologically and topically, and will include the history of technology and the social relations of science. Although the editors are particularly interested in receiving book-length manuscripts by single authors, they will also consider edited collections that are devoted to a well-defined topic and editions and translations that include substantial interpretative or historiographic materials. Authors are invited to discuss current or future projects with any of the editors, c/o Department of History of Science, South Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706 (608-262-1406).

#### DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY/

#### DICTIONNAIRE BIOGRAPHIQUE DU CANADA: PROGRESS REPORT

The *Dictionary/Dictionnaire* has covered to the end of the 18th century with the publication of volumes I to IV and of a cumulative index for these volumes. For the 19th century, volume IX and X (persons who have died between 1861-80) have been available for some time and volume XI (1881-90), including such figures as Alexandre Crevier, Sir John Henry Lefroy, Alexander Murray, and Francis Shanly, should be in bookstores by March. Of the remaining 19th-century volumes, editorial work on volume V (1801-20) is well advanced, volume VIII (1851-60) is in progress, we will begin editing volume VI (1821-35) this spring, and biographies are coming in for volume VII (1836-50). Volume XII (1891-1900) is the only 19th-century volume for which biographies are still not assigned.

As the *Dictionary* moves towards the 20th century, and into periods of interest to new groups of scholars, we wish to be able to represent their work effectively in volume XII. To this end we are hoping that our contributors and consultants will suggest potential subjects, especially in areas of science and technology which are poorly served by non-specialized secondary sources. Our selection of all names for volume XII must, however, be more rigorous than ever before. More people died in Canada in the decade of the 1890s than during the periods covered by any of our earlier volumes, and many more left the kind of records needed for a formal biography. The fullest use of this growing wealth of material must increasingly be left to projects complementary to ours. Fortunately, several are underway. We welcome publications such as the *Dictionary of Hamilton Biography* and the forthcoming *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada*, and

we are watching similar initiatives in fields closer to the *Bulletin* with great interest. In the mean time, we look to the *Bulletin*, and to interested historical societies, for information and advice to help us represent both the scope of 19th-century medicine, science, and technology and the extent of contemporary historical investigations in these areas.

Wendy Cameron  
University of Toronto Press

#### DISSERTATIONS/THESES

Several recent doctoral and masters theses dealing with aspects of Canadian science, technology and medicine are noted below. Our thanks to Prof Jacques Bernier of Laval for titles from that university. Copies of doctoral dissertations written in Canada may be obtained from the National Library; those in the USA are obtainable from Xerox/University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Masters theses are held by university libraries.

#### University of British Columbia:

Daniel Gallacher, 'Man, Money and Machines: Studies Comparing Colliery Operations and Factors of Production in British Columbia's Coal Industry to 1891.' (PhD)

#### Université Laval:

Jean-Pierre Charland, 'L'enseignement spécialisé au Québec, 1867-1965.' (MA)

Christian Rioux, 'Le régiment "Royal Artillery" à Québec (1759 à 1871).' (MA)

Christine Veilleux, 'L'évolution de l'alphabétisation dans le comté de Portneuf, 1690-1849.' (MA)

#### McGill University:

Katherine McCuaig, 'The Campaign Against Tuberculosis in Canada, 1900-1950.' (MA)

#### Université d'Ottawa:

Gaetan Gervais, 'Les chemins de fer au Québec, 1873-1895.' (PhD)

#### University of Pennsylvania:

Robert Belfield, 'The Niagara Frontier: the Evolution of Electrical Power Systems in New York and Ontario, 1880-1935.' (PhD)