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New Voices, New Frontiers/ *Frontières for Scientia Canadensis*

Michael Eamon

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EDITORIAL

New Voices, New Frontiers/*Frontières* for *Scientia Canadensis*

Are historians interlopers when it comes to talking about past science, or are scientists out-of-their-depth when they write history? Such questions have held such a prominent place in the historiography that it is almost cliché to pose them again in this forum. Any history of a given profession, or particular community, raises these questions, and in the end, most would argue that a rich historiography requires room for myriad voices and opinions.

Since its inception, *Scientia Canadensis* has made a conscious effort to provide varied perspectives on the history of science, technology and medicine from professional historians, scientists, engineers and historian-scientists alike. Indeed, the varied backgrounds of CSTHA members reflects and encourages this broad approach. In this spirit, this issue sees the advent of a new section entitled “Frontiers/*Frontières*” to further underscore the journal’s commitment to different historical voices. Frontiers/*Frontières* will be an occasional section devoted to “tales from the front”: first-hand perspectives on the history of science from those who were most directly associated, or affected. Articles from Frontiers/*Frontières* will compliment, or expand upon the discourse found in our regular feature sections.

Professor Emeritus Rose Johnstone’s *A Sixty Year Evolution of Biochemistry at McGill* is the first work to be showcased in this new forum. It is an informative, passionate and light-hearted account of achievement and tradition in the Department of Biochemistry at McGill University. Part research paper and part oral history, the work is both a rich primary and secondary source and well suited for Frontiers/*Frontières*.

The city of Montreal continues to be well represented in this issue with Dr. Richard White’s *The Engineers’ Engineer: Sir John Kennedy and the Port of Montreal*. In this article, White addresses the perplexing deficit that exists in the historiography of engineering in Canada. While there is a great understanding of the achievements of past engineers, there is, concurrently, a conspicuous lack of knowledge concerning the individuals behind the achievement. Through this aperçu of an “outstanding ordinary man,” the philosophical Kennedy and his professional achievements are both explored.

Rounding off this issue is Professor Stephen Bocking’s rich review essay of three current Environmental histories and our standard book

review section highlighting other current works in the history of science, technology and medicine.

Readers may also find of interest that the next issue of *Scientia Canadensis* —already under production — will be highlighting selected papers from the 2003 Kingston Conference. These papers, all contributed to a roundtable on younger practitioners of the history of science, technology and medicine, will bring fresh perspectives on the state of the craft in Canada. Contributing authors will include Stéphane Castonguay, Edward Jones-Imhotep and Matthew Evenden.

Authors wishing to submit new papers for consideration are welcome to do so. Submission information is found on the back cover of the journal, or at the website of *Scientia Canadensis*.