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## HSTC Newsletter Bulletin d'information HSTC

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## BULLETIN D'INFORMATION *HSTC* NEWSLETTER

### NEW SOCIETY FOR CANADIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In December a group of *HSTC Bulletin* editors launched the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association/ Association pour l'histoire de la science et de la technologie au Canada as a long-needed organizational vehicle for our studies. The CSTHA/AHSTC is devoted to encouraging research, teaching, discussion and preservation of Canada's scientific and technological heritage. Since the 1978 Kingston Conference the need for a forum exclusively for our subjects has grown. Existing societies, because they devote themselves to broader aims, cannot concentrate on the requirements of a growing discipline. The Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science, the Museums Association of Canada, and the Association for Canadian Studies have each devoted a little attention to science and technology; others, like the Canadian Historical Association, have largely ignored them.

The CSTHA/AHSTC, open to all who are interested without qualification, and organized along simple and efficient lines, hopes to respond to the needs of a diverse membership which includes professional historians, amateurs, engineers, archivists, museums workers and others. The *HSTC Bulletin* will be the official journal of the Association and its pages will be open to its members.

The provisional Executive Committee, Mr Arnold Roos (President), Dr Norman Ball (Director), M. Raymond Duchesne (Directeur) and Dr Richard Jarrell (Secretary-Treasurer), will manage the affairs of the Association until the first general meeting in November. Along with Prof C.E.S. Franks of Queen's and Dr A.W. Tickner of the NRC, the Executive is now planning the CSTHA/AHSTC's first major event, the Second Kingston Conference: Critical Issues in the History of Canadian Science, Technology and Medicine. The meeting, to be held at the Donald Gordon Centre of Queen's University from Friday to Sunday, 6-8 November 1981, will include invited papers, work-in-progress sessions, and historiographical workshops.

Membership in the CSTHA/AHSTC may be obtained by writing to the Secretary-Treasurer, c/o Dept. of Natural Science, Atkinson College, York University, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R7. The dues are \$13 which includes a subscription to the *HSTC Bulletin* (current subscribers may join for \$5), reduced registration fee at the Kingston Conference, lower rates for the *Bulletin* in future, and a 10% discount on current and projected works of *HSTC* Publications.

## HISTORY OF AMERICAN SCIENCE

The first issue of a newsletter, *History of Science in America: News and Views*, appeared in September 1980. It is promoted by an informal coordinating group of interested scholars, and edited by Clark A. Elliott (University Archives, Pusey Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138); all inquiries should be addressed to the editor. The new publication will emphasize short discussion pieces on pertinent subject and historiographic issues; reviews and new book lists; announcements of manuscript and archival sources, projects, reports, committee activities, and the like; queries for information on sources or special expertise; brief reports on research in progress; and related matters. An irregular publication, *News and Views* will not be a medium for timely news.

*News and Views* plans to issue a directory of researchers in the history of American science, probably to appear in the spring of 1981. Contact the editor for information on directory entry format.

## CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

## CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science and the Canadian Society for History of Medicine will meet with the Learned Societies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, the CSHPS sessions running from Sunday, 31 May to Tuesday, 2 June, the CSHM sessions from Monday, 1 June to Tuesday, 2 June. The programmes have yet to be distributed but we can expect at least one joint session of the two organizations and several papers on Canadian topics in both meetings. A special feature of the Halifax meeting is a CSHPS-sponsored nature ramble to the seashore led by John Farley of the Dalhousie biology department.

## NEW SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ARCHIVES PROJECT

Dr Norman Ball, Science and Engineering Archivist at the Public Archives of Canada is charged with a new programme to encourage the acquisition by regional archives across Canada of scientific and engineering papers. The PAC, unable to accept all collections proffered to them, would like to assist other archives (university, provincial, municipal, etc.) by providing funds and expertise to acquire, arrange and catalogue such collections. The sum of \$25,000 is available for the current year. Those interested should contact Dr Ball at the Manuscript Division, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3.

## CANADIAN MEDICAL JOURNALS ON MICROFICHE

A committee of the Hannah Professors has studied the possibility of placing copies of all Canadian medical journals for the period 1826 to 1910 on microfiche. The reasons for wishing to do so are obvious:

- (1) there is no complete set of such in any library;
- (2) the runs of such journals were small;
- (3) such journals were published on paper of poor quality;
- (4) it seems likely there are a number of libraries that would like such an addition to holdings.

The year 1826 marked the publication of the first Canadian medical journal. The year 1910 precedes by one year the establishment of the Canadian Medical Association Journal. The interval 1826-1910 saw the issuance of some 74 journals in a total of 476 volumes. The journals can be made available for filming by Micromedia Ltd. from four libraries which jointly possess the complete holdings.

The Board of Associated Medical Services, Inc., the parent body of the Hannah Institute, has approved the recommendation that the Institute proceed with this project. Before doing so, however, it is necessary to know how many libraries wish to commit \$C 650 for a subscription to the series of fiche. The price can be held until 31 March 1981 only, at which time a production commitment must be made to Micromedia Ltd. Subsequently, other libraries could subscribe, but undoubtedly at a higher price. If your library wishes to subscribe now, please let the Hannah Institute know as quickly as possible. The address is: 50 Prince Arthur Ave., Suite 105, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B5.

## JOINT ATLANTIC SEMINAR

The eighth annual meeting of the Joint Atlantic Seminar on the history of Physical Sciences will take place at the Université de Montréal on Friday evening and Saturday, 3-4 April 1981. This year the JAS will be addressed by Martin Klein (Yale University), Arnold Thackray (University of Pennsylvania), and Paul Hanle (Smithsonian Institution), as well as by distinguished student speakers yet to be selected.

Graduate students interested in presenting a 20-minute paper are urged to contact the organizer, Lewis Pyenson (Institut d'histoire et sociopolitique des sciences, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Qué. H3C 3J7). It is anticipated that a financial contribution will be made to the travel expenses of student speakers; inexpensive or free lodging will also be provided, either in a hotel or at the homes of Institut students.

Information on housing and a detailed programme will follow early in 1981. The success of the seminar depends on you. Do plan to attend.

## ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES WORKSHOP

The Association for Canadian Studies met at Trent University in Peterborough from 7 to 10 June 1980. The programme was made up of four workshops that ran for seven sessions apiece. The theme of one of the workshops was Science, Technology and Canadian Society, with Ian Chapman of Trent as the chairman-organizer.

Dr A.W. Tickner of the National Research Council made an opening statement on the need for courses in the field, and he, in common with several other participants in the workshop, referred to the lessons of the Kingston Conference (the proceedings of which have recently been published: *Science, Technology and Canadian History*, ed. R.A. Jarrell and N.R. Ball, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1980). It became clear in discussion that, while the achievements of that conference were significant, there had been no significant development of that initiative. Practicalities needed to be addressed, so that two subsequent sessions were very much to the point. Brian Wynne (School of Independent Studies, University of Lancaster, England) and Professor Michael Gibbons (SISCON Project, University of Manchester, England) led the workshop on approaches to course content, and on organization to produce course materials. The field was a hard one to limit, and, although one could set about preparing a course text, it would have only limited use. A modular approach based on a series of course units, and covering a wide range of the field (including ethics, policy and history) offered a more stimulating and more widely useful approach.

Three sessions were devoted to the presentation and discussion of approaches to teaching Canadian-oriented material. Graham Orpwood (Science Adviser, Science Council of Canada) discussed the Science Education Project recently launched by the SCC, and drew attention to James E. Page's discussion paper, 'A Canadian Context for Science Education' (write to the Council for your free copy!). Trevor Levere discussed sources and courses based upon his work at IHPST, University of Toronto, while Arnold Roos ensured that technology was included in the session; Yakov Rabkin completed that group of sessions with an account of the relevant activities of the Institut at the Université de Montréal. There was also a film workshop, which proved that if we want more than archival material for our field we are going to have to take some forceful and constructive initiatives.

The final session, Planning Developments for the Future, explored the range of interest in the field. Perhaps the most important conclusion, however, was that stressed by Michael Gibbons: 'we have talked usefully, and talked enough. Before we meet again, we must produce something--perhaps a set of units (shades of SISCON).' A committee was formed at the Kingston conference for that very purpose.

If you are willing to join that committee and to work on the production of a course unit, write to the editor of this *Bulletin*.

Trevor H. Levere  
University of Toronto

#### THE CHAUDIÈRE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

In 1979 the Ontario Heritage Foundation gave me a research grant to research and write a study of the industrial archaeology of the Ottawa-Carleton region. This area contains a large number of interesting sites for the period 1800 to 1950. Some have survived; others have completely disappeared. Some are well documented, others completely unknown. All the surviving remains had already been listed by the Heritage Unit of the National Capital Commission, and without its aid this study would have been impossible in the time available. Since Ottawa once sought to be known as the Detroit of the North, it is clear that far more attention should be paid to the industrial origins of the city and its suburbs.

Increasingly during this research my attention has turned to the industrial area around the Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River. This complex of buildings urgently requires a detailed study. For many years it was the largest and most active industrial area in Eastern Ontario. In addition to its lumbering activities, many other industries were attracted there at the beginning of this century by the availability of hydro power. It is also one of the oldest industrial areas because new evidence indicates that Captain LeBreton had a mill there as early as 1826. It is one of the best documented areas because the voluminous Bronson archives, now in the Public Archives of Canada, contain much useful information about the other companies operating there as well as the Bronson group. The Chaudière area also has three important plants still operating--the City Waterworks (now designated as an historic building), the hydro-electric plant #2 and the Eddy plant (neither so designated), as well as other industrial remains. The only other area in the National Capital Region which might have challenged the Chaudière is the Rideau Falls site--where only one broken electric generator now survives. All the mills have been swept away.

The Chaudière is also in danger of destruction. For many years the Federal Government have issued reports proposing that all traces of industrial activity should be swept away from the region. It is ironic that one of the best guides for local industrial archaeology is now the Greber Report of 1950 which proposed to demolish everything. The photographs in that Report are a sad reminder of how much has

already been lost. The Chaudière Falls area offers the last opportunity in Eastern Ontario for preserving on site the visible evidence of our industrial heritage. There is still a chance that a museum complex, similar to that at Iron-bridge Gorge in England, could be established there.

Edwin Welch  
Ottawa

*Editor's Note:* It may already be too late. In January 1981 several hydroelectric corporations announced plans to increase the size and capacity of the Chaudière plant. This will entail raising the present dam by one metre and the removal of buildings from the area.

#### THE WALLACE RUPERT TURNBULL COLLECTION

Recently the working papers, books and notebooks of the late W.R. Turnbull, which are in the possession of the National Research Council of Canada, have been listed and a finding aid prepared. These items and a number of propellers and other devices had been given to the NRC by Mr Turnbull or were donated, following his death, by his son. The papers and notebooks (approximately 1.5 metres in extent) are available for historical research at the National Research Council in Ottawa, while the propellers and other experimental items are on display at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Wallace Rupert Turnbull was a Canadian pioneer in aeronautical research. Working at Rothesay, N.B., he built Canada's first wind tunnel in 1902 and used it to experiment with aerofoils and propellers. During World War I he worked for Frederick Sage and Company Ltd., an English firm which became involved in the manufacture of military aircraft. Here he was responsible for propeller design and worked as well on a variety of other devices including bomb sights and torpedo screens. After the war he returned to Rothesay where he developed and patented his variable pitch propeller. This propeller, first successful one of its kind, was tested by the RCAF at Camp Borden in 1927 and subsequently licensed to the Reed Propeller Company, a subsidiary of Curtiss-Wright. It was manufactured in large quantities, particularly during World War II.

Turnbull's interests were not confined to aeronautical research but extended into areas such as air-propelled hydroplanes, bird flight, improving the properties of wood and tidal power. His achievements were described in some detail by J. H. Parkin in the first W. Rupert Turnbull Lecture, published in the January and February 1956 issues of the *Canadian Aeronautical Journal*. Historians might like to accept as a challenge the opinion of a retired senior aeronautical engineer that Turnbull's contributions to aircraft development considerably exceeded in value those of another leader of early aeronautical research in Canada, Alexander Graham Bell!

Copies of the finding aid and information on access to the collection may be obtained by contacting me:

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