

## News Nouvelles

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## NEWS/NOUVELLES

## CSTHA/AHSTC NEWS

The Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association/ Association pour l'histoire de la science et de la technologie au Canada, now seven years old, held its fourth biennial general meeting at the Fifth Kingston Conference on Saturday, October 24, 1987, in the Chimo Inn in Ottawa. The current executive was re-elected for a two-year term. The Association is funded, in part, by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Each year, the Council provides a sum, based upon a formula, to help defray the administrative expenses of societies. These grants are obtained through a competition. After two grant periods, the CSTHA/AHSTC had to be re-assessed for a further period of grants. We have been awarded continuing administrative support; however, the selection committee made the following observations about our operations:

1) the majority of the membership of the Association resides in Ontario and steps should be taken to expand to other parts of the country;

2) our annual fee (\$5.00) is considered to be very low;

3) our constitution seems to be very rudimentary, with only three clauses, and the association's operations are based upon by-laws;

4) the association should press its scholarly programme more vigorously through its publications.

The Executive are rather baffled by these comments -- although pleased to receive further funding -- as we cannot be considered much out of line with societies of similar size in Canada. Our membership is, indeed, mostly drawn from Ontario and Québec, but the nature of our field is such that those provinces have, by far, the vast majority of both professionals and amateurs. We certainly have not ignored the rest of the country and would be delighted to expand. Our fee is low, but the total fee, now \$20, includes a subscription to our journal. Greatly increased fees (SSHRCC believes \$15-\$20 is reasonable), plus a subscription, would simply drive away many members and lead to the collapse of the organization. The low fees, our simple constitution, our small executive, were all consciously designed for efficiency. Ours, like other academic organizations, is based upon good will and volunteerism. We are not, and never will be, anything on the scale of the Canadian Historical Association. Finally, considering there are only about 150 members in CSTHA/AHSTC, how many other societies of similar size in Canada hold well-attended and first-class national conferences, maintain a journal and have access to a publishing firm for its field? We do not see how much more we could do at present without a significant influx of funds and members. Nevertheless, we will continue to strive for more and better programmes as long as our members desire it.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Greenwood Press, Inc., has announced plans to publish a *Biographical Dictionary of North American Environmentalists*. The volume will contain about 600 detailed biographical sketches of individuals prominent in the environmental sciences and related fields in Canada, the USA and Mexico, from 1500 to 1970. The persons listed will include explorers responsible for published works on the geography or natural history of North America, geographers, conservationists, wildlife managers, park planners, governmental officials concerned with environmental matters, museum officials, ecologists, biogeographers, mammalogists, ornithologists, herpetologists, ichthyologists, entomologists, invertebrate zoologists, botanists and naturalists. As editors in charge of the Canadian section of this work, we would be interested in hearing from anyone interested in contributing a biography or two from our list of proposed subjects. If you or anyone you know is willing to write a biography, please contact Jane Jenkins or Glenda Leslie at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Murray Building, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0W0.

#### INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR PASSFIELD

The Society for Industrial Archaeology, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, has announced that Robert W. Passfield has won the Norton Prize for 1987. The Norton Prize is awarded annually for the outstanding article published in the Society's journal in any of the preceding three years. The prize was awarded for Mr Passfield's article: 'The Role of the Historian in Reconstructing Historic Engineering Structures: Parks Canada's Experience on the Rideau Canal, 1976-1983.' (IA: *The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology*, 11: 1 (1985), 1-28.

Robert Passfield has been an historical researcher with the Historical Research Branch, National Historic Parks and Sites Directorate, Environment Canada-Parks, since 1974. He is currently working in the history of technology field, focusing on canals and bridge building technology, and has prepared numerous site studies, historical and technical reports for use in preserving, restoring and interpreting historic engineering structures. In addition to several published articles, he is the author of a book, *Building the Rideau Canal: A Pictorial History*, published in 1982 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Rideau Canal.

#### SECOND SILVER DART AWARD

The Canadian Aviation Historical Society is very pleased to announce the winner of the second Silver Dart Aviation History Award, Kyle McIntyre.

The Silver Dart Aviation History Award is offered annually by the CAHS to students in technical colleges, aviation schools and universities. Its aim is to encourage the research and publication of Canadian aviation history. The award consists of a prize of \$500 plus a trophy.

Kyle McIntyre is a graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, and is in the second year of a two-year master's course at the Royal Military College, Kingston, specializing in Canadian military history. His essay was entitled 'The Politics of Air Power: Mackenzie King and the Development of an Autonomous Canadian Air Force, 1935-1939.' This essay will be printed in the up-coming *Journal of the Canadian Aviation Historical Association*.

Last year's winner of the Silver Dart Award, Officer-cadet Dwayne Lovegrove of the Collège militaire royal, St-Jean, Qué., is currently undergoing flight training at CFB Moose Jaw. For details concerning the third Silver Dart Award, see the announcement in this number.

The CAHS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Canada's aviation history. Further details may be obtained by writing to: Canadian Aviation Historical Society, National Headquarters, PO Box 224, Station 'A', Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5S8.

#### HISTORY OF MEDICINE CONGRESS

The first announcement has been received for the XXXI International Congress on the History of Medicine/XXXI Congrès international d'histoire de la médecine, to be held in Bologna, Italy, 30 August to 4 September 1988. The congress will be part of the events honouring the ninth century of the University of Bologna and 700 years of its Faculty of Medicine. Sessions will be devoted to: history of the Bologna school of medicine; development of anatomical, functional, physiopathological and clinical knowledge of the cardiovascular system; clinical and social evolution of neurology and psychiatry; clinical and social evolution of dentistry and orthodontics; and plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Further information may be obtained from the Organizing Secretariat, Conference Service srl, via Tagliapietre, 18/B, 40123 Bologna, Italy.