

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION HISTORY

Dear friends,

I am writing to invite you to join or otherwise participate in the activities of a new subcommittee of the Canadian Historical Association, the Media and Communication History Committee (MCHC). It was officially established at this year's CHA annual meeting, but the group has already been operating informally for several years, holding successful and well-attended conferences on media history in Canada in May 2006 and November 2008. We are particularly happy that our work to date has included strong representation of English-speaking and French-speaking scholars and intend that this orientation will continue.

We define the field of media and communication history very broadly. Among other things, it includes the history of specific media or media organizations, the evolution of audiences and the public sphere, the history of communication à la Harold Innis or Marshall McLuhan (and the scholarship around their work and that of other Canadian communication scholars), the ways in which specific subjects or events have been covered in the media, and the ways in which history is represented in the media. We also welcome Canadian researchers working on non-Canadian subjects. This is a wide-ranging and very interdisciplinary field. We have a close working relationship with historically-minded members of the Canadian Communication Association, and hope that those interested in the history of the book and print culture, and film history, among other already-established specialties, will also wish to collaborate with us.

One of our goals is to organize joint sessions between our group and the history group of the CCA at the annual Congress. Fortunately, there will be an overlap between the CHA and CCA meetings at the 2010 Congress in Montreal, and we hope to work with the CHA program committee to organize such joint CHA-CCA sessions. We invite anyone who is conducting research in this area to consider submitting a media or communication history-related proposal for the 2010 meeting.

We also hope many of you will join our group. Annual dues have been set at \$40 for regular CHA members and \$20 for graduate students. We are in the process of setting up a website and will inform you when it is up and running.

At the founding meeting in Ottawa, an Executive Committee was elected, with the following members: Chair, Mary Vipond (Concordia University); Secretary, Gene Allen (Ryerson University); CCA liaison, Barbara Freeman (Carleton University); Treasurer, John Willis, (Historian, Canadian Postal Museum/Canadian Museum of Civilization).

If you would like any further information about the MCHC, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours truly,

Mary Vipond, Chair, Media and Communication History Committee, CHA



*Craig Heron presiding at the
CHA Annual Meeting
Craig Heron dirigeant la
Réunion annuelle de la SHC*