

79th ANNUAL MEETING of the CHA May 27-29, 2000 Edmonton, Alberta

The Canadian Historical Association will travel to the campus of the University of Alberta in Edmonton for its 79th annual meeting, May 27-29, 2000. Most of the sessions will be held on the main campus, although a number of activities will take place at the Faculté St-Jean which provides an energetic French-language environment for the Congress. The Programme Committee has selected the following themes for the 2000 meeting. Proposals are invited for individual papers and complete sessions, both within and beyond these thematic areas:

1) **The Discipline & the Profession: From Positivism to Postmodernism**

Historical imagination and the historian's craft have evolved significantly since the rise of positivism in the 19th Century. The beginning/end of the millennium offers historians the opportunity to debate major trends in historiography and methodology, and explore new modes of constructing and understanding historical realities. As a result the profession can address the consequences of these changes and examine the ways of seeing and doing history. Among the topics to be included in this theme are: research and teaching in World History; the issue of national history; and the emergence of the "new political history" and the development of cultural approaches to political power and to the State.

2) **Boundaries and Peripheries**

Although this theme will examine the development of regional identities in areas like Western Canada, the North, Eastern Europe or Latin America, historians need not restrict themselves to geography and metropolitan/hinterland relationships. Also to be included are the construction of identities - racial, class, ethnic, gender and sexual - in regional places.

As an example, the experiences of native peoples on the eve of the 20th Century and native peoples at the end of the century could be explored. Again the focus need not be exclusively Canadian but can draw upon the new scholarship about aboriginal peoples in the United States, Latin America, Australia and Russia.

3) **Popular Culture, especially Sport and Leisure Studies**

This theme explores the broad spectrum of leisure and sport as an integral and changing facet of social and cultural development. It also incorporates the categories of sex/gender, class and

ethnicity and can offer insights into the influences on religion, the environment, economics and the state made by sport and leisure. The study of natural, man-made and cultural environments is one of the dynamic areas of socio-cultural and historical analysis.

This theme is linked to one of the larger themes suggested by the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada on "Minds and Bodies".

4) **Ideas, Ideals and Infotech: Communications and Public History**

From the reading revolution in the 19th Century to the introduction of digital technologies in the late 20th, society and the historical profession have been continuously and dramatically transformed. New sources of information have facilitated the spread of ideas and ideologies and hastened intercultural transfers. This theme recognizes the central role of communication in promoting social and cultural change and offers an examination of the issue of public history, including publishing, the role of museums and archives, and new technologies for teaching and writing history. It can extend into discussions of the public uses and abuses of history.

This theme complements one of the themes suggested by the HSSFC entitled: "The Humanities and Social Sciences in an Information-Technology Workplace".

Submissions, accompanied by a one-page *curriculum vitae* for each participant, should be sent to *David Mills, Co-Chair, CHA Programme Committee, Department of History & Classics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, (Canada) T6G 2H4 before November 15, 1999*. Proposals will also be accepted by fax at (780) 492-9125. Contact the Programme Committee by e-mail at sch2000cha@majordomo.srv.ualberta.ca for further information.