

WHAT HAS THE CHA DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

- Published the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, despite continuous threats to scholarly publishing funding.
- Maintained the *Historical Booklet Series* and published *Land of Promise, Promised Land: The Culture of Victorian Science in Canada*, by Suzanne Zeller.
- Maintained the *Canada's Ethnic Group Booklet Series* and published *The Anglo-Normans in Eastern Canada*, by Yves Frenette.
- Chosen and awarded several prizes, including the Sir John A. Macdonald Prize, the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize, the John Bullen Prize and the Regional History Certificates of Merit (now to be called the Clio Awards).
- Launched a two-year study on the Status of Women in the profession.
- Lobbied the federal government for changes to the Copyright Bill which potentially threatens the right to make a single copy for research purposes of an archival document still covered by copyright.
- Joined a successful international lobbying effort to save the Max Planck Institute for History in Göttingen.
- Participated in an effort by humanists and social scientists to change the proposed Tri-Council Code of Conduct ; that is, to delete provisions that would have seriously impeded historical research.
- Published the *Register of Post-Graduate Dissertations*.
- Produced three newsletters on a shoe-string budget.
- Organized the successful Annual Meeting in St. John's.
- Now busy organizing next year's meeting in Ottawa!!

- During the past year the CHA/S.H.C. has devoted a considerable amount of attention and time to lobbying on two issues in particular.

The "Tri-Council Code of Conduct", a research protocol being developed at the behest of the three federal granting councils (Medical Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council), will apply to all research "involving humans" done in Canadian universities. A draft circulated in the spring of 1996 posed significant dangers for historical research by attempting to force all such research into a medical/health sciences mold and by compelling researchers to give the subjects of research extraordinary control of the product of inquiry. Strenuous lobbying in concert with other organizations induced the granting councils to allow more time for revisions. A revised and improved draft was produced in February 1997, and a further revision is to be circulated in the late summer or autumn. The CHA/S.H.C. intends to maintain a watching brief on this matter, and it urges its members to do likewise.

Also problematic was Bill C-32, a measure to modernize the Copyright Act. As drafted in 1996, it would have made it impossible for archives to make a single copy of an unpublished work that still was under copyright, even for research purposes. Again, an energetic lobbying effort carried out with other interested organizations resulted in improvements at the committee stage in the autumn of 1996, but continued lobbying was necessary to preserve these gains when the legislation returned to the Commons for third reading. The measure, with a clause on research photocopying that is tolerable to historical researchers, received royal assent in late April 1997. Proclamation of the measure is expected once regulations that are essential to the operation of several clauses have been drafted. The Act is expected to come into force in the autumn of this year.

In both these instances, the CHA/S.H.C. has worked hard, with invaluable support from many other organizations and individuals, to ensure that policies that affect historical research of all kinds in Canada were developed in an acceptable manner.

Jim Miller