

IN MEMORIAM/DÉCÈS

John Foster, Professor of History and Classics, died September 13, 1996 after a lengthy illness. He was associated with the University of Alberta as an undergraduate, graduate student and faculty member for forty years. Although he was born in Ontario, John's family came to Alberta in time for him to receive most of his schooling in Calgary. He spent a short time at Royal Roads in Victoria before discovering that engineering - the only thing the military would let you take at that time - was not for him. He then came to the University of Alberta and did a degree in history, graduating in 1959.

John taught high school at Ross Sheppard for five years from 1962-67. Towards the end of that time he worked on a Master's degree and then decided to do a Ph.D., under the supervision of Lewis G. Thomas. John's Ph.D. thesis was the beginning of his life-long interest in the history of the Métis in western Canada. Over the next two decades John Foster was one of a very small group of scholars who revolutionized the approach to the early

history of western Canada. John was very much a leader among this group who shifted the focus away from the history of the European fur companies to the native peoples of the region.

John Foster published about thirty articles during his career. He was one of the key organizers of the project that resulted in the publication by the University of Alberta Press of the five volume *Collected Writings of Louis Riel* (the largest historical scholarship project of the 1980s in Canada). He was co-editor of the 1992 Alberta Book of the Year, *Buffalo*. John Foster was an exceptional teacher. He had the unique ability to make every student, from first year undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates, feel that he and they were engaged in a joint search for solutions to questions that really mattered. His outstanding teaching was recognized last year when he became the first member of the History department to receive a Faculty of Arts teaching award.

John Foster faced his illness in the last years of his life with dignity and courage. He will be sorely missed by his friends, his colleagues and his students.

Rod Macleod, University of Alberta

CALLS FOR PAPERS/DEMANDES DE COMMUNICATIONS

The Peace History Society, "Peace and War Issues: Gender, Race, Identity and Citizenship", Nov. 14-16, 1997. Deadline for submissions: March 15, 1997. Contact: Scott L. Billis, Dept. Of History, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. Tel. (409) 468-2285. E-mail: SBILLS@sfasu.edu OR Kathleen Kennedy, Dept. Of History, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225. Tel. (860) 650-3043. E-mail: kkennedy@cc.www.edu. Canadian Contact: Frances Early, President, Peace History Society. E-mail: frances.early@msvu.ca.

The Plains Indian Museum of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, "Plains Indian Art: A Place in the Universe", Sept. 26-28, 1997. Deadline for submissions: April 7, 1997. Contact: Lillian Turner, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, 720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, Wyoming, 82414. Tel. (307) 578-4028.

The Stalin-Era Research and Archives Project (SERAP) of the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto: "State and Society in the Stalin Era through the Prism of Regional Archives", 15-22 June, 1997. Contact: SERAP at CREES, University of Toronto, 130 St. George Street, Ste 14335, Toronto, M5S 1A5. Tel. (416) 978-8192; Fax (416) 978-3817. E-mail: serap@chass.utoronto.ca.

