

Scholarly Publications program. D. Smyth, R. Accinelli, and M. Israel have been promoted to professor, and T. Brook, I. Radforth, J. Retallack and W. Wark to associate professor. M. Israel has been appointed to the Canadian Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee, and Chair of the Board, Multicultural History Society of Ontario. P.R. Magocsi is Director, MHSO. J. Beattie is the director of the Centre for Criminology. P. White and J. Kenyon have retired, and C. Stacey and A. Glazebrook passed away. F. Iacovetta (Canadian/British) received a tenure-track appointment, and P. Divinsky (British), L. Mitchell McKee (Canadian), and L. Whaley, B. Birn and J. Cassidy (European) have limited term appointments. Post-doctoral and Canada Research Fellows include R. Gagan, T. Loo, D. Mackenzie (Canadian), L. Howsam and S. Mendelson (British), and D. Sheinin (U.S.) An appointment is anticipated in Early French Canada. On leave are C. Berger, W. Calahan, R. Johnson, I. Radforth, A. Robson, E. Rose, A. Sheps, M. Wayne, P. Grendler, M. Marrus, J. Retallack. The department will be hosting a conference titled "The Pacifist Impulse in Historical Perspective", May 9-12, 1991.

Trent has promoted K. Walden, recipient of the CHR's article prize and of a SSHRCC release time stipend, to professor. J. Sangster has been promoted to associate professor. A. Wilson has retired, and J.D.P. Martin died in April 1990. Tenure-track appointments have been accorded I. Elbl (Early Modern Europe) and P. T. Zeleza (African). C. Danysk and K. Cruikshank (Canadian/U.S.), C. Kay (Europe), and D. Evenden-Nagy (British) have limited-term appointments. E. Jones and J. Struthers are on leave.

At the **University of Victoria**, P.E. Roy was nominated for B.C.'s non-fiction book prize. E.W. Sager won a CHA regional certificate of merit, and received honourable mention for the CHA's Macdonald prize, the J. Lyman book award, and the J.W. Dafoe Foundation book prize. E.W. Sager and E.P. Tsurumi have been promoted to professor. Tenure-track appointments have been awarded to G. Blue (World) and M. Grant (British). J. Duder, W. Knights (European); D. Elliott, J. Pollard, D. Hawthorne (Canadian); and R. Roy (Military) have limited-term appointments. M. Cox (Canadian) holds a

post-doctoral fellowship, L. McCann is visiting scholar, and R.J. Bartlett, Chair of Medieval Studies, University of Chicago is visiting professor. S. W. (Toby) Jackman has retired. On leave are I. MacPherson, P. Senese and D. Senese. A tenure-track appointment is planned in Early Modern or Modern European History. Future conferences include "Indigenous Societies in

Peripheral Areas: Economic. Social and Political Prospects", Summer 1991, and "Shared Perspectives: Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Defence", March 1992.

At **Huron College, University of Western Ontario**, G. Owens has been appointed
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National Archives to Get New Buildings

But in the Mean Time, a Few Suggestions

by Jean-Pierre Wallot

On the 14th of November, 1990, the Treasury Board authorized the Department of Public Works to begin the process of selecting an architect to design the storage and conservation facility which will serve the National Archives through 2004. The decision authorized a total construction cost of \$89 million and an additional \$18 million over the next six years to enable the Archives to prepare for the moves and to operate a split facility.

This is the first phase of the first part of the project to accommodate all the requirements of the Archives in two buildings: storage and conservation in the City of Gatineau, and research and public programmes in the West Memorial Building at 344 Wellington Street, Ottawa. The Gatineau Building will sit on 37 hectares of land, allowing ample room for expansion and the addition of further storage modules. However, the building, which is about twelve minutes by road from the current Archives/Library building, will not be large enough to accommodate all the current holdings of the Archives in the first phase of the project, and it will be necessary to retain the interim storage facility at Renfrew until the second phase is constructed at the end of the century.

The Renfrew Archives Centre, located 100 kilometres from Ottawa, provides the National Archives with an excellent storage facility. Over 87 kilometres of shelving and 700 map cabinets have been installed to house a large portion of the total holdings of the Government Archives Division, Manuscript Division, Cartographic and

Architectural Archives Division, and the Documentary Art and Photography Division. State of the art security and environmental control systems provide safe and secure storage for our national heritage. Researchers can expect prompt retrieval and delivery of archival records, although this cannot be done as quickly as when the records were on the premises. Material is delivered twice daily from Renfrew, providing a maximum 24 hour turnaround service.

Business will continue at 395 Wellington Street for researchers in all disciplines until an essentially new building, constructed within the facade of the present West Memorial Building, opens in 1997. The starting date for this part of the project has been deferred to April, 1992.

Until this phase is completed, reference services will continue to be provided to researchers who visit our Reference Room, as well as to those who live at a distance. However, for those who will be coming in person to the National Archives, we have several suggestions to make the research process easier:

- First, please write to us prior to coming and include a daytime phone number in your letter. The appropriate staff member will then be able to contact you before your visit.

- Make sure that you have narrowed your research topic sufficiently, so that you do not spend valuable time investigating sources which may be peripheral to your real needs. ...*National Archives*, p. 12

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- If you have a specific question about our holdings, archivists will undertake *limited* research on your behalf.
- If you know already which holdings you wish to consult, we will be able to retrieve the records from off-site storage, if necessary, before you visit.
- If the records you intend to consult are governed by access controls, we can make arrangements to have the records reviewed before your arrival.
- You may also, if you are planning to arrive after working hours, make arrangements to register and obtain a research pass before coming.
- Once you have identified and requested the records you wish to see, you may use our Reading Room 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Researchers should also be aware that many of our major collections are available on microform through the Inter-Institutional Loan programme, and that local and university libraries will be able to borrow copies of these on their behalf. In the coming year, the National Archives will be publishing a guide to those microform holdings which are available for loan to other institutions. Many provincial, territorial and university archives and libraries have already obtained copies of some of our holdings through the National Archives' diffusion or other programmes. In addition, we have just completed an agreement with the Chadwyck-Healey corporation whereby our finding aids will be copied on microfiche and will form the basis of a National Inventory of Documentary Sources (NIDS) for Canada. We are also continuing to work on various automation projects. All of these initiatives address one of our main objectives: improving access to our holdings for researchers at a distance or prior to a visit to the National Archives.

If you need further information about any of our reference services, you may contact Gabrielle Blais, Director, Reference and Researcher Services Division at (613) 992-8712. She will welcome your comments and suggestions.

Letters to the Editors

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great pity that, because of ideologies and policies that confuse equality with statistical parity, the achievements of individual women should be diminished by charges and suspicions of reverse discrimination. It would be a greater irony still if women's collective achievements in the academy were to be vitiated by the introduction of ill-considered reforms whose effect will be to downgrade employment standards as a whole.

Allen Seager
Department of History, Simon Fraser University

Ramsay Cook's lucid attack on the tenure system (*Bulletin*, Fall 1990) glosses over the major problem raised by such proposals: who decides merit or competence? according to what criteria? It seems to postulate the existence of a consensus on such issues which does not exist in many academic communities. Indeed, in my experience, this consensus of wise judges is believed in by many academics by a circular process of exclusion: those who challenge the possibility of fair judgment have proved themselves incompetent, while those who accept it may be considered competent and fair-minded.

It might be argued that the same problem applies at every level of scholarly appraisal. And so it does; very likely, a lot of bright and creative people are being lost now because their work or personal style or political opinions are offensive to those sitting in judgment. The present system, however, at least allows tenured scholars to write and speak with a degree of security from disapproving colleagues. Under Professor Cook's plan, there would be no such security. The situation would be especially acute in the Departments of History, where so many senior (and perhaps junior) scholars still affirm the founding myth of objectivity, in which there is One Best Account of an Objective Past, and therefore interpretive disagreements must be due to laziness or bias rather than fundamental value conflicts.

In short, the likely result of Professor Cook's modest proposal would be acres of acrimony, possibly followed by even greater homogeneity of opinion and scholarly style than exists now. Some scholars would probably welcome this result, as long as their own opinions dominated. But it would be a tragic diminution for students who must face an ever-more dynamic and various world in the next century.

Fred Matthews
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Re: Ramsay Cook's modest proposal to remove some of the inequities created by affirmative action programmes: if universities are going to hire and fire on the basis of quality, not only would they hire unemployed or partially employed male Ph.D.s and let go tenured loafers, but they would also have to allow quality sixty-five-year-old professors to continue teaching. If this blissful state of affairs came about, even affirmative action for women could be discarded, with few regrets, I suspect.

However, does Ramsay Cook really think that his idea of tenure review stands any better chance than the proverbial snowball in hell? I recall that in 1980 Dr. Cook made a cross-Canada study of history graduate programmes, and discovered that some were good and others, appallingly weak. The study was never published, and it was left for the student to discover by experience what Dr. Cook should have told us.

I suspect that his modest proposal will remain nothing more than cocktail conversation.

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