

Members in Dire Need of Defence Fund (Defence Fund in Dire Need of Members)

by J. Ed Rea, CHA President

In the summer of 1990, the Canadian Historical Association received from the Committee on Canadian Labour History, a sub-group of our Association, a request for assistance from the Defence Fund to defend itself and its officers in a suit for libel. Briefly, the CCLH had published *Jack Scott: A Communist Life*, edited by Professor Bryan Palmer. The book was Scott's memoirs, based on some thirty-five hours of taped interviews conducted by Palmer. In order to present Scott, his experiences and ideas as authentically as possible - to let him tell his own story,

essentially - there was a minimum of editorial intervention in the text. The result, as Palmer notes in his introduction, "is a highly partisan, personally selective recounting...Others (including Palmer) will challenge many of Jack's views and no doubt offer alternative readings of personalities, political arguments and events".

Included in Mr. Scott's recollections is a section about the activities of a group known as the Communist Party of Canada, Marxist-Leninist. Four individuals are identified by Mr. Scott as members of this

group and commented upon in disparaging terms. These four have launched an action claiming defamation. Named as defendants in the suit are Mr. Scott, Professor Palmer, The CCLH and four of its officers (Professors Babcock, Kealey, Delottinville and Seager), Memorial University (where the CCLH is based) and the printing company. The CHA was then asked for support by the CCLH and the five professional historians involved.

The CHA Executive followed procedures laid down for utilizing the Defence Fund. An ad-hoc committee was struck to advise the Executive. It was chaired by Suzanne Zeller, representing CHA Council, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, representing the Executive, and three former presidents of the Association, R. Craig Brown, John Kendle and H. Blair Neatby. The Committee reported to the Executive at its meeting of 20 October 1990. The Executive resolved to accept the Committee's recommendations in all particulars

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New Image for the CHA

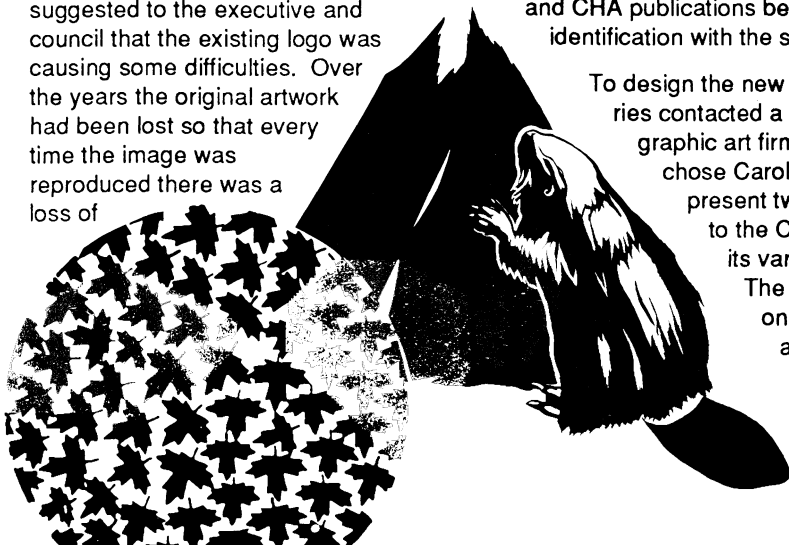
A new logo for the CHA was accepted at the May 26, 1990 CHA Council Meeting and was revealed at the Annual General Meeting in Victoria. The new logo, which appears on the masthead of this issue of the newsletter will take its place on CHA publications and, when current stock runs out, stationary.

A search for a new logo began last October when the CHA's two secretaries Jocelyne Cossette and John Lutz suggested to the executive and council that the existing logo was causing some difficulties. Over the years the original artwork had been lost so that every time the image was reproduced there was a loss of

clarity and the logo became increasingly 'abstract'. Even members of council were unable to identify the old logo as a stylized maple tree. Instead some members identified the old logo variously as a 'golf ball on a tee' to a 'globe on a corinthian column'.

Since the logo presented these difficulties for graphic design there was a growing inconsistency among CHA publications as to whether they did or did not use the logo and CHA publications began to lack an identification with the society.

To design the new logo the secretaries contacted a number of graphic art firms in Ottawa and chose Carol Despaties to present two design options to the CHA for a logo in its various applications. The executive chose one of the designs at their meeting in April and asked for council confirmation.



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Defence Fund

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and so reported to Council at its meeting of 16 November 1990.

The ad-hoc Committee established its own procedures which included consideration of all the available evidence, seeking legal advice, ascertaining the financial state of the Defence Fund and consulting closely. It concluded that the case was "a serious one with wider implication for members of the historical profession in this country. The judgment of the court may well be cited as a precedent in future cases, and it is in the interest of the profession to support both an adequate discussion of the relevant issues as well as the defence of the historian's point of view in this particular case."

In recommending a financial contribution, the Committee, and the Executive, had to be aware of the distressing state of the Defence Fund of the Association. It contains just over \$9,000.00. The preliminary estimate of costs made by counsel retained by the CCLH was around \$30,000.00. Specifically, the ad hoc Committee recommended, and the Executive approved, "...a financial contribution from the Defence Fund to help defray the costs of litigation, but not necessarily damages, that may accrue in this case. The amount agreed to is the initial \$1,000.00 retainer fee and 1/3 of the further costs of litigation. With no more than a maximum total of \$3,000.00 to be expended from the Fund." The Committee further opined that "other institutions have some responsibility in this matter, e.g. CAUT and Memorial University." Such avenues are being pursued.

It need hardly be pointed out that at this time, there is no way of forecasting how long this case may drag on or what its eventual costs may be, to say nothing of securing the vitally important point at issue - the freedom of a professional historian to work responsibly without harassment. But the parlous state of our Defence Fund does not bode well for the ability of the Association to protect its members. There is not, nor should there be, in my view, any authority for the Executive to recommend a general levy on the professional membership. But it is clearly in our interest to attempt to ensure a stronger financial capacity to deal with such issues. Each



Calls for Papers and Conferences

The ASCRT/AERTC will hold three sessions on **The State of Broadcasting Studies in Canada, Kingston, May 26-28, 1991**. The sessions will focus on scholarship, archives and research, and teaching. Potential participants or commentators contact Paul Rutherford, Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1.

Multicultural, Intercultural and Race Relations Education: Taking Ownership, Ottawa, November 24-26, 1990 is being sponsored by the Canadian Council for Multicultural and Intercultural Education, 252 Bloor Street West, Suite 8-200, Toronto, ON, M5S 1V5; 416-966-3162.

L'homme et la montagne en France et au Canada, Alpe d'Huez, France, December 12-14, 1990. For information on the 1990 Annual Meeting of the French Association for Canadian Studies contact Henri Rougier, Institut de géographie Alpine, 17, rue Maurice Gignoux, 38031 Grenoble, Cedex, France.

La protection de l'environnement face aux déchets au Canada et en Europe, Montpellier, France, May 29-31, 1991. For information contact Philippe Colson, La Cabacelle, 2, Impasse de la Réserve, F-34160 Castries, France.

The 1990 Biennial Conference of the American Council for Quebec Studies, Chicago, November 15-18, 1990. Contact Jane Moss, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, Colby College, Waterville, ME, 04901, USA.

Historical Studies in Education is planning a special issue for Fall 1992 on **Teachers and Unions**. People interested in contributing to this issue are encouraged to submit an abstract by December 1, 1990. Final papers are due May 1, 1991. Potential contributors should contact Rebecca Coulter, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, N6G 1G7; Ruby Heap, Département d'histoire, Université d'Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N5; Harry Smaller, 125 Concord Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6H 2P2.

The British Association of Canadian Studies will host **Politics, Culture and the Environment in Contemporary Canada, Nottingham, U.K., April 12-14, 1990**. Papers should address conference themes and report current research in Canadian History, Law, Politics, Economics, Literature, or Geography and may be presented in English or French. Conference themes are: Canada and the Canadian Question - Goldwin Smith Revisited; State and Public Policies; New Politics and Social Movements; Political Philosophy, Cultural Discourse, and Feminist Theory; Canadian Writers and their Relation to a Canon of Canadian Literature; Constructing Canada in Britain - the Media, Publishing and Curricula; Imagining Canada - Mapping and Reflecting its Landscape and; the Environmental Agenda - Problems and Solutions. A 250 word abstract could be sent to: Annis May Timpson, Conference Director, Department of American and Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD; 0602-484848, ext. 3473.

The Duke University Canadian Studies Centre will host **The Supreme Court Conference on Constitutional Law, Durham, North Carolina, April 4-6, 1991**. The conference focus will be the comparative examination of Constitutional Issues in Canada and the United States. The conference will feature Supreme Court Chief Justice Antonio Lamer of Canada and Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist of the United States, retired Canadian Chief Justice Brian Dickson and eight other justices from both countries. For more information, contact Duke University Canadian Studies Center, 2016 Campus Drive, Duke University, Durham, NC, 27706, USA; 919-684-4260.

year, the CHA offers a 10% rebate for early renewals. If each professional member would consider foregoing this modest sum and assigning it annually to

the Defence Fund, we would have a steady source of income. Direct contributions to the Defence Fund would also be more than welcome.