

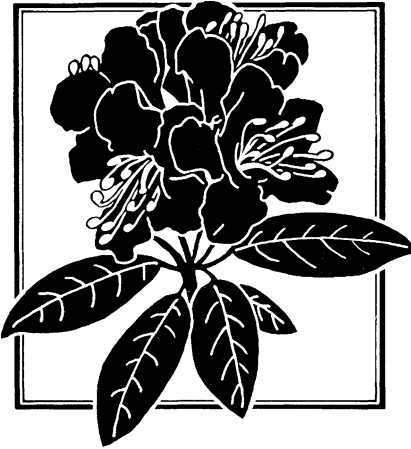
NEWSLETTER

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A Meeting Amidst Rhododendrons



It was immediately clear why rhododendrons were the logo of the 1990 Learned Societies conference in Victoria, B.C. As participants arrived at the CHA Annual Meeting at the University of Victoria May 26-29, they passed by thousands of rhododendron bushes, over 200 different varieties in full bloom, and breathed perfumed air.

The 1990 meeting of the CHA was the largest ever. More than 200 people participated in the programme and more than 400 attended some of the 84 different sessions, joined in the salmon feast and dancing put on by a Victoria native group and the Le-la-la Dancers, or joined friends and colleagues in the perennially popular beer tent. Participants came from across the country, the United States, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe.

The Chair of the Programme Committee, **Patricia Roy**, attributed the high attendance to the attraction of Victoria's scenery, gardens and climate, the location in Victoria of so many elderly relatives and the strong scholarly programme. There was much to choose from. The three themes of the conference - the Nineteenth Century, Native People, and Latin America - were evident in sessions available in every time slot. The large number of sessions on the

Pacific Rim, the history of women, and the historian and computing, reflected the popular interest in these subjects. The conference was addressed by two specially invited guests, Professors Kerry Howe of New Zealand and John J. Stephan of Hawaii. In his Presidential Address, outgoing President **Jean-Claude Robert** expressed his concerns to the conference on the problems of selecting from the mass of records now being gathered for retention and use by present and future historians.

The intense activity by the members of the CHA was reflected by the numerous sub-groups which met as part of the conference, including those studying Social, Public, Urban, Regional and Military history, as well as those studying the histories of native people, women, labour, and education. The editorial boards of *Labour/Le travail*, *Histoire sociale/Social History* and the *Canadian Journal of History/Annales canadiennes d'histoire* also took the opportunity to confer. Special committees on Archives, Computing, and Coding the 1901 census also convened. The Graduate Students' Committee launched the *Handbook to Graduate Programmes in History in Canada* at its meeting and the chairs of history departments compared notes in a one-day session. Labour historians met in a one-day colloquium immediately prior to the conference.

Programme Chair **Patricia Roy** performed a remarkable job of coordinating the record number of sessions, finding rooms at a moment's notice, and managing the manifold other tasks involved in such a large conference. The task was complicated because of a number of joint sessions with the Canadian Women's Studies Association, the Canadian Indian/Native Studies Association and the Native History Study Group. Supervising the meetings of all the Learned Societies, including the CHA, was historian **Ian MacPherson**.

At the Annual General Meeting the results of the balloting for CHA Council were announced. **J.E. Rea (Manitoba)** assumed the presidency of the association, **Gail Cuthbert Brandt (Glendon College, York)** was elected as Vice-President and will automatically be President in 1991-92 when **Phillip Buckner (University of New Brunswick)** will replace her as Vice-President. **Denise Rioux (DND)** is the new French Language Secretary; **Serge Bernier (DND)** and **John Lutz (University of Ottawa)** were acclaimed to second terms as Treasurer and English Language Secretary, respectively. New Council members elected to three year terms were **Fernande Roy (UQAM)**, **Gillian Thompson (New Brunswick)**, **Graeme Wynn (UBC)** and **Brian Young (McGill)**. The meeting unanimously approved a motion to increase membership fees by \$5.00 (\$3.00 for students, retired and unemployed). The CHA prizes were also awarded and the results of the prizes as well as the complete minutes of the AGM are reported elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

INSIDE

AGM Minutes	6
Annual Proceedings on Microfiche ...	2
Awards and Fellowships	8
Calls for Papers & Conferences....	2, 4
Canada Sea to Sea	5
CHA Elective Positions	2
CHA Prizes	3
Guide to Graduate Programmes	9
In Memoriam	6
Miscellany	7
New History of the Environment	3
Use and Abuse of TAs	5