

CHA Awards Its Most Prestigious Prizes

The most prestigious of all the prizes offered by the CHA, the **FRANCOIS-XAVIER GARNEAU MEDAL**, was awarded in Victoria at the CHA annual general meeting to **John M. Beattie** for his book *Crime and the Courts in England 1660-1800* (Princeton University Press, 1986). The Garneau Prize, which is awarded only every five years for the best book published by a Canadian historian in that period, consists of a specially-minted medal, a cash prize of \$2,000 and an honorary life membership in the CHA.

The Prize Committee, composed of H. Blair Neatby (chair), Allison Prentice, Michael Hayden, Jacques Mathieu and Jacques Barbier, lauded this book for its meticulous research. The study uses the records of assizes and quarter sessions for the county of Surrey and a selective sampling of the records for Sussex which are placed in their historical setting by use of the pamphlet literature and Beattie's knowledge of the historical literature and are brought to life by accounts of specific cases. Beattie's book engages a much larger literature, however, because he places his findings in the context of the evolution of crime and punishment. The Committee felt that "he has made a major contribution to our understanding of the changing pattern of violence in an era of urban growth, and of the social response to this violence".

The Garneau Prize Committee also felt that honourable mention should be made of two other outstanding books which "bring credit to our profession": **David Eltis**, *Economic Growth and the Ending of the Transatlantic Slave Trade* (Oxford University Press, 1987) and **Allan Greer**, *Peasants, Lord and Merchant: Rural Society in Three Quebec Parishes 1740-1840* (University of Toronto Press, 1985).

The CHA's **SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD PRIZE** for the best book published on the history of Canada in 1989 was awarded to **John English**, *Shadow of Heaven: The Life of Lester Pearson, Vol. I; 1897-1948* (Lester and Orpen Dennys, 1989). The prize carries with it a cash award of \$2,000. The Prize Committee, composed of Gérard Bouchard, Jennifer

Brown, Reginald Whitaker, André Lachance and Neil Mckinnon, said that the book was a model of biography, was excellently written and meticulously researched. "Professor English has got inside Lester Pearson in a way that no other study has succeeded in doing: Pearson emerges as a man both more complex and more understandable than he has from previous scholarship." The Committee commended two other books of outstanding merit with honourable mentions: **Eric W. Sager**, *Seafaring*

Labour: The Merchant Marine of Atlantic Canada, 1820-1914 (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989) and **William Westfall**, *Two Worlds: The Protestant Culture of Nineteenth Century Ontario* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989).

Judith Fingard was awarded the **HILDA NEATBY PRIZE** for the best scholarly article on women's history for "College, Career, and Community: Dalhousie

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The New History of the Environment

by Michel Glrard

When the Department of History, University of Ottawa, hosted an international, interdisciplinary colloquium on **The History of the Environment**, March 9, most of the forty or so participants were quite unprepared for the total re-evaluation of history and ecology that the presentations called for.

Professor Thomas Soderqvist (Roskilde, Denmark) set the tone; he divided the existing literature on the history of the environment into three categories. The first involves the study of the relationship between humans and their environment, including the study of environmental degradation. The second is the study of the ideas humans have had about their environment, including the history of the environmental movement, the history of environmentalists (those who since ancient times have focused on the negative impact of humans on the environment) and the history of environmental policies. The third field is limited to the study of the science of ecology born at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Soderqvist's research up until now has concentrated on the last two fields. In 1986 he published a history of natural history in Sweden: *The Ecologists: From Merry Naturalists to Saviours of the Nation*.

According to Soderqvist, the new history must transcend these three fields.

Historians, he argued, must put aside the notion that there is an objective viewpoint from which to judge history. Objective, scientific knowledge is a social product and not related to objective reality. So-called scientific facts are constantly subject to change. It is clear, for example, that the scientific recognition of an 'environmental crisis' did not exist until the science of ecology was created. He suggested that the 'new history' must use human intuition as its starting point, not the discoveries and theories of science. It must take into account aesthetics and myth which offer human responses to the environment and are in harmony with it.

Historian Douglas Weiner (University of Arizona) described how he teaches the history of the environment. The author of *Models of Nature: Ecology, Conservation and Cultural Revolution in Soviet Russia* published in 1988, Weiner provided examples of scientific relativism from his studies on the American 'Dust Bowl' where it is possible to find completely opposed scientific theories on the origins of this disaster. Students, he said, must realize that the same is true in the field of ecology where scientific 'facts' are at odds with each other. He proposed the concept of 'provisional realities' in response to the problems raised by

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Coeds, 1881-1921", which appeared in *Youth, University, and Canadian Society: Essays in the Social History of Higher Education*. Fingard's group biography "presents an intricately textured analysis of the first two generations of women university students at Dalhousie," according to the Hilda Neatby Prize Committee. "The study combines a thorough study of the statistical record with a sensitive use of oral history and a wide range of print sources to create a vibrant portrait of the coed population at Dalhousie over a forty-one year period. By following student lives on through later

careers for these two groups of women, Fingard makes a valuable contribution concerning processes by which regional disparities were formed and perpetuated."

The **REGIONAL HISTORY CERTIFICATES OF MERIT** were also awarded for "meritorious publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to regional history in Canada". The certificates of merit for **Quebec** were awarded to **Camil Girard and Normand Perron, *Histoire du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*** (Québec,

IQRC, 1989), because in the opinion of the Committee the book is an example of a complex and refined study which has brought together the scholarly and financial help of a long list of collaborators. The authors have produced a distinguished and well balanced book in which the population of the region will begin to know themselves better. The *Revue Cap-aux-Diamants* also received an award as it marks its fifth anniversary. Not remarkable, you might say, but the results speak for themselves: the content of the journal is both scholarly and accessible, its artwork is well presented and a spectacular promotional effort has allowed the revue to reach a large audience and become self-financing. The Committee commends this work which makes a concrete contribution to the promotion of the history of Quebec.

The award for **Ontario** went to **W.H. Graham, *Greenbank: Country Matters in Nineteenth-Century Ontario*** (Peterborough, Broadview Press, 1988). The author presents the history of four families who settled in Reach Township during the period from 1835 to 1935. His style is engaging and his use of sources is sure and confident. What is remarkable about this work is the author's determination to use the experience of these people to define a sense of place. In so doing, he illustrates how biography and local history can be used to explore basic intellectual, religious, social and political issues of the period.

For **British Columbia-Yukon**, one award went to **Mrs. Gladys Blyth**, a self-taught community leader, regional historian, and heritage preservationist from Port Edward, B.C. Mrs. Blyth created and directed the Northcoast Marine Museum in Prince Rupert. She also led a successful campaign to preserve British Columbia's oldest standing cannery, the North Pacific on the Skeena River, and to have it designated a National Historic Site. Mrs. Blyth has done much to enhance our understanding of British Columbia's northern fishery. A second award went to **Norbert Macdonald, *Distant Neighbors. A Comparative History of Seattle and Vancouver*** (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press,

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CALLS FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

Biography and History: A Canadian-Irish Comparison, Edinburgh, 2-4 May 1991. Papers are invited in the general field of biography in Canadian and Irish biography, preferably from the late 18th century, and addressing wider questions of the role of biography. Presentations will be limited to thirty minutes. Submit proposals to Dr. Ged Martin, Director, Centre of Canadian Studies, 21 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD Scotland.

The Canadian Committee for the History of the Second World War will hold the conference **Canada, the Pacific and the War, Victoria, February 1991**. For details contact Dr. Norman Hillmer, Directorate of History, National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0K2.

The American Antiquarian Society welcomes proposals for papers or presentations for the conference the **Iconography of the History of the Book, Worcester, Mass., June 1991**. The conferences will explore the uses of visual imagery in the history of the book; for example, in what settings are books, or the practice of reading, depicted in art? The AAS hopes to publish the conference papers. Proposals and C.V. should be sent before November 1, to John B. Hench, Director of Research and Publication, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Mass. 01609, USA.

The Centre of Canadian Studies, University of Edinburgh, issues a call for papers for the conference **Scottish Influence in Canadian Literature, Edinburgh, May 9-12, 1991**. Topics under consideration include the influence of Scottish Religion, Gaelic, 'kailyard' or Scott, Galt and Burns on Canadian literature. Leaving home and the image of Scotland in twentieth century Canadian writing are also possible topics. Please send abstracts of 100 words or less before 1 October to Michael Williams, Centre of Canadian Studies, 21 George Square, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH8 9LD.

Twenty Years of Multiculturalism: Successes and Failures, Winnipeg, February 28 - March 2, 1991 is the theme of the Conference on Canadian Studies sponsored by St. John's College, University of Manitoba. Papers are invited which focus on the policy, the practice and effects of multiculturalism as Canadian social policy since 1971. Send a 200 word abstract before September 15, 1990 to Dr. Stella Hyrniuk, 22 St. John's College, University of Manitoba, 400 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2M5; 204-474-8101.

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1987). Appealing to both specialists and a general readership, *Distant Neighbors* successfully compares the histories of two geographically proximate centres, Vancouver, British Columbia and Seattle, Washington. The book reminds us that British Columbia and American states to the south are products of a similar past. Yet it also reveals that, despite sharing elements of a common heritage, the neighboring cities of Vancouver and Seattle have remained historically distinctive.

For the **Atlantic Region**, **Eric Sager**, *Seafaring Labour: The Merchant Marine of Atlantic Canada, 1820-1914* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989) was awarded one of the certificates. This innovative work offers a new perspective on sailors in Atlantic Canada in the nineteenth century and solidly enhances our understanding of this significant area of research. Its fresh analysis, comprehensive information and fine writing will facilitate further studies and serve as a model for them. Another certificate of merit went to **Cape Breton's Magazine**. Since 1972, *Cape Breton's Magazine* has diligently presented and preserved varied aspects of the historical and cultural heritage of Cape Breton. It has increased the awareness of the Cape Breton community to these valuable traditions. Its sensitive approach to the culture has ensured the preservation of knowledge and traditions that might otherwise have been lost. The magazine has made an exemplary contribution to oral history.

Several awards went to the **West-North West Territories**. The **Canadian Parks Service, Prairie Region** was recognized for the initiation and publication of high quality books which collectively make a significant contribution to Western Canada. **Alvin Finkel**, *The Social Credit Phenomenon in Alberta* (University of Toronto Press, 1989) was cited as a stimulating and provocative study of the history and political culture of Alberta. **Professor Morris Zaslow** was given an award to acknowledge his important place in northern historical literature and for a life devoted to research and writing on northern Canada. The final certificate

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Canada Council has announced the winners of the **Killam Research Fellowships** which support scholars engaged in 'research projects of outstanding merit' for up to two years of full-time research and writing. The recipients in historically related disciplines were: J.Z. Buchwald, History of Science, University of Toronto, to study the discovery of electric waves; R. De Konick, Anthropology, Université Laval, "The Peasant Class, the State and Territorial Compromise"; M. Despland, Religious Studies, Concordia, "Religion Since the Nineteenth Century"; B.K. Jewsiewicki, History, Université Laval, "From the Historical Anthropology of Urban Memory to the 'Popular' History of Ideas, Zaire, 1920-1990"; G. Kelly, English, University of Alberta, "Women's Work - Women, Editing and Power in Britain, 1750-1850".

The Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada has awarded the **1990 Jules and Gabrielle Léger Fellowship** to Michael Smith, professor of humanities at Dawson College in Montreal, to write a biographical study of two influential French-Canadians, Désiré Girouard and his son, Sir Percy Girouard, whose public careers were in the service of the British Crown.

Terry Copp and Robert Vogel have been awarded the **C.P. Stacey Award** by the prize committee of the Canadian committee for the History of the Second World War for their *Maple Leaf Route* series of five volumes on the Canadian army in Northwest Europe. Honourable mention went to Peter Neary for his *Newfoundland in the North Atlantic World*.

Nomination forms for individuals, groups, corporations, levels of government and educational institutions for the Canadian Parks Service annual **Heritage Awards** in recognition of exceptional or innovative achievement in the conservation of Canada's natural and cultural heritage are available from: Canadian Parks Service Heritage Awards Coordinator, 6th Floor, 351 St. Joseph Blvd., Hull, PQ, 819-994-1925. Deadline: 15 September 1990.

The Royal Ontario Museum announces the annual **Veronika M. Gervers Research Fellowship in Costume and Textile History** of up to \$9,000 to a scholar who makes use of the museum's collection. Contact: Chair, Veronika Gervers Memorial Fellowship, Textile Department, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M5S 2C6; 416-586-5790. Deadline: November 15.

The **Osgoode Society Fellowship in Legal History** of up to \$10,000 is offered to allow individuals to take partial leaves from their employment to pursue research. Preference will be given to Ontario themes and to those who have matching grants. Details available from: Chair, Selection Committee, Osgoode Society Fellowship in Legal History, Osgoode Society, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, M5H 2N6. Competition closes October 15, 1990.

The Association for Canadian Studies awards up to five **Canadian Studies Writing Awards** to enable authors to do the research and writing to prepare manuscripts for publication. The manuscript should deal with Canadian social or cultural issues, Canada in an international context or as a northern nation or the specific themes of regionalism, gender or technology in Canada. Application forms to be submitted before November 15 and are available from: Association for Canadian Studies, PO Box 8888, Station A, Montreal, PQ, H3C 3P8; 514-282-7784.

of merit for this region went to the **Norman Wells Historical Society**. The Society, over a period of 10 years, has almost single-handedly planned, developed, and implemented a protection programme for the CANOL TRAIL by way of guided tours, pamphlets, signs, and a

community awareness campaign. It has mapped and charted camps and landmarks along the trail, involved aboriginal peoples in interpreting the trails and most recently restored a CANOL building for use as a community museum and interpretive centre.