

# NEWSLETTER

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## CHA Lobbies Parliament on Museums

by Marianne McLean

On October 17, the CHA presented its brief proposing amendments to Bill C-12, an act respecting museums to the members of Parliament reviewing the legislation. President Jean-Claude Robert and Past Presidents Blair Neatby and Pierre Savard represented the Association before the Parliamentary Committee on Culture. The CHA brief focused on the Canadian Museum of Civilization and argued that research was fundamental to the museum's mandate. The CHA suggested amendments strengthening the research function of the museum and called for the creation of an Advisory Board composed of senior scholars to be responsible for the review of long-range plans and major exhibitions proposed for the museum.

Members of the Committee were not generally favourable to the CHA's proposals which seem to have been considered too radical a change to the legislation; one M.P. complained that the CHA was rather inappropriately

proposing the creation of a research institute rather than a museum. An exception to this unsympathetic hearing was found in John Brewin's response to the CHA brief. Brewin applauded the expression of interest by a professional association in the museum and suggested that the CHA continue to lobby for the proposed Advisory Board with the Board of Trustees after the Bill becomes law and trustees are appointed.

A separate brief presented by the Professional Institute of the Public Service, the union representing historians and other researchers in the museum, was less radical in the amendments which it proposed to Bill C-12 and met with greater success. PIPS also argued in favour of a stronger research function in all the national museums; subsequently, the government proposed changes to  
... *CHA Lobbies Parliament*, p. 4

## Putting the Historical Use of Computers on a sound Foundation

by José Igartua

Last spring, the CHA set up a committee on computing to follow up on the recommendations contained in the Bouchard report, which appeared in the Winter 1989 issue of the *Newsletter*. The committee is headed by José E. Igartua, of the Université du Québec à Montréal. It met for the first time during the Learned Societies meeting in Quebec City last June. The committee defined its primary task as that of drafting proposals to be submitted to CHA Council regarding the various applications of computing to the teaching of history and to historical research. The proposals will be submitted at the November 1990 meeting of the Council.

Before submitting its formal proposals to Council, the committee will draft a preliminary report which will be put to the membership at a session at the 1990 annual meeting in Victoria. The final report will take into account the suggestions and comments made in Victoria.

The committee consists of four sub-committees, which have specific duties:

1) **Sub-committee on rules concerning the development of databases and software**

This sub-committee is headed by Gérard Bouchard, of the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. Its other members are Chad Gaffield, of the University of Ottawa, Ian Winchester, of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and Michael Gervers, Scarborough College, University of Toronto. The proposals drafted by this sub-committee should guide the CHA in setting up guidelines and in its dealings with granting agencies. Part A of the Bouchard report outlines in more detail the mandate of this sub-committee.

2) **Sub-committee on user services**

This sub-committee is headed by Ken Coates, of the University of Victoria. José E. Igartua, of the Université du Québec à Montréal, is also a member. This sub-committee will propose ways of disseminating technical information of use to the historians' community, as well as means of sharing experiences in the handling of computerized historical data. Part B of the Bouchard report gives examples of what is being considered.

3) **Sub-committee on rules concerning conservation and access to machine-readable historical data**

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#### Insert

Provisional Programme for the 1990 Annual Meeting

(Chinese), G. Davidson, D. Elliott, J. Pollard, and R. Roy (all Canadian), and J. Duder (European) have limited-term appointments. On leave are K. Coates, R. Crozier, E. Sager (all with SSHRC release time stipends), B. Dippie, and W.T. Wooley. P. Baskerville is the new department chair (to 1992). The department hopes to make two appointments this year: in British (post-1800) and world history. It will host the following meetings: "Redirection: Defending Canada, the Pacific Perspective", March 1990; Pacific North-West Labor History Assoc. meeting, June 1990; Committee on Labour History Annual Symposium, June 1990; and the Second Annual Kluane Conference, September 1990. At **Waterloo**, J. English is replacing D. Davies (on leave) as chair; D. Wright is also on sabbatical.

K.M. McLaughlin has been promoted to professor and appointed vice-president of Waterloo's St. Jerome's College.

At **Western Ontario**, R.D. Hall and I. Soranaka received promotions to assoc. professor. A.M.J. Hyatt is the new department chair (to 1992). J.R. Gwynne-Timothy and J.P. McLaughlin recently retired, R.A. Hohner and T. Sea are on leave, and M. Kellow (U.S. & Women's), B. Murison (England to 1688), and D. Pederson and K. Fleming (both Canadian) have received limited-term appointments. The department's Joanne Goodman Lecturer this year is Rosalind Mitchison. **Western's Huron College** expects to make an appointment in Modern European; W. Acres currently is a sessional in that field. R. Gellately is on leave.

Terry Copp begins a new term as Chairman (to 1992) at **Wilfrid Laurier**, where K. De Vries has received a term appointment in Medieval/Early Modern Europe. J. Lorimer received tenure and was promoted to assoc. professor. At **Windsor**, L. Kulisek replaced D. Klinck (on leave) as chair this year. B. Tucker was hired (1988) as assoc. professor in U.S. History, and J. McLeod has a limited-term appointment in European.

Newly-appointed to permanent positions at **York** are J. Edmondson (Ancient Rome), K. McPherson (Western Canada), J. Neeson (Early Modern England), A. Shubert (Modern European Social/Spain), and I. Steinisch (Modern Germany). Anticipated appointments for next year are in the fields of Modern Canada. B. Wakabayashi was promoted to assoc. professor. On leave this year are C. Armstrong and H.V. Nelles (they recently received honourable mention from the Financial Times of Canada for the National Business Book Awards), R. Cuff (to 1991), J. Ernst, G. Kolko, T. LeGoff, and F. Ouellet (spring only). J. Boshier and V. Hunter have SSHRC release time stipends for the year, and M. Egnal has a Fac. of Arts Leave Fellowship. M. Murfett is on academic exchange (with G. Jordon) from the U. of Singapore. At York's **Glendon College**, I. Abella, M. Horn, and D.G. Pilgrim are on leave this year, and W.D. Irvine is acting chair.

## ON THE CHA FOR 1988-1989

### A.B. COREY PRIZE FUND

Receipts		
Interest	<u>1,673.00</u>	<u>2,510.00</u>
Total Receipts	1,673.00	2,510.00
Disbursements		
Prize	0.00	2,000.00
Travel and Administration	<u>20.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Disbursements	20.00	2,000.00
Surplus (deficit)	\$1,653.00	\$510.00

### FRANKLIN MINT 1978 FUND

Receipts		
Interest	<u>8,137.00</u>	<u>10,875.00</u>
Total Receipts	8,137.00	10,875.00
Disbursements		
Prizes	4,000.00	4,000.00
Salaries and Administration	953.00	0.00
Travel Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>492.00</u>
Total Disbursements	4,953.00	4,492.00
Surplus (deficit)	\$3,184.00	\$6,383.00

### HILDA NEATBY PRIZE FUND

Receipts		
Interest	236.00	276.00
Donations	<u>300.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Receipts	536.00	326.00
Disbursements		
Prizes	<u>50.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total Disbursements	50.00	100.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$486.00	\$226.00

## CHA Lobbies Parliament

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the legislation which in part meet the concerns of PIPS and of the CHA.

Bill C-12 will likely become law within several months time, but the CHA's concern with the future of historical research in the museum community will not end there. Museum administrators and government spokesmen have recently indicated that it is the number of people which museums attract which most concerns them. The CHA must continue to press the cause of popular museum programmes originating in a strong research programme.