The Rupert's Land Newsletter

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at The University of Winnipeg

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A Message to our Readers

As the short days and chilly nights settle in, we happily recall a wonderful Colloquium on the shores of the Lake of the Woods last May (see the column by Gail Konantz in appreciation of our gathering). About 140 people came from across North America, the UK, and Poland to join in the events and hear about 55 fine presentations on a vast array of topics in Aboriginal and fur trade studies. David Malaher then assiduously harvested the speakers' texts, helping us set some sort of record for getting conference proceedings into print; many thanks to him and to all who contributed their papers!

This Newsletter announces the appearance of 40 of the papers in a volume now available from our office (see order form in this newsletter). Registrants who pre-ordered this volume got excellent value; the size and weight of the book mean the price must now be \$36. But at that price, you still pay less than a dollar per paper, rather less than what we must charge for papers individually distributed from past colloquiums. These Colloquium volumes are necessarily rather small editions; take note that supplies of the 2002 Oxford volume are limited, and the Vancouver, WA, volume (2000) is almost out of stock. So order yours soon!

Plans for the next Colloquium in May 2006 in St. Louis, Missouri, are already underway; see the Preliminary Announcement in this Newsletter. We shall join forces with the next North American Fur Trade Conference to exchange communications and research about everything from the French fur trade in the region, to Lewis and Clark (whose return to St. Louis 200 years ago will be suitably remarked), to the relations of the Aboriginal peoples and fur traders of Rupert's Land with their more southerly counterparts.

We are very pleased to announce the arrival in the office of Monique Olivier as our Harington Fellow for 2004-2005; see the introduction to her and her work appearing within. Our former Harington fellow, Anne Lindsay, we are glad to say, is also still very much with us as our new office assistant! In July, Coryna Sidebottom left for Nicaragua with her husband, to take up a promising new employment opportunity. It was most fortunate that Anne, already familiar with CRLS, and acquainted with many of you from her able running of our book exhibit at the Kenora Colloquium, was able and willing to step in on short notice. Anne is in the office mainly on Mondays, but has contributed numerous extra hours to the cause, achieving a higher level of order in our files, on our shelves, and in CRLS life generally. We also have a new research associate in the office, Dr. Susan Gray; her work and contributions will be featured in the next Newsletter.

Those attending the Kenora Colloquium will recall the fine banquet occasion on which the University of Winnipeg honoured Elizabeth Losey and David Malaher for their contributions to our Centre and activities. We were

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Message

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most grateful that Susan Thompson, President and CEO of the University of Winnipeg Foundation, and Patti Tweed, also from the Foundation, could bring their enthusiasm and support to the ceremonies, along with our former Chancellor, John Bulman. Some exciting prospects are on the horizon, for the Centre and for the University, under the leadership of our new President, Lloyd Axworthy, who has expressed strong support for our work.

Please check your mailing label to note the status of your membership; renewals for 2005 are now due, at the unchanged rate of \$20 per year, by cheque made out to the University of Winnipeg. As ever, donations are warmly welcomed; those of \$10 and above will receive tax receipts. Our next Newsletter will be in April 2005; please let us have any news and notices you would like to submit for inclusion.

Jennifer S.H. Brown, Director

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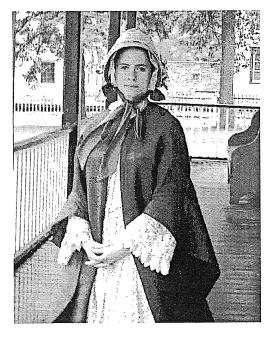
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Introducing Monique Olivier, Harington Fellow, 2004-2005

Monique Olivier is currently in her fourth year of study, with a major in Anthropology and a minor in History. Her main research interests are the Canadian fur trade, Plains Aboriginal history and archaeology, Métis history, and British naval history. She has recently completed research on the Russian fur trade in the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, and Métis ethnogenesis and identity in the Société Historique de St. Boniface (St. Boniface Historical Society) and has also



done private genealogical research in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. She was a major contributor to the technical aspects of Louis Bird's oral history project in 2003.

The Harington Fellowship will allow Monique to continue research that she started in the summer of 2004 during her work as a costumed interpreter at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site. As part of the interpretive work at the fort, she was expected to design at least one program relating to one of the four commemorative statements of Parks Canada at that site. She completed three programs at Lower Fort Garry, one of them being a singing presentation entitled, Rowin' to the Oldies: Scottish Shanties on the Red River. Because one of her main interests is music, she is interested in learning if song was used by the tripmen in much the same way as the voyageurs had used song many years before. Most of this research will be conducted in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and in the Provincial Archives of Manitoba and will most probably involve inbound and outbound correspondence of workers, officers and sailors who worked for or had any connection with the Hudson's Bay Company. She also plans to consult with several scholars who may be familiar with some of the topics outlined above, mainly music history, early fur trade history, and naval history.

Monique believes that this research will allow her to access song and music as an important oral tradition among people who did not have a voice in the historical record, and will generate a solid repertoire of songs for programming and interpretation at many of Canada's heritage sites.

News from

THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ARCHIVES

Staff

We were pleased to welcome Kathy Mallett, Archivist, Client Services to the archives in July. Kathy is assuming a variety of duties including assisting with the delivery of public service by answering inquiries from remote researchers and working with the Access Team to provide access to records in the Research Room. Additionally she is coordinating our microfilm and inter-library loan programs and participating in public programming activities.

Archival Studies Internships

HBCA is currently hosting two Archival Studies Internships. Heather Pitcher came to us in mid July and is working on 'Archives in the Classroom' resource kit for middle school students. Kat Loker came to HBCA in September and is contributing to the Keystone database population by working on a description project involving RG 20, the Archives files, and is responding to research inquiries.

Exhibit Loans

From November 2004 to January 2005, The North Dakota Museum of Art will be hosting the Library of Congress exhibit, Rivers, Edens and Empires. The exhibit was created to commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. First shown in Washington DC, the exhibit is now touring to selected cities in the American West.

A map from the HBC Archives originally drawn by Ak ko mok ki, a Blackfoot chief and redrawn by Peter Filder is part of this exhibit because it contributed to the geographical knowledge of Lewis and Clark. Anne Morton will travel to North Dakota this fall to do a

presentation on Peter Fidler as part of NDMOA's programming for this exhibit. Our participation in this exhibit and Anne's presentation are unique opportunities to raise HBCA's international profile as a resource for the history of the American West.

Recent Acquisitions

Records acquired from the private sector over the last several months have included photographs and textual records relating to Nathaniel Murdock William John (N.M.W.J.) McKenzie, (1856-1943) and his family. N.M.W.J. McKenzie was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company for forty years, from 1876 to 1916. Initially engaged as a carpenter, he rose through the ranks to become a chief factor and district manager. The photograph albums and a scrapbook were created by Annie McKenzie Sibbald, daughter of N.M.W.J. They contain material dating from ca. 1890-1920 documenting HBC posts and activities, Aboriginals, the McKenzie family and other individuals. The records of N.M.W.J. McKenzie include material relating to the Hudson's Bay Company and northern life, speeches, a trip journal, correspondence, invitations, programs and publications.

Also acquired were photographs taken and collected by Dr. Robert Boyd Stewart who was in the employ of the company from 1922 to 1928. Dr. Stewart was one of the doctors who accompanied the HBC's supply ships on their summer sailings to the northern posts in order to look after the health of the crew, the staff at the posts and the Aboriginal peoples. Included are photographs taken after the HBC vessel, the Bayeskimo, was crushed by ice and the crew and passengers were forced to abandon ship.

Fur Trade Scholars Records

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives invites scholars of the fur trade to consider donating their records to HBCA. This new area of acquisition would constitute a centralized archive for the intellectual history of the fur trade. Acquiring records of fur trade scholars who have used the records of HBCA and participated in scholarly conferences and exchange will unite in one location the papers of researchers, original sources, and publications relevant to that history. Appraisal criteria for this new area of acquisition and procedures for preparing records for donation are continuing to be developed. For further information, please contact Debra Moore, Head, Acquisition and Special Media, Hudson's Bay Company Archives at 204 945-2529 or dsmoore@gov.mb.ca.

Publications

The following is a selected list of recent publications which used HBCA images and documents:

Merv Ahrens, ed., Hudson's Bay Company Fur Trade Journal. Lake La Pluie, 1817-1818 (Fort Frances Museum, 2004)

Lori Dueck, compiler, York Factory National Historic Site Power Point Presentation (Parks Canada, WCSC, 2003/2004)

Doug Hamm and Louis Bird, "Amoe: Legends of the Omushkegowak", in Papers of the Thirty-First Algonquian Conference, ed. by John D. Nichols, (University of Manitoba Press, 2000, pp. 144-160)

John B. Hattendorf. "The Boundless Deep...": The European Conquest of the Oceans, 1450 to 1840, (John Carter Brown Library: Providence RI, 2003) Tony Hollihan, Mountain Men: Frontier Adventurers Alone Against the Wilderness (Folklore Publishing: Edmonton AB, 2004)

R. Bruce Morrison and C. Roderick Wilson, ed., Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience, (Third Edition. Oxford University Press: Don Mills ON, 2004)

Paulatuuq Oral History Project: Inuvialuit Elders Share Their Stories, (Parks Canada: Inuvik, 2004)
Harold Tichenor, The Collector's Guide to Point Blankets of the Hudson's Bay Company and other

The Orkney Lad, (Thomas Howe Associates Inc., [2000], Video, with public performance rights)

companies trading in North

Patricia A. Walker, The Descendants of William Lampson (1761-1827) and Rachel Powell (1766-1813) of Lanesborough Berkshire County Massachusetts: A Patriot's Progeny..., (The Lampson-Wittmuetz Organization: Colman SD, 2003)

Hours

The Archives of Manitoba Saturday opening hours have been discontinued this fall in order to provide fuller service Monday through Friday. Researchers are encouraged to check with the Archives before planning a visit.

Research Room hours are now Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:00 throughout the year.

HBCA Contact Information

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Personal Tel: 945-2620,

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E-mail: hbca@gov.mb.ca;

Personal E-mail: mdolyniuk@gov.mb.ca *** Preliminary Announcement ***

Ninth North American Fur Trade Conference and Rupert's Land Colloquium

Plan to meet us in St. Louis, Missouri, 24-28 May 2006

An important message for all fur trade scholars and devotees: The St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri—St. Louis will host a *combined meeting* of the **9th NORTH AMERICAN FUR TRADE CONFERENCE** and the **12th RUPERT'S LAND COLLOQUIUM** to commemorate Lewis and Clark's return from the Pacific in 1806 and the Mercantile's 160th anniversary as the oldest American library in the trans-Mississippi West.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SPREAD THE WORD. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CALLS FOR PAPERS TO FOLLOW.

This will be the latest in a distinguished series of North American Fur Trade Conferences (NAFTC) that began in St. Paul, MN, in 1965 and was last held at Akwasasne in 2000. We are very pleased that this first joint meeting with the popular Rupert's Land Colloquium, sponsored biennially by The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies (CRLS) at the University of Winnipeg, will make the 2006 conference especially rewarding. We expect wide-ranging presentations with interdisciplinary, multicultural, comparative, and international perspectives on the inclusive theme: "Fur Trade Legacies Throughout Western North America Before and After Lewis and Clark."

St. Louis was founded in 1764 as the gateway to the fur resources of the Lower Missouri River watershed and quickly attracted merchants throughout France's North American empire. St. Louisans shipped furs harvested by the Osage and other Indian allies north to Montreal, via the Illinois River route to Michilimacki-nac, and down the Mississippi to New Orleans. After the Louisiana Purchase, St. Louis was the commercial and administrative capital of the American West; played a leading role in the rendezvous system, western steamboat travel, and U. S.-Indian diplomacy; and was involved in fur-related enterprises until the 1950s. Nearby sites offer many fieldtrip opportunities—including the ancient Cahokia Mounds; the 18th-century French colonial communities of Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Prairie du Rocher, Fort de Chartres, Ste. Genevieve, St. Charles, and Florissant; the 19th-century landmarks of Fort Bellefontaine, Jefferson Barracks, Robert Campbell House, and Laclede's Landing; and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse museums).

Current Contact: Dr. Fred Fausz (314) 921-4637/ fredfausz@aol.com

Access Canada: A New UK Internet Gateway

Access Canada - The UK gateway to information on Canada - is now live, and can be accessed from: www.canadian-studies.net/accesscanada

The portal is free to access, and has been designed for use by all those with an interest in Canadian Studies. Subject areas include: Aboriginal Peoples,

Francophone Canada, Genealogy and Family History, Government, Law and Politics.

Access Canada has been compiled by the Library and Resources Group of the British Association for Canadian Studies, with the support of Foreign Affairs Canada and in association with the Foundation for Canadian Studies in the UK.

Part of the thinking behind the site has been to link to existing gateways and to fill in gaps where they exist. The list of resources will grow over time, and we would be grateful for all suggestions both of other relevant gateway sites, and individual resources. There is an option to suggest sites on the webpages. Alternatively, comments and suggestions may be sent to the editor by email: accesscanada@canadian-studies.net

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Discovering a Fur Trade Ancestor

By Sanday Scott

My name is Sanday Scott and lately I have had the chance to research my family roots. Kinship is the cornerstone value for aboriginal people and so it is natural for me to develop some skills and begin to explore my ancestral roots. The thing about exploration is you never know where it is going to take you, and in my case I discovered the HBC archives.

The HBC archives are in downtown Winnipeg, not far from where I live, and I went there to look for information about my maternal great grandfather (William) John Firth because I knew that he came from Scotland, to serve the HBC in the 1800s.

I discovered my great grandfather's name in the old fur trade ledgers and was able to follow his tracks across the historical landscape of the Canadian northland and catch a glimpse of a time that has passed. I followed his trail across history, as a hunter follows the fading prints of a bear, I did not know what I might discover in the archives. Was John Firth a great explorer? Was he an important historical figure? The historical facts show that he was none of those things, but he was a man of good character!

Those who have worked with aboriginal people know that good character is an important value in their worldview. John Firth had become part of their community. He understood their language and became a friend to the Gwichin and Inuit hunters who visited Fort McPherson. The fact that he rose to become Factor in their tribal area and served them honestly for 48 years shows that he was an important resource for a hunting people. This is good news for me, and my adventure through the HBC archives has proved worthwhile because it speaks to my own work within the aboriginal community in Manitoba.

It was a pleasure for me to spend hours in the HBC archives because there are many documents and cross references which can stimulate the interpretive process. It is a good place for persons with aboriginal ancestry to find their roots and track their own ancestor across the page of history! If you want to read further about John Firth and the history of the HBC go to: http://chenrezigmanitoba0.tripod.com/servantofthehudsonbaycompanyjohnfirth/

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Now Published: PAPERS OF THE RUPERT'S LAND COLLOQUIUM 2004, KENORA, **ONTARIO**

Forty of the papers presented at the 11th biennial Rupert's Land Colloquium held in May 2004 in Kenora, Ontario, Canada, are now available in book form, compiled by David Malaher. Paper/spiral bound, illus., 516 pages.

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This attractive book format for Colloquium Papers allows the timely publication of a large number of new, original papers at relatively low cost. The price of this volume is \$36.00, which includes shipping. To ensure yourself a copy, please complete and return the order form to the CRLS Office at the University of Winnipeg, or, if paying with a purchase order, orders can be made by email to the office at rupert.land@uwinnipeg.ca.

Thompson-Linklater Correspondence of 1796

"Tell me if your letter did not crave such an answer as you got": The

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Bill Moreau

A Visit to Hungry Hall and Other Places on the Fur Trade ROUTE through Lake of the Woods

by David Malaher, September 16, 2004

Hungry Hall was the name given to a Hudson's Bay Company post on the lower Rainy River off and on between 1793 and 1895. It was set up initially to oppose the North West Company. A number of places may have been known by this description but the official post name was often something else, such as Ash House or Fort Louise. Since the name and location are not well documented in the HBCA, our expedition to find Hungry Hall was based on equal

AS Des Bourds Traverse Bay

As

parts of archival research and simple optimism. We were rewarded with a good find, lovely weather (for a day) and absolutely awesome winds for two days so that we experienced a traditional degradé and were wind-bound at the mouth of the Rainy River.

Altogether, our boat journey covered over 250 miles from Kenora, to Rainy River, to Kay Nah Chi Wah Nung Historic Site from August 17 to 19. Allan Smith of Smith Camps (Fish Fry dinner, Colloquium) provided us with a strong boat, wonderful food and expert seamanship. The very compatible crew members were Harry and Mary Lynn Duckworth,

David and Rosemary Malaher, of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, and Jamie Boulton. Jamie, who brought greetings from the Province of Ontario to the Colloquium

ing the Ministries of
Culture, and Tourism &
Recreation.

Our agenda had two
parts: try to confirm the
locations of specific places
on the original NWC fur

Our agenda had two parts: try to confirm the locations of specific places on the original NWC fur trade route in Lake of the Woods and to assess the tourism potential of Fort St. Charles, the Dawson Road, Garden Island, certain international boundary sites, and the fur trade route as a history tourism package.

Reception, was represent-

Present-day residents of two neighbouring sites at

the mouth of Rainy River claim to be on the site of Hungry Hall and possibly both of them are correct. The more substantial site is now known as Oak Grove Camp operated by Larry and Linda Budreau who have a substantial file of correspondence with the HBC going back to the 1950s

when the archives were in London. They also have a small collection of artifacts of which the pieces of white porcelain with blue designs are most convincing. We stayed two nights in cabins at Oak Grove Camp where Larry and Linda looked after us very well. Ron O'Connor, trapper, fisher and businessman, whom we visited at the next large property

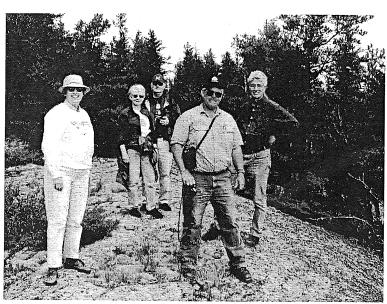


Hungry Hall, Rainy River, HBC 1793-1895

downstream, also has a good case for being on the site of Hungry Hall and this fits well with the variable locations mentioned in the archives. The boat trip upstream to Kay Nah Chi Wah Nung was a bonus 80 mile view of Rainy River thanks to our inability to leave the mouth of the river due to high wind and huge waves on the Big Traverse Bay. The voyageurs were apprehensive of the Big Traverse and we can vouch for their fears.

The voyageurs' fur trade route through Lake of the Woods is, surprisingly, not documented by description or original maps. The water distance between Rainy River and the Winnipeg River is approximately 80 miles and passes by about 500 of the 14,000 islands in the

lake. Journals of travelers occasionally complain that the guides would not deviate from the "usual route" for concern over getting lost, but they did not leave behind a map of the route. On this journey we did manage to pin down six specific sites on the route based on archival references. Five of these sites are in the southern section: NE tip of Sable Island, Cormorant Point, Roche Rouge, Dog Island and Wood Carrying Place. The lone site in the north is the Grand Gallee. Rat Portage, of course, is the northern terminus and Rainy River the southern. At least one more site is needed in the north before we can join the dots and declare an overall route.



At Roche Portage. Left to right: Rosemary Malaher, Mary Lynn & Harry Duckworth, Alan Smith, Jaimie Boulton



Looking into Big Traverse Bay from Roche Rouge

We saw wild and beautiful scenery and many places of historical interest but the degradé situation meant we had to skip a few points on the list. Since I am familiar with all the sites it was disappointing not to be able to show everything to the others. Even though we missed some places, all of us on this trip would recommend it for a tourism package but it will require entrepreneurs in the business to actually bring history tourism to the market. Meanwhile, the search continues for obscure landing places and camp sites of the fur brigades on the west side of the lake, north of the Aulneau Peninsula. Suggestions are welcome from

anyone with ideas on this topic whether based on archive information or personal experience on the Lake of the Woods.

The Kenora Colloquium 2004: An Appreciation

By Gail Konantz

"Colloquium!" the customs officer puzzled, as LisaMarie Malischke crossed the US border into Canada. "Would you please park your car and wait?" She wished she had given him a hassle-free answer like, "just visiting a friend." Confused and suspicious, he scrambled for a dictionary.

LisaMarie is a Master's student in archaeology and one of many who came from such far-flung spots as Kalamazoo, Michigan; Warsaw, Poland; and Hastings, England to attend the 11th Biennial Rupert's Land Colloquium in Kenora, Ontario last May. This popular venue attracted over 140 people of all ages. Over 50 speakers shone light on fresh and unusual aspects of historical life in the Rupert's Land basin, and we all listened, learned, and absorbed the fur trade and Aboriginal history of the region. Forty Kenora enthusiasts attended on a one-day basis. Many participants were related back to fur traders and their Native trading associates.

A fine book display offered publications both new and out of print, on the fur trade and Native history. A reception in the Lake of the Woods Museum plunged us into the history of the area, and the museum's rich collection of fur trade artifacts. Old friends came together and new connections and conversations began.

For the next three mornings, a rich selection of papers provided listeners with endless jolts of mental caffeine. What's the controversy surrounding fur trade historical novels? Did Minnehaha

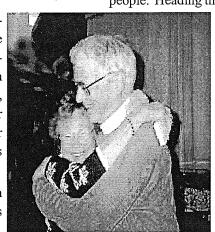
really exist? How did Rat Portage escape becoming American? What has happened to fishing and trapping in the lake area today? Dagmara Ginter from Poland presented a paper on Grey Owl's writings, and Roland Bohr showed up with his hand-made quivers and arrows – exact replicas of those of the Plains Indians. The quivers

were bead fronded deerskin and he fashioned the arrows from willow wood.

For a living experience of the setting, we took field trips to Tunnel Island and Rat Portage. We stood on the spot where canoes and supplies were transported from Lake of the Woods into the Winnipeg River system. Across the White Sucker Rapids we imagined the activity that once surrounded the old HBC fort. We experienced the vastness of the Lake from the deck of the MS Kenora on a dinner cruise and imagined the hardships of paddling down to the Rainy River system with marginal maps in dicey weather. Walking tours of Kenora and its historical murals, and of historical monuments in the cemetery were highlights. Some tombstones dated back to the Wolseley expedition. That of Seraphin Rondeau begged us to "priez pour le repose de son ame."

Friday night, a gala dinner was held to honour several people. Heading the list was Jennifer Brown who has done

more to create and sustain the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies than anyone could imagine. Elizabeth Browne Losey, biologist and historian, came from Michigan to be honoured for donating her prize library on the fur trade to the University of Winnipeg. Sparkling in her ninth decade, she sported a white caribou jacket and casually mentioned that she had shot the animal herself. Author Heather Robertson entertained us with stories from her award-winning book, Magical Mysterious Lake of the Woods.



David Malaher and Elizabeth Losey at the 2004 Colloquium in Kenora

The final event of a stellar three days was a pickerel dinner in a fishing camp with a local folk singer belting out local songs. LisaMarie loved the exotic nature of the setting. For her as for all of us, the conference was a huge success, and she had no trouble returning over the border!

Call for Papers:

The Canadian Association for Conservation

The Canadian Association for Conservation will hold its 31st annual conference in Jasper from May 17-21, 2005. For the pre-conference workshop organizers are inviting papers on the influence of Canadian fur exports on European clothing, hat and millinery fashions, toiletries and applicators of make-up (and vice-versa) from the fur trade era to more recent times.

Call for Papers - Jasper 2005 Pre-Conference Workshop May 17-18, 2005

Fur Trade Legacy: The State of Preservation of Organic Materials

In conjunction with Alberta's 100th anniversary as a province, this Workshop explores the specialized area of organic materials conservation.

Submissions will be published in English and French as Preprints of the Jasper 2005 Conference Workshop. The deadline for abstracts is December 31, 2004. The deadline for final papers is January 31, 2005.

Contact:

Margot Brunn, Workshop Program

Tel: (780) 453-9167 Fax: (780) 454-6629 Margot.Brunn@gov.ab.ca www.cac-accr.ca/econf.html Call for Papers:

First Nations, First Thoughts, The University of Edinburgh, Canadian Studies

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 May 2005

This interdisciplinary conference will explore the significance of Aboriginal peoples in the development of cultural and intellectual thought in Canada. The conference is designed to bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal scholars together to consider the development and transmission of Indigenous thought and the impact of Aboriginal perspectives on cultural, political, environmental, historical, legal, philosophical and anthropological thought in Canada. It is planned that papers will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed volume. For more information and suggestions for possible topics visit http://www.cst.ed.ac.uk/ or call

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Be sure to check out the order forms in this issue (pages 6–8) for books by and through the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, including proceedings from the past three Colloquiums. As well, this issue includes an order form for the papers of the 35th Algonquian Conference.