

Rupert's Land Research Centre

# NEWSLETTER

The University of Winnipeg: 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. R3B 2E9



# RUPERT'S LAND RESEARCH CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, #1-2 (1992)

#### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE FROM TIM BALL

They said it was foolish to plan a Colloquium for Winnipeg in February, but where else when the theme was "The Fur Trade in Winter"? I am pleased to report that it was an enormous success because of the efforts of many people. As you know we held the event in conjunction with Le Festival du Voyageur, an annual celebration of Franco-Manitoban culture and heritage in the community of St. Boniface. I wish to extend my thanks to Louis Paquin and his staff for their patience and efforts which resulted in another successful event. I also wish to thank Renee Fossett, the loyal band of Harington Fellows and many others who worked so diligently from the Rupert's Land end.

We do not let the grass grow under our feet so plans for the next Colloquium proceed. Rupert's Land members in Alberta have formed a committee and are moving ahead with plans for a Colloquium in that province to celebrate the fur trade and the mountain passes. Currently the plan is for a Colloquium in May or June of 1994. We will notify you of full details as early as possible; meanwhile, we hope you will make plans to attend.

During the 1990 Colloquium in the Orkney Islands I made plans with Dale Idiens of the National Museum of Scotland regarding an exhibit to commemorate the centenary of the death of John Rae. The exhibit is complete and will be on display in Edinburgh during 1993. The plan is to have the exhibit in Canada during 1994 at three possible venues; The Royal Ontario Museum, The Manitoba Museum and the Glenbow in Alberta. Regardless of the outcome the exhibit will definitely be in Winnipeg sometime in 1994. Plans are in place and I hope to be able to hold at least a one day series of lectures and talks at the Manitoba Museum during the exhibit.

In Winnipeg the success of the Forks has raised awareness of history and heritage among the people. It is probably unprecedented for a city to receive 57 acres of crucial heritage land in the heart of the central business district. The fact that it is river bank property and at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers where peoples have gathered for millennia makes it even more exciting. Polls show that the

public want only heritage development, results that provide ammunition for those who fight the inevitable commercial developers. Some of the work of Rupert's Land members has contributed to the understanding of the archaeology, history and geography of the site.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts. We realize they could be better and more things could be done; however, we are thankful for continued existence under the circumstances.

Lacey Sanders has finished her term as the Harington Fellow and is continuing to work on a Master's degree in Canadian history. We thank Lacey for her hard work and very real contributions to the Centre. The Harington Fellow for 1992-93 is Ingrid Botting who is currently completing an Honours history degree at the University of Winnipeg.

## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL EDITOR JENNIFER S.H. BROWN

Since the terms of our Editorial Advisory Board members expired in 1992, the Board has been reconstituted with several familiar names and a few new ones. The original size of twelve members proved larger than needed, and we never managed to assemble more than two thirds of them at editorial meetings. The present group of ten represents a most helpful combination of geographical areas, institutions, and specialties; most of those named have also participated in two or more of our biennial colloquia. We welcome the new board members, and express thanks to the returning members for their service and their willingness to return for another term of two or four years.

# Editorial Advisory Board, Rupert's Land Record Society

J.M. Bumsted, University of Manitoba
Robert Coutts, Canadian Parks Service
Harry W. Duckworth, University of Manitoba
Renee Fossett, University of Manitoba
Shepard Krech III, Brown University
Ian S. MacLaren, University of Alberta
Toby Morantz, McGill University
Trudy Nicks, Royal Ontario Museum
Arthur J. Ray, University of British Columbia
Sylvia Van Kirk, University of Toronto

The publication for this year is Shepard Krech's much expanded and updated Bibliography of Canadian Native History and Anthropology, which should reach our 1992 paid members within the

next several weeks. The appearance of this major reference work will be greatly welcomed, and we are most grateful to Shep Krech for contributing it to our series of publications.

A number of papers from the 1992 Colloquium in Winnipeg have been submitted to us for distribution at cost. Please see the order form at the end of the Newsletter.

We ask those presenters who have not yet submitted their papers to us to send them in, please, as soon as possible, if they intend to do so. There is continuing interest in numerous papers from past Colloquia; our distribution on demand is a practical and efficient way to keep your contribution available and to inform our readers of your work.

#### Friends of Rupert's Land

Each year, we invite your support of our editorial and publications programme, through contributions beyond your annual paid membership. To be eligible for a tax receipt, contributions should be by cheque payable to the University of Winnipeg, clearly marked for deposit in the Rupert's Land Historical Fund. The University will acknowledge such gifts, as we will, in the Newsletter.

Financial constraints are always with us. We were honoured that our handsome 1991 volume, Richard Ruggles's A Country So Interesting: the Hudson's Bay Company and Two Centuries of Mapping, 1670-1870, won the Canadian Historical Association's Prairie and Northern Regional History Prize, but its publication cost (higher than expected) is not yet recovered; and future projects will require more extensive support. Our thanks, in advance, for any contribution you may be able to offer.

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The CHA Sir John A. Macdonald Prize was awarded to Julie Cruikshank for Life Lived Like a Story: Life Stories of Three Yukon Native Elders. (UBC Press/University of Nebraska Press). Also of great interest is her 1991 volume, Reading Voices: Oral and Written Interpretations of the Yukon's Past (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre).

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#### 1994 Rupert's Land Research Centre Colloquium

After the great success of the Rupert's Land Research Centre Colloquium in Winnipeg last February, it seems odd to be discussing plans for the 1994 conference already. However, our Alberta colloquium committee would like to approach the membership to outline some tentative plans for the 1994 conference and to solicit opinion on their feasibility.

In 1994 we are planning to hold the conference in Alberta in either late May or early June. The majority of the sessions will be held in Edmonton, with one excursion to Fort George/Buckingham House and perhaps Frog Lake. The main themes of the conference would be historical archaeology (particularly fur trade and mission sites), missionary history, Metis and Freemen and their communities, Scots in the fur trade, and the fur trade in the North Saskatchewan, Peace River and Rocky Mountains regions. Conference organizers would love to hear from possible presenters or those with ideas for particular conference sessions in these Other possible areas of interest might include sessions on archival records, museum collections and exhibits, and interpreting history through new media. Any ideas or suggestions for papers or sessions can be forwarded to Michael Payne, Chief of Research, Historic Sites and Archives Service, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, 8820-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2P8, or 1-403-431-2351.

In addition, if interest is sufficient, conference organizers would like to offer supplementary conference tours of Alberta sites. Prior to the conference a brief two-day tour to Rocky Mountain House and Jasper will be offered, and a post-conference tour of about four days to the Peace River Country is also possible. Both require a minimum of about 40-50 participants to be feasible, and it would be helpful to know how much interest the membership would have in tours of these areas. Anyone who may have an interest in these tours should contact Michael Payne at the above address as soon as possible. If initial interest warrants, more detailed tour itineraries will be printed in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

#### Oka: A Bibliography

It gives us great pleasure that Professor Olive P. Dickason of the University of Alberta has allowed us to feature in this issue her updated bibliography of over eighty items pertaining to Oka (the Kanesatake Reserve) and the long history which underlies the conflicts which occurred there in the summer of 1990.

Earlier this year, Olive Dickason published Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples From Earliest Times (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart; (U.S. edition by the University of Oklahoma Press). This work is a major contribution to the history of Native North American peoples, and we strongly commend it to all our members. Many will know that the Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled, 4-3, to uphold the University of Alberta's policy of mandatory retirement at 65, which Olive Dickason (and others) had been contesting for seven years. It is sadly ironic that one of our most productive and highly respected scholars should be the first to lose her position under this ruling.

Jennifer S.H. Brown

#### BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO OKA

The problems of Oka, which have been going on for something like two centuries, have given rise to a substantial body of writing. A good proportion of this is partisan, particularly during the latter part of the nineteenth century when many of the Oka Iroquois abjured Catholicism and espoused Methodism. Throughout the polemics, however, the basic issue has remained the same: two opposing views on the nature of land title, to which lately has been added the right to self-government, and even to sovereignty. The following list has been prepared as a guide, with no pretensions to being complete. A useful background reference work is Donald B. Smith's Le Sauvage. The Native People in Quebec historical writing on the Heroic Period (1534-1663) of New France, Ottawa, National Museums of Canada, 1974. It includes a bibliographic essay on Oka (pp. 129-131), to which this listing is indebted.

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Olive Patricia Dickason, University of Alberta

#### CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 24th Algonquian Conference, at Carleton University, October 23-25, 1992. Papers on a wide range of scholarly topics connected with Algonquian peoples. William Cowan, Dept of Linguistics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, is the editor of the Proceedings; write to Dr Cowan at the above address for further details.

The 28th Annual Conference on Editorial Texts University of Toronto, November 6-7, 1992. The 1992 conference draws attention not only to the historical moment of the Columbus Quincentenary, but to the processes by which we have come to understand that moment. In this development the writing of books of exploration has played a central role, but one which, as we now increasingly realize, has been affected by their European perspective. The scholarly task of editing, which at first sight seems among the most objective of occupations, has not been untouched by the same problems. The conference brings these questions to bear on the editing of the texts and documents produced by the explorers who participated in the European project of investigation which stretched from the late medieval period to the nineteenth century.

This year's speakers were: Helen Wallis, The Great Publishing Societies; David Henige, Editing Columbian Texts: Past Strategies, Future Prospects; Luciano Formisano, Editing Italian Sources for the History of Exploration; James Lockhart, Editing Native Sources: Nahuatl Accounts of the Conquest; Ian MacLaren, Editing Paul Kane and the Editing of Canadian Exploration Texts; David Beers Quinn, Editing Hakluyt's "Discourse of Western Planting". For further information, contact Prof. Germaine Warkentin, Victoria College, University of Toronto, 73 Qeen's Park Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1K7.

October 4-8, 1993. Rekjavik, Iceland. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ARCTIC AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

The Symposium will bring together scientists of circumarctic countries as well as of the many other nations engaged in Arctic research. It will emphasize interdisciplinary scientific exchange while focusing on documentation of the current state of knowledge regarding the extent and magnitude of known and potential ecological effects of airborne contaminants in the Arctic, and on defining critical gaps in our understanding of the arctic that require future scientific study. These activities will foster efforts to provide the scientific information needed to make informed policy decisions concerning the arctic.

For more information contact: Debra Steward, Technical Resources Inc., 3202 Tower Oaks Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852, U.S.A., (301) 770-3153; Fax (301) 468-2245.

Call For Papers:

In the fall of 1993, The First Columbia Department Fur Trade Conference will be hosted by the history department at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

The conference will recall the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fort Victoria in 1843 and the transfer of the Hudson's Bay Company regional headquarters to this new post on Vancouver island.

The organizers, Richard Mackie and Sylvia Van Kirk, are specially interested in papers dealing with the Hudson's Bay Company's commercial and colonial activities on Vancouver Island and in those dealing with the response of Native people to the fur trade everywhere west of the Rockies. While the emphasis of the conference will be on the Hudson's Bay Company's activities after 1821, they welcome papers on the maritime fur trade, the North West Company, and the Pacific Fur Company. They hope that the conference will appeal to scholars on both sides of the international border.

Please send, by 1 December 1992, a precis of your proposed paper; and, for funding purposes, a C.V. The conference will be held at the University of Victoria in late September or early October 1993. University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3045, Victoria, B.C. Canada, V8W 3P4, Telephone (604) 721-7382; Fax (604) 721-8772.

#### RIDING MOUNTAIN HISTORY COLLOQUIUM

The History Graduate Students' Association of the University of Manitoba has announced that the Third Riding Mountain History Colloquium will be held February 26-28, 1993, at Elkhorn Lodge, Clear Lake, Riding Mountain Park. The Colloquium is open to all history graduate students, and is specially designed for them. It is intended to be a learning experience where graduate students have an opportunity to give papers in an informal and relaxed atmosphere among their peers, to learn how conferences work, and to enjoy the collegiality and conviviality of meetings with their colleagues. The conference is structured and sessions are patterned after those of more formal learned symposia, but the atmosphere is relatively informal and unintimidating to students. Faculty are invited and encouraged to participate as session chairs, critics and advisers, and to share their experience with students and lend support to less accomplished scholars.

The conference has **no thematic agenda**; contributions from all fields of historical research are welcome. Approximately twenty papers will be presented by students during the weekend. Distinguished guest speakers will speak each evening after

dinner. The keynote speaker will be Professor Gerald Friesen of the University of Manitoba.

Two nights accommodation at Elkhorn Lodge, all meals, coffee breaks, and transportation from Winnipeg are included in the registration fee, \$180.00 each double occupancy, and approximately \$30.00 additional for single. Contingent on institutional and corporate funding, an honorarium may be provided to students presenting papers.

Conference proceedings break early Saturday afternoon to allow for free time. Elkhorn has an indoor swimming pool, hot tub and sauna, a skating rink, and cross country skiing trails. The University of Manitoba, winners of the 1992 Liminal Cup Midnight Curling Bonspiel and Extravaganza will defend its title some time during the weekend. All challenges are welcomed! Friday night following dinner there will be a social for all participants.

For further information please contact: The Riding Mountain Committee, History Graduate Students' Association, Department of History, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Mb. R3T 2N2.

BOOKS OF INTEREST
U of M Department of Anthropology
Announces the Release of
People and Land in Northern Manitoba

A conference held at the University of Manitoba in May, 1990 brought together people from government, industry, non-governmental organizations as well as researchers and affected people to discuss what is happening in the North.

In his introduction, Y.G. Lithman writes, "It is easy to realize that social, economic, cultural and ecological issues are tightly intertwined in an environmentally sensitive setting such as that of the Manitoba North. The systematic exploration of this insight, however, has been extremely limited. The same holds true for attempts to predict what the future consequences will be of what is presently being done in the North. Are we devastating this region if we go ahead with the already existing plans for industrial, forest and hydroelectric enterprises, or are we simply creating wealth with marginally acceptable social, cultural and ecological impacts?

The book contains contributions from people of many walks of life, such as academics, business people, government officials, and others. Its themes include history and economics, the romanticism of the North, the cultural revitalization of Aboriginal communities, the fate of the boreal forest, civic developments in mining towns, and northern wildlife. The intent

is to show how the issues to be faced in a discussion of the future of the Manitoba North are manifold, complex and multi-disciplinary. As is evident in this book, there are diverse and even conflicting answers to important questions.

This 280 page book is edited by Y. George Lithman; Rick R. Riewe; Raymond E. Wiest and Robert E. Wrigley. It is available from the Department of Anthropology at the UofM, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 2N2, Telephone (204) 474-6327, Fax (204) 275-0846. The price is \$25.00 plus \$1.75 GST and \$3.00 Postage. Cheques for \$29.75 can be made payable to UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA ANTHROPOLOGY PAPERS.

## Books from The Committee On Canadian Labour History

Orders to: CCLH, c/o History Department, Memorial University, St John's, Newfoundland, Canada AlC 5S7.

RCMP Security Bulletins: The Early Years, 1919-1929. Edited by Gregory S. Kealey and Reg Whitaker. In 1919 at the height of the post-war labour revolt, the RCMP took responsibility for national security. This volume contains archival materials and other materials received through Canadian Access to Information legislation. It includes lists of personal files, subject files, and security bulletins circulated to the government. In general the material provides a fine overview of the genesis of the Canadian state security system. ISBN 0-9692060-9-7 Ppr \$24.95.

RCMP Security Bulletins: The War Series, 1939-1941. ISBN 0-9692060-5-4 Ppr \$21.95.

Brother Max: Labour Organizer and Educator. Max Swerdlow, edited by Gregory S. Kealey. Max Swerdlow's life as labour organizer and educator began in Depression-era Winnipeg and carried him to national and international prominence in the Trades and labour Congress, the Canadian Labour Congress, and the International Labor Organization. In this lively memoir, Swerdlow recaptures the persons and events of his life in the Labour movement. ISBN 0-9692060-8-9 Ppr \$14.95.

Class, Gender, and Region. Reprint of a special edition of The Canadian Journal of Sociology. The essays are gathered around two themes: the relationship of sociology and social history, and the intersection of gender, ethnicity and region with class. Unlike most Canadian essay collections, the contributors and their subjects cover Canada from British Columbia to Newfoundland. ISBN 0-9692060-3-8 Ppr \$10.00.

### New from General Store Publishing House Inc.

The Canadian Beaver Book: Fact, Fiction and Fantasy has all the facts about Canada's national animal.

If it's about beavers, it's in this book. Nothing is neglected: the beavers' place in Canadian history, its near-extinction and recovery, beaver farming, its place on stamps, currency, heraldry and emblems, its use in folk art and literature and personal tales and frustrations with this large rodent.

To order The Canadian Beaver Book, send \$19.95 plus \$4.00 for shipping, handling and GST to: General Store Publishing House Inc., 1 Main Street, Burnstown, Ontario, Canada KOJ 1GO. Please make cheques or money orders payable to General Store Publishing House Inc. For more information call (613) 432-7697.

#### Papers of the Twenty-Second Algonquian Conference

The Twenty-Second Algonquian Conference took place October 26-28, 1990 in Chicago, Illinois. Of the 38 papers given at the Conference, 27 have been edited by William Cowan and published by Carleton University. The volume is available from: Algonquian Conference, Department of Linguistics, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada. For Canadian addresses send \$25.00; all other addresses send \$25.00 U.S. funds.

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