

Editor's Note/Note du rédacteur

Ethics and oral testimony are a perennial source of debate and discussion among oral practitioners and oral researchers. With the constant change in electronic technology and the introduction of micro-cassette tape recorders, video cameras and miniature microphones, it is always useful to be continually aware of the issue of oral collections and the ethics of such collections. This issue of the Canadian Oral History Association *Journal* features a number of articles on legal issues of concern to oral historians, collections in marginal political movements and two projects from outside the researchers' own cultures, in Canada and in the Solomon Islands.

Jill Jarvis-Tonus provides a succinct overview of libel and defamation issues as well as the law regarding invasion of privacy. This is about the best advice you'll get without paying a fee. Coleman Romalis examines the contested ground of radical parties, especially during the Cold War years, and the peculiar difficulties for researchers in a politically hostile environment.

Barbara Riley and David Neufeld both collected in cultures outside of their own and thus provide another example of history outside the mainstream version of reality. Both research projects are community based and are examples of excellent case studies of community rather than individual projects. The ethical concerns of each are well worth noting. To round out this section on ethics, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada guidelines are included for the information of researchers.

This issue also includes a new section called "Eyewitness." The Halifax Explosion of 1917 was recently commemorated in Halifax and Janet Kitz presents the word pictures of five survivors of this devastating event. I would like to make this a regular feature and would welcome further contributions.

The National Inventory of Oral History Collections has now been completed and funding is currently being sought to publish the manuscript. It is an impressive piece of work and the variety and richness of the collections is evidence of Canada's significant contribution to oral testimony and its collection.

James H. Morrison
Editor

The next issue of COHAJ, Vol. 13, will examine *Oral History and Education*. Please send in your contributions as soon as possible.

COHA at the Learned's in Ottawa

Two sessions with the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association
June 4-7, 1993

Oral History: Research in Progress

Roundtable with the Canadian Women's Studies Association
June 2-4, 1993

Oral History: Thinking it Through