

Editor's Note/Note du rédacteur

This issue of the Canadian Oral History Association Journal has incorporated a number of changes in the format of the journal including a cover photograph and a Letters to the Editor section which will be called Dialogue/Le Dialogue and will include letters that outline projects, insights, or research needs.

Volume 11 has followed a thematic format and this issue concentrates on oral history and women. In addition, J. Létourneau contributes an article on the famous 1949 strike in Asbestos and Thetford Mines and its place in the memories and the history of Québec.

The concentration on the women of the Coady Institute in Nova Scotia, women in Africa, and women's work during World War II emphasizes the importance of oral history in areas of research that are often neglected due to lack of documentation or the feeling by previous scholars that such research was irrelevant. These are areas that can be opened up to new investigations by oral research.

The work on the Coady Institute by MacLean and the war factories by Osborne investigate areas where documentation is exceptionally scarce. The article on African women makes the valid observation that anthropologists and historians must rethink their research methods. Traditionally, both have gathered the community elders in a group to collect oral tradition. These elders have normally been male and it has only been in the recent past that women have been consulted by researchers using oral testimony.

The final article in this issue includes a close analysis of relationships, specifically the marriage relationship as it was understood and practised by women now in their 70s and 80s. In this period of societal violence and sexual abuse, Grant tries to measure with some preciseness the various aspects of a marital relationship decades ago. How did marriage work and why did it work that way? What were the cultural pressures and expectations that a husband and wife brought to this relationship? In a longitudinal sense, what changes occurred through time as expectations of one generation were and are very different from the next generation.

All of the articles reinforce the point, if it needs reinforcement any longer, that the methodology and technique of oral research when done well provides valuable sources of information about the study of women, of children, of labour, or of any group that the documents in the library have excluded. Thus history becomes inclusive rather than exclusive.

1992 also marks the year during which the Canadian Oral History Association will undertake a National Inventory of Oral History Holdings in Canada. If you have information on various collections that can be used by researchers please let me know.

James H. Morrison
Editor

The next volume of the journal, Vol. 12, 1992, will follow the theme of *Teaching and Oral History*. Contributions in the form of articles would be greatly appreciated.