

Editorial Note 32/2012

Welcome to Volume 32 (2012) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* – the journal of the Canadian Oral History Association (COHA). Last year was another exciting year for *Forum*. Patrice Milewski from Laurentian University's School of Education joined us on the editorial team, bringing us closer to our goal of being a bilingual journal. Janis Thiessen at the University of Winnipeg's History Department joined us as book reviews editor.

We were also very happy to see the publication of our second special issue at the beginning of 2011 (but technically part of volume 30 (2010)), "Talking Green: Oral History and Environmental History," commissioned by Kristina Llewellyn and very capably guest edited by Alan MacEachern and Ryan O'Connor (both at the University of Western Ontario).

Our regular issue included an excellent article on editing oral history for publication, written by the widely known and respected American public historian Linda Shopes. In his article "C.P. Stacey and the Use of Oral Testimony in the Dieppe Narratives," Tavis Harris illuminated the early beginnings of oral history in Canada. Next to five book reviews and a conference report, there was also a review forum on Alessandro Portelli's new book on Harlan County, with a response from the author. An interview with practitioners from the Foxfire educational project in the United States, a work-in-progress report on a research project about the Ellis Island oral history collection, and information about the Latin American Oral History Network rounded out this issue.

One article we would like to bring your attention to was not published in, but about, *Forum*. Alexander Freund's article "Oral History and Online Publishing: Establishing and Managing the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*," (<http://wordsandsilences.org/index.php/ws/article/view/14>) was published in the inaugural online edition of our sister journal, *Words and Silences*, published by the International Oral History Association.

Plans for 2012

For 2012, we are anticipating at least one special issue and a new addition: an archive of oral history projects.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching the special issue *Making Educational Oral Histories in the 21st Century*. From a relatively large pool of submissions, eleven peer-reviewed articles will be published. Our three guest editors, Sharon Cook, Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, and Marie Ainsworth, from the University of Ottawa's Research Unit *Making History: Narrative and Collective Memory in Education*, have meticulously copy-edited a rich collection of publications. The collection is extremely diverse, in terms of subjects and

locations where oral history has been utilized in the educational process, the national setting of the authors and their research, and in the authors' career stage. Articles include: an oral history of German-American immigrants, and the pressure to stop speaking German after the Second World War; an exploration of the use of oral history with Australian former students to explore the trope of the "happy childhood"; and an oral history of "language intermediaries" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the effect of their educational experiences on professional practice.

Other special issues we are working on focus on working-class history and Latin American oral history.

The *Forum* will be experimenting this year with bringing resources to its readers that stretches the concept of an online, electronic journal. Many print and online journals include a documents section, which might typically include a transcript and perhaps several other accompanying primary documents, such as sampling of letters, sections of memoir, etc. Often these documents are printed to draw researchers' attention to the collections from which these items were drawn that are typically housed in an archive and library. This year the *Forum* is taking this practice one giant step forward. It will begin to publish in special volumes complete archival collections of oral history projects. Researchers will be able to access these project archives online as special issues of the *Forum*.

The *Abraham Arnold Oral History Project Collection*, a collaboration between the late Abe Arnold, a journalist, social activist, and historian of the history of Jews in Canada, and Nolan Reilly, a co-editor of the *Forum* and co-director of the Oral History Centre, University Winnipeg. The online collection will include approximately seven hours of the audio interviews Reilly conducted with Abe Arnold, a complete set of verbatim transcripts, a memoir edited from the transcripts with expanded content provided by Arnold and Reilly, a collection of photographs, and a selection of Arnold's newspaper articles and historical studies chosen from his personal files housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

The *Forum* editors are currently working with AU Press to finalize an organizational template for the Abe Arnold Oral History Project Collection and for the others that are scheduled to follow it. Our hope is to publish several of these special archive issues each year. We will be encouraging readers to submit their projects for consideration. An important objective for the editors of the *Forum* is to make oral history collections readily available to academic and community researchers worldwide.

2012 is an exciting year for *Forum* readers: We are making *Forum* completely open access! We are able to do this thanks to the Abe and Bertha Arnold Community Oral History Fund of the Oral History Centre at the University of Winnipeg. You can access all articles immediately, whether you are a COHA member or not. Although all content is from now on free to everyone,

we urge you register on the journal website so that we can stay in touch with you and alert you to new articles and reviews. A larger number of registered users will also help us make a case when we apply for further funding for the journal.

Membership

We encourage you to continue your membership in the Canadian Historical Association. There are many good reasons for supporting COHA through membership fees:

- COHA and *Forum* need members and subscribers for our application to SSHRC for journal funding.
- While funding allows us to make *Forum* open access, a solid base of membership fees allows us to develop both COHA and *Forum*, for example by sponsoring national meetings or the translation of oral history articles.
- If COHA wants to participate in public discussions about the role of oral history in Canadian society, this can only be accomplished with a strong membership behind us.
- Oral history is a social movement to democratize history. Large organizations in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States as well as a strong international associations (IOHA) demonstrate this as much as the rapidly growing organizations in the Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, and many other countries around the world. Canadians can best be part of this movement if we have a strong association, build networks, and connect more systematically to global oral history networks.

All of this requires not only funds (coming in part from membership fees), but also active participation. Please contact us at forum@uwinnipeg.ca if you would like to get involved in COHA.

Please renew your membership so that we may continue to develop the *Forum* into an energetic journal dedicated to the advancement of oral history in Canada and abroad. All correspondence regarding membership, including the payment of membership fees, will continue to be handled by Janis Thiessen, the treasurer-secretary of the Canadian Oral History Association. For more information, visit <http://www.canoha.ca/membership>.

We wish to thank Janis Thiessen for her continued excellent work as the Canadian Oral History Association's secretary-treasurer. She has been instrumental in getting our members online and subscribed to *Forum*. We also thank Kathy Killoh, Sergiy Kozakov, and their colleagues at Athabasca University Press for an excellent working relationship and continuing support of our journal.

New to Forum?

If you are new to the journal, here is how it works: “The journal is published on an ongoing basis: a new volume is opened on 1 January of each year and closed on 31 December. We publish articles as soon as they have passed all editorial stages. The advantage for authors is a shorter turn-around time than print journals can offer. For readers, the advantage is that they do not have to wait for the publication of a complete issue but rather can read, listen to or watch contributions as they become available. The main reason for transforming *Forum* into an electronic journal was, however, to take advantage of the new media, which are particularly suitable to oral history.”

“If you are thinking about submitting a contribution to *Forum*, please note that we publish a great variety of contributions. Next to academic articles that go through a double-blind peer review, we publish short think, discussion, and opinion pieces; works of art emerging from oral history (visual art, play scripts, poetry, fiction, etc.); annotated transcripts; and transcripts in the form of testimonies. If you have an oral history contribution that does not seem to fit any of our sections, please let us know. We cannot promise it, but you should not be surprised if we created a section just for your work!”

“If you would like to find out how to become a member of the Canadian Oral History Association and thus a subscriber to *Forum*, please email Janis at JanisThiessen@shaw.ca. Our rates are fairly low: Institutional (Cdn\$ 30.00); Individual (Cdn\$ 20.00); Student (Cdn\$ 15.00).” (Alexander Freund et al., “Editorial Note 29/2009,” *Oral History Forum d’histoire orale* 29/2009: 1-2, 1).

For further information, visit the Canadian Oral History Association online at <http://www.canoha.ca>

If you did not view this editorial on our journal website, please visit it at <http://www.oralhistoryforum.ca>

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