

Editors' Note

Christopher Hackett and Philip Massolin

This editors' note marks the second edition of *Past Imperfect*. As past readers may know, the journal has three important goals. The first goal is to give students the opportunity to publish their work in an academic journal by providing greater editorial support and assistance than one can expect from traditional scholarly journals. *Past Imperfect* takes papers which have academic merit but lack sufficient refinement to be accepted elsewhere. We offer the authors extensive feedback as well as considerable suggestions on how to rewrite papers in order to make them acceptable for publication. The close interaction between author and editor allows us to fulfill our second goal, which is to publish excellent material that might otherwise be lost. Through the editorial process, the ideas of young scholars can be made available to those from other institutions who may be interested in their work. *Past Imperfect's* third goal is to provide a benchmark by which students can measure their own work and to foster a sense of community among history students throughout Canada.

During the past year *Past Imperfect* has made considerable progress. *America: History and Life* and *Historical Abstracts* have agreed to abstract articles published here. Several Canadian libraries have also subscribed to the journal. These two developments make the articles published here more widely available and bring deserved attention to the contributors. In the past year we have received several submissions from outside the University of Alberta History Department. Two have been published in this issue — the articles by Laurie Meijer Drees and Steven Scott. We hope to see an increase in the numbers of submissions from students across the country for future issues. The past year also saw a broadening of *Past Imperfect's* subscription base, an encouraging sign for the journal's financial future and an indication of the increased numbers of people reading the publication.

Past Imperfect has reached an important milestone. This issue marks the end of the involvement of the last of the original editors. As originally conceived, *Past Imperfect* is put together by an editor and an associate editor, each appointed for two years. The positions overlap, as one year's associate editor becomes the following year's

editor. *Past Imperfect* was founded by the first editors, Bob Hesketh and Christopher Hackett, with the able assistance of the University of Alberta History Department and a group of people too large to mention. (The full list of supporters can be found in last year's editorial note). This issue was edited by Christopher Hackett and Philip Massolin and, as soon as it is printed, Christopher Hackett will retire from the journal and Ted Binnema will become the new associate editor, and Philip, the new editor. It is gratifying that the journal functions as it was originally planned, and that it has developed a character of its own, one apart from those who conceived it. All of us who have participated in the project look forward to reading the journal for many years to come.

Taken as a whole, the present issue reflects our commitment to presenting a wide range of historical topics, both geographically and temporally. It also marks the publishing of three historiographical papers over the first two issues. It is important to note that *Past Imperfect* has a commitment to publishing historiographical work as well as strict research papers. Indeed, we require that all papers at least minimally develop a sense of the literature in their research area in order that non-experts be apprised of the contribution of the paper. It is also our belief that young scholars can bring fresh insights into historiographic debates in any given literature, despite the fact that they are only in the initial, exploratory phase of their chosen areas. There is no need to wait until the end of a career to provide intriguing ideas and perspectives.

The editors wish to thank Robin Adkins and Karen Andersen, the women in our lives who have provided both the support to which we have become accustomed as well as insights and patience. We would also like to thank Mike Hawkins for his help in typesetting, Bob Hesketh for extensive editorial assistance, and Mark Levene for technical support. Thanks must also go to Eric Gormley and Brian Huebner for selling subscriptions. The members of our editorial and management boards, Professors Doug Owsram, David Moss, and David Johnson, gave far more of their time than could reasonably be expected. Other faculty members, particularly David Hall, Burton Smith, Philip Lawson, David Marples, Ulrich Trumpener, and Olive Dickason also deserve public thanks. As usual we wish to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the anonymous referees who helped us with all of our submissions. Special thanks is due the support staff of the History Department, Louise Jenkins, Linda Bridges, and Sheryl Iverson, for their patience and ongoing support.