

Editors' Note

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It has been a year of slow but steady growth for *Past Imperfect*. As in the past, the 1994 issue of *Past Imperfect* provides a forum for the research and interpretations of student scholars. While providing such a forum, it serves as an outlet for papers that may otherwise not have been available to a general readership. *Past Imperfect* encourages students to participate in the formal exchange of ideas so important to scholarly dialogue. We hope it also provides insight into developing trends in historical scholarship. If *Past Imperfect* continues to encourage cross-fertilization of interpretations among historians and historians-in-training, then it will have achieved a valuable objective.

Past Imperfect also remains a nonspecialized journal. It publishes articles on a wide variety of historical topics. We have also encouraged students from departments other than history to contribute to the journal. Indeed, *Past Imperfect* continues to promote historical scholarship of an interdisciplinary nature.

The editors have also been gratified by small signs that the journal is finding its niche. Most articles that have appeared in the journal are derived from seminar papers. Within the past several months, however, several students have submitted papers based on research completed for MA and PhD theses. One of these papers is published in the present issue. Several more are likely to appear next year.

The editors can also report that they have begun to make contacts with other organizations and events of interest to students. Just as these organizations might benefit from the opportunity to advertise in *Past Imperfect*, we hope that *Past Imperfect* might profit by becoming a valuable source of information to graduate students. We trust that student-run organizations will appreciate our advertising rates!

The present editors of *Past Imperfect* have learned, as previous editors did, that the task of editing a journal is enormous. Without the help of others we could not have succeeded. The University of Alberta's Fund for Learned Journals doubled our grant this year. The University's

monetary support shows its commitment to this student endeavour. The Department of History and Classics has been similarly generous not only by providing funding for the editors, but also by providing moral support, bolstering the enthusiasm of editors bogged down by the mundane chores of producing a journal. Professors David C. Johnson, David Moss, and Doug Owsram, *Past Imperfect's* editorial board, also deserve thanks. The past editors, Chris Hackett and Bob Hesketh have not forgotten the journal. They provided valuable advice and assistance at critical moments. The interest and support of the graduate student body at the Department of History and Classics especially through its History Graduate Students' Association must also be recognized. This year we also have received kind words of encouragement from faculty and students from across Canada. The growing interest in *Past Imperfect* convinces us that this young journal is making headway despite restraint and cutbacks in post-secondary education. In the History office Louise Jenkins, Linda Bridges, Sheryl Iverson, Tracey Curry, and Elli Fries have provided the support services that have ensured that all the ink associated with *Past Imperfect* has been black. Michael Hawkins has provided important technical expertise. Finally, we wish to acknowledge the constant support of our loved ones, Karen Andersen, and Helena and Derek Binnema.

Our greatest debt remains to those whose support is essential. The editors have found the interactions with contributors and referees to be the most consistently exhilarating parts of the job. We wish to thank all of our contributors, including those whose papers we declined to publish. We hope that our referees' critiques have been helpful. Our authors have accepted criticism and advice, both from our referees and from us, very graciously. We also wish to thank all our referees, from across North America, who have been very supportive of our efforts, and sympathetic with our contributors.

Clearly, we have incurred many debts. We hope the product before you warrants the time, money, and expertise expended on our behalf.