Editor's Note

Per Anders Rudling

It is a pleasure to introduce this issue of *Past Imperfect*, the graduate student journal of the Department of History and Classics for the centennial year of the University of Alberta. The present volume reflects the diversity of the graduate research conducted at our department, but also contains the work of graduate students at other Canadian universities.

The very title of the journal, *Past Imperfect*, is a play on a grammatical term, but also a reminder that our understanding of the past can neither be perfect, nor complete. The ongoing process of historical inquiry requires that each generation develop fresh insights, while building on prior knowledge. The ambition of *Past Imperfect* is to become a forum of such an endeavor, to encourage young, emerging historians to publish and share their work with a wider academic and professional audience.

Volume 13 of *Past Imperfect* contains a variety of articles on a number of diverse topics within the fields of History and Classics. The present volume spans a time frame of over two millennia, and the continents of Asia, Europe, and North America. It covers intellectual, diplomatic, classical, native, immigration and women's history.

Tanya Henderson, a former editor of *Past Imperfect*, revisits the topic of the social role of bath houses in the Roman Empire. Nina Paulovicova re-addresses the role of anti-Semitism in the economist John Maynard Keynes' writing. Reviewing the Polish language immigrant press in Canada, Michal Mlynarz builds a case that the rise of the Solidarity movement and the introduction of martial law in Poland made Polish-Canadians mobilize their forces in a moment

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of action that became a catalyst for political and social activism that had an impact reaching far outside their community. In his study of British – German diplomatic relations at the turn of the last century, Adam Lajeuenesse re-evaluates how the consequences of amateurish diplomacy on a high level between some of the major European powers had an adverse impact on the attempts to construct a German-British alliance during the decades prior to World War I. Jennifer Curtis focuses on how the early women's movement in Britain worked for empowerment of women through dress reform, challenging many Victorian ideals of womanhood. Sean Atkin's concluding article of this volume of *Past Imperfect* sheds new light on the encounters of Russian settlers and the native Alaskan population in the 19th century.

Since the publication of its first volume in 1992, *Past Imperfect* has established itself as a venue for new work by young historians and classicists not only from Western Canada, but from across the country. Turning *Past Imperfect* into an internet-based journal last year has made it more accessible to a larger audience. It is our ambition that this will provide insight to the lively and challenging intellectual environment that is the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. In this spirit, we encourage the readers' to consider *Past Imperfect* as a vehicle for their future publications.