

Editor's Note

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As we prepare this fourteenth volume of *Past Imperfect*, the journal of the History and Classics Graduate Student's Association of the University of Alberta, the U of A continues to celebrate its centennial year of 2008. Reflecting the excellence of this institution's first hundred years, as well as its international reputation for outstanding scholarship, it is with great pride that we publish this collection of essays, which we believe reflects some of the best work of graduate students not only at the University of Alberta, but also at other institutions throughout Canada. Two major themes on display in this volume of *Past Imperfect* reflect our institution's centenary. Two articles presented here investigate histories of academic institutions in western Canada, and two others engage with ideas and practices of historical commemoration. Interestingly, the time period covered by this year's collection of essays is much narrower than in previous issues. I would like to suggest that this is somewhat justified by our centennial celebrations, for each article published here focuses on historical events that took place during the last one hundred years, within the lifetime of the University of Alberta.

Fitting with this centenary theme we begin this year's volume with David Borys' look at the University of Alberta's contributions to World War I. Following that with a historical study of another prestigious western Canadian university, Julia Smith examines the establishment and history of the Women's Studies Program at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British

Columbia, arguing that in spite of important gains made there, women's voices continue to be marginalized from mainstream academia. Frances Reilly, a graduate student in our home department, contributes an insightful analysis of the civil defense preparedness practices performed by the City of Calgary in the mid-1950s. Next, Clare Whittingham examines the unconventional commemorative practice of collecting and displaying Trench Art from World War I, and its relation to more standardized memorial practices such as those practiced by the Imperial War Museum in Britain. Daniel Macfarlane then reexamines the role that the 1961 Coyne Affair played in altering the relationship between the Bank of Canada and the Canadian federal government, and in contributing to the political demise of the government of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Our closing article this year, by Craig A. Smith, analyses the role that the symbolic mythology surrounding Taiwan's 1947 "228 Incident" plays in modern Taiwanese political discourse.

The Classics focus of our department is better represented in this year's collection of insightful book reviews. A glance at our list of books received will reveal that *Past Imperfect* has many more recent Classics monographs available for review. This year we have also arranged to expand our collection of review copies of current scholarship into titles focused on more recent history, a change we look forward to with some excitement. We hope that in the next hundred years our journal will continue to grow and support the best work of young scholars during these crucial and formative years of their academic careers.