

Atlantic Association of Historians/ Association Atlantique d'Historiens

The members of the History Department of the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown were hosts to the 1971 Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Association of Historians on the weekend of November 19-21. Their hospitality sustained the informal atmosphere which has become a feature of these meetings. More than fifty historians took part. Unfortunately, the conflict with Thanksgiving in the United States made it impossible for the University of Maine contingent to attend, but attendance from the Maritimes was unusually high.

There were three morning workshops designed to give specialists an opportunity to become aware of each other's work and to suggest ways in which the Association can encourage a high level of historical scholarship. The workshops reviewed research and publication currently underway in the Atlantic region in (i) Atlantic Provinces history, (ii) Canadian and American history and (iii) British, European and Overseas history. In the afternoon there were three workshops on undergraduate teaching, dealing respectively with (i) introductory courses, (ii) honours and majors programmes and (iii) core and inter-disciplinary programmes.

A panel on Maritime Union chaired by Professor Francis Bolger of the University of Prince Edward Island generated much wit, and also revealed a deep division of opinion on the question. Professor W. S. MacNutt of the University of New Brunswick vigorously supported the idea of Union. Professor Léon Theriault of the Université de Moncton emphasized the desire of the Acadians to sustain their sense of identity; there would need to be guarantees for Acadians in an act of union. Professor Peter Waite of Dalhousie could see no potential benefits in union.

Plans were made at the meeting for the publication of a newsletter which will be edited by Professor William Spray of St. Thomas University. The Association also accepted the offer of St. Francis Xavier, Antigonish, to be host to the 1972 annual meeting and named Professor Herman Wittgens of that University to be next year's programme chairman.

Persons interested in becoming members of the Association may write to the Secretary, Professor Brian Tennyson, Xavier Junior College, Sydney, Nova Scotia. Other officers of the Association are Professor Judith Fingard, Dalhousie University, Treasurer and Professor Murray Young, University of New Brunswick, Chairman.

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Designed by Katherine Berry Brown, A.O.C.A., Fredericton, N. B.

Printed by Keystone Printing & Lithographing Ltd., Saint John, N. B.

