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With Us!

Upcoming Events
& Publications

The Society is pleased to present the following schedule for its publications, which may be subject to change as projects unfold during the coming years:

- *Champlain and The Champlain Society: An Early Expedition into Documentary Publishing.* Occasional Paper No. 3. By Conrad Heidenreich. October 2006.
- *The Writings of David Thompson.* Edited by William E. Moreau. 3 volumes, with volume 1 scheduled for 2007.
- *The Works of Samuel de Champlain, 2nd Edition.* Edited by Conrad Heidenreich and Janet Ritch. 6 volumes, with volume 1 scheduled for 2008.
- *The Letters and Diaries of Harry Cassidy and Beatrice Pearce: The Courtship Years.* Edited by Keith Walden. 2009.
- *The Voyages of Pierre-Esprit Radisson.* Edited by Germaine Warkentin. 2010.
- *The Moravians in Labrador.* Edited by Linda Sabathy-Judd. 2011.

For more than one hundred years, **The Champlain Society** has increased public awareness of and access to Canada's rich documentary heritage. Our goals are

- to publish Canadian documentary materials edited and produced to the highest standards both for members of the Society and for the public at large;
- to assist the Canadian public to a better understanding of the nation's past through occasional public lectures, seminars, colloquia, conferences and the publication of occasional papers;
- to serve as an advocate on the proper care of and accessibility to Canada's historical records; and
- to increase participation in the work of the Society by enlarging and broadening the membership.



The Champlain Society
www.champlainsociety.ca

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The Newsletter of The Champlain Society



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COMING SOON TO YOUR MAILBOX

The Letters of Adam Hope, 1834-1845. Edited by Dr. Adam Crerar, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Thomas Crerar.

Expected from the printer in late December, the volume for 2006 is based on a large collection of letters written in Upper Canada by Adam Hope (1813-1882), to his father, Robert, a tenant farmer in Scotland.

After a five-year apprenticeship in Leith, Hope set out for North America in 1834 to start his

own business. He served as book-keeper for Young & Weir in Hamilton, and then opened a general store in St. Thomas with a partner in the summer of 1837. Hope moved to London in 1845 to establish a hardware, dry goods, and grocery store in a new partnership.

Hope was a keen and thoughtful observer with an eye for detail. His letters chronicle his journey from a single, contracted book-keeper with liberal sympathies to a married, bourgeois businessman

who felt that prosperity was best served by political stability and practicable change. These letters describe Upper Canada at a time of rebellion and political union. They also touch on the transatlantic political, economic, religious, and cultural worlds of which Hope was a part. Readers will be interested in his views of Upper Canadian politics, social structures, religious behaviour, business, agriculture, and communications.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2007 VOLUME

The Meaning of Life: The Scientific and Social Experiences of Everitt and Robert Murray, 1930-1964. Edited by Dr. Donald H. Avery, University of Western Ontario, and Mark Eaton.

This volume will shed light on a neglected aspect of Canadian history – the activities of medical and scientific communities during the 20th century – through the exceptional correspondence of two of Canada's most distinguished microbiologists, Everitt Murray (1890-1964), formerly of McGill University, and his son Robert Murray, Professor Emeritus of the University of Western Ontario. Their careers span over 80

years in the study of bacteriology (microbiology) and immunology.

The correspondence brings insight into Canada's political and social history during a revolutionary period of scientific discovery. Everitt Murray had the onerous responsibility of directing Canada's biological warfare program, a commitment that continued during the early Cold War. The letters discuss important debates that occurred at Western Ontario and McGill, and broader trends affecting Canadian universities during the post-war years. The letters also chronicle the Murrays' international connections. Everitt was born and raised in Johannesburg among a

family influential in the medical and economic development of South Africa, and there were strong links to British medical research as both men were introduced to their disciplines at Cambridge University, where Everitt was a faculty member prior to joining McGill.

After 1930, Montréal and their cottage in the Laurentians became the focus of the family's activities. The letters provide many fascinating glimpses of the social world of Montréal's Anglo-scientific and intellectual communities, details of camping and fishing excursions, and the naturalist writings of Freda Murray.

AN INTERVIEW WITH CONRAD HEIDENREICH

Conrad Heidenreich has been a member of The Champlain Society since 1961, but you might say that he was born into it. His great grandfather was Sir Edmund Walker, the founder and key animator of the Society during its formative years, and his mother played a critical role as Secretary to the Society for many years. Dr. Heidenreich chose not to follow Sir Edmund into banking but instead dedicated his life to historical geography, earning an international reputation as one of the best in his craft. Champlain Society Vice-President Patrice Dutil interviewed him on his last publication, a history of the Society's formative years.

Patrice Dutil: *What prompted the foundation of the Champlain Society (CS)?*

Conrad Heidenreich: It was founded by Sir Edmund Walker and some of his acquaintances after they heard a lecture by Professor Charles Colby in 1905 at the Canadian Club in Toronto. Colby was lamenting the fact that Canada's history could not be properly written because its documentary record was mainly unpublished and sequestered in inaccessible archives. They believed that only an educated citizenry with a good knowledge of the history and geography of Canada could make enlightened decisions about the political and economic development

of their country. The basic function of the Champlain Society was therefore to publish important documents relating to Canada that could serve to write a more informed history.

Patrice: *What kind of people were the founders of the society? What were their ambitions?*

Conrad: They were business men and academics who were given a great deal of public support from federal and provincial politicians. What they all had in common was a deep interest in Canada's history and a belief in the country's future greatness. They were patriots who were building a country and who looked to the past in order to develop a positive identity for Canada that would guide its future.

Patrice: *Why did these people pick Champlain as a patron?*

Conrad: In the opinion of the founders of the CS, Samuel de Champlain laid the foundations of Canada and foresaw its future greatness. They saw him as a precursor and champion of what they were trying to accomplish. He also produced the earliest, most comprehensive writings and the first well surveyed maps of Canada. (Because the CS was founded to publish important documents relating to Canada it was logical to start with Champlain's writings and maps.) It is worth remembering that the founders of the CS also followed the lead of the venerable Hakluyt Society, named after Richard



Conrad Heidenreich at the Champlain Monument in Cobden, Ontario, 2005

Hakluyt who compiled and printed (1589; 1598-1600) the first major compilation of documents relating to English overseas expansion.

Patrice: *Tell us about your relationship with Sir Edmund Walker.*

Conrad: My mother, Cynthia Walker, was a daughter of Sir Edmund and Lady Walker's eldest son, Dr. Edmund Murton Walker, professor of entomology at the University of Toronto, Department of Zoology, from 1906 to 1948. Mother was fourteen in 1924 when Sir Edmund died. She remembered him as a busy and somewhat distant, but kindly grandfather, who always sent her a personal handwritten note on her birthday. A number of Sir Edmund's 34 great-grandsons (62 great-grandchildren), me included, were given Edmund as one of their names. After spending several years reading some of Sir Edmund's voluminous correspondence, diaries and speeches I think I am only beginning to get an understanding of this complex person. I found that there are many aspects of his life and

thought about which his living descendants know nothing. We hope that a comprehensive biography of him will be written some day.

Patrice: *What was the high point, do you think, of these first 100 years?*

Conrad: High points? Here are three: the founding of the CS in 1905-06 amid a great deal of patriotic idealism; the publication in 1957 of our first of sixteen Ontario Series volumes through the enthusiastic support of Premier Leslie Frost and the Ontario Conservative Government; and finally the 1970s when the CS voted to open membership to all who applied and quickly reached a high of 1200 members.

Patrice: *Where there any low points?*

Conrad: I don't think there is a single low point. What comes to mind is the cancellation in 1939 of the inexpensive edition of Champlain's Works intended for sale to the public; the termination in 1948 of the agreement with the Hudson's Bay Co. to publish the Bay's records is another, as was the cancellation in 1998 by the last Ontario Conservative

Government of the grant that supported the Ontario Series. These "low points" are however overshadowed by the gradual erosion of the membership from 1200 in the late 1970s to a current one slightly under 700.

Patrice: *If Sir Edmund were with us today, what do you think would be his advice?*

Conrad: He was an innovative thinker with strong convictions; it is therefore difficult to extrapolate from what he did in the early 20th century to the present with such a different Canadian cultural milieu. Faced with the decline in the Society's membership I think he would say that we have to publish material that is of major importance to an understanding of the present Canada, and that we have to focus more on public education. I think he would tell us to look for someone like himself to rejuvenate us; not an academic, but an established, dynamic, innovative business executive with good social and political connections.



MEET ROGER HALL, OUR GENERAL EDITOR

Roger Hall is Associate Professor of History at the University of Western Ontario. He is a specialist in the history of Ontario and past editor of *Ontario History*, the journal of the Ontario Historical Society. He has written and edited several books, the latest being the 2002 volume in The Champlain Society's General

Series, "*The Rising Country*": *The Hale Amherst Correspondence, 1799-1825*. He received his Ph.D from Cambridge University. Dr. Hall was appointed General Editor of The Champlain Society in 2002.