

News From Across Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Representatives of the Jewish community were on hand at the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre, July 7, 1978, to greet the Hon. Grace McCarthy, Deputy Premier, Provincial Secretary, and Minister of Travel Industry, when she presented a grant of \$3500.00 from the Province of British Columbia to the Jewish Historical Society of B.C., towards the publication of *Pioneers, Pedlars, and Prayer Shawls*, a pictorial history of the Jewish community in British Columbia and the Yukon, to be published this fall.

Participating in the presentation were Dr. Harvey Gerber, vice-chairman, Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region; Cyril Leonoff, author, and archivist of the Jewish Historical Society; Julius Shore, vice-president, Jewish Historical Society; Irvine Epstein, vice-chairman, Congress, Pacific Region; Ray McCarthy; Mrs. McCarthy; Morris Saltzman, executive-director, Congress, Pacific Region; Marilyn Gaerber, president, Jewish Community Centre; Lou Zimmerman, Canadian Zionist Federation.

Allan Klenman, incoming president of the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia, has announced the formation of a Victoria chapter to carry out a number of historical projects in that city which was the birthplace of the Jewish community in Western Canada.

The 1978-79 executive to date are:

Allan Klenman — President
Myer Freedman — Past-President
Julius Shore — Vice-President
Al Hersh — Vice-President
Tzipi Mann — Secretary
Cyril Leonoff — Treasurer
Phyllis Sapers — Assistant Executive-Secretary

WESTERN CANADA

The Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada has been chronicling and presenting the Jewish experience of the area for the past ten years.

Founded in May, 1968, under the auspices of the Archives and Research Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Western Division, its formation was inspired by the 1967 Canadian Centennial exhibit: "Ninety Years of Jewish Life in Western Canada." This event was co-sponsored by the Archives Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, Western Region and the YMHA Centre.

Several years of intensive planning followed, culminating in the first major project of the Society, the exhibit, "Journey Into Our Heritage I" in co-operation with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. On display from October 1972 to March 1973, it was funded by a multi-cultural grant from the Secretary of State and the Museum of Man and Nature. Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of this endeavor was the warm response of the community, both in providing materials and in viewing the exhibit many times with much enthusiasm.

In recognition of this unprecedented community effort, the Society was the recipient of the coveted William J. Shroder Award in 1973. This award is presented annually by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds in recognition of superior initiative and achievement in the advancement of a Jewish community project in the United States and Canada.

In May 1977, "Journey Into Our Heritage II," a much more sophisticated exhibit in concept, content and design completed its seven-city, sixteen-month tour of Western Canada. It was viewed by over 200,000 people, and by all accounts, fulfilled our most cherished hopes. Supported by the National Museums of Canada and by private subscription, it helped the local Jewish historical societies in each region attain greater experience and prominence, and it certainly brought credit to the whole Jewish community.

In September 1979, Lester and Orpen, in co-operation with the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada, will publish a major book on the exhibit, which will be compiled and edited by Harry Gutkin.

To date, the Society has sponsored over 50 public lectures at which scholarly papers were presented on some phase of Jewish life. We have issued publications, and have produced a number of audio-visual and film programs presently in wide use, such as "An Hour of Lifetimes" and "It Must Be Told." The latter offers 30 minutes of interviews of unusual drama and power with three survivors of the holocaust. The Society recently presented a print of this film to the State of Israel for inclusion in Yad Vashem. Currently in circulation in the United States and Canada

are four prints of “Journey Into Our Heritage” a half hour film based on the first exhibit, and there are three new audio-visual presentations featured in the second exhibit: “Farmers in Prayer Shawls,” “Religion Without Fear;” and “Political Figures and Ideological Movements.”