

## **Shalom Uvracha to Dr. Jonathan Plaut**

This issue of the *Journal* is in itself a significant historical event. Our Founding Editor, Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Plaut is leaving Canada to become the Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in San Jose in California. In congratulating him for this important translation from Windsor, Ontario, we are deeply aware of what this means to us in the Canadian Jewish community. Simply put, it means that we have lost him, and that the Canadian Jewish Historical Society has lost him. We will miss him and the *Journal* will miss him. Jonathan Plaut has given the *Journal* its character, its excellence, its viability and its virility. In the esoteric area of Jewish journals, there are many births and almost as many deaths, but very few survivors. Our *Journal* is not only a survivor, but a steady developer.

Starting from scratch in April 1977 as Volume 1, Number 1, with high hopes and a small circulation, we are now at Volume 8, Number 2 in the fall of 1984, and all 16 issues have appeared under the name of Dr. Jonathan V. Plaut, Editor. In the course of these 8 years, the *Journal* has improved its high academic level, has increased its circulation, and has increasingly been sought after as an authentic mirror of Jewish life in Canada in the 230 years of our presence.

So what can we say to Jonathan Plaut. "Thank you" is hardly enough. We ask him to allow us to keep his name permanently on issues of the *Journal* as Founding Editor, and we wish him SHALOM UVRACHA. We wish for him a life of Peace, and a life which is Blessed, and we hope that these elements will always surround him.

## **Shalom Uvracha to Dr. Stephen Speisman**

Dr. Stephen Speisman has been the Contributing Editor of this *Journal* since the beginning, and he has now agreed to become the Editor. By losing the word "Contributing" he has acquired many challenges, and we are reminded of the words of Winston Churchill from other circumstances, and we can say to Dr. Speisman "This is not the end, nor the beginning of the end, just the end of the beginning".

The *Journal* is now in the hands of one of the leading Canadian historians, one who has amply demonstrated his devotion both to Canadian Jewish history, and to this *Journal*. We welcome Stephen Speisman to his new responsibilities with the same Hebrew words SHALOM UVRACHA, but in addition to the meaning we chose for Dr. Plaut, sending the message of "Welcome" as the meaning for Shalom, while having in mind for "Bracha" that he will bless us with his ability and devotion.

Victor Sefton, President  
Canadian Jewish Historical Society  
October 1984

## Editor's Note

Over the past eight years, since its founding in April, 1977, I have been very pleased to be the Editor of this exciting and informative record of Canadian Jewish history. Our list of subscribers has grown over the years and includes libraries and institutions throughout the world.

I am very proud of the many authors who have contributed their excellent articles and the patrons and sponsors who have supported the *Journal* from its infancy to the present time. I am indebted to Dr. Stephen Speisman, Leila Panzer, Victor Sefton and Elaine Cohen for their assistance and devotion to the development of the *Journal*. Together, we have seen the *Journal* become a permanent and respected extension of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society. The *Journal* is indebted to the Oscar Yolles Foundation for the very generous contributions the Foundation makes each year, which have enabled us to maintain the high quality of this publication.

Dr. Stephen Speisman becomes the Editor of the next *Journal*. I wish him a warm welcome and know that under his leadership, the *Journal* will continue to flourish.

Jonathan V. Plaut  
Editor