

## EDITORIAL

Canadian Jewish history is a field no longer in its infancy. One might say that it has reached the stage of adolescence, with all of its attendant difficulties. Although serious scholarship in the area is no longer as sparse as it once was and academic institutions are coming to recognize it as a legitimate subject of research, Canada still has considerable distance to come before a steady flow of acceptable scholarship can be expected.

Like all adolescents, Canadian Jewish history struggles with identity crises, branching out first into one direction and then into another, subject to fads, peer pressure and anxiety about the future. It is sometimes idealistic and sometimes cynical. Nevertheless, it moves inexorably toward maturity, and progress over the past decade has been substantial.

This publication, under the dedicated and capable editorship of Dr. Jonathan Plaut, has contributed to that process in no small measure. The *Journal*, during the formative years of his tenure, developed into what it was founded to be: a vehicle for the dissemination of studies in Canadian Jewish history, appealing to the scholar and to the general reader alike.

Our editorial policy will not be substantially different. It is our hope to provide an opportunity for the publication of work by the trained historian and the gifted amateur, by the established scholar and by the novice seeking to publish for the first time. We will be selective in our choices, but we will not insist that each article be the definitive work. We see the *Journal* as a laboratory, where new ideas can be presented for the consideration of an interested public, respecting the effort as well as the finished product.

Our emphasis will continue to be history, for that, after all, is our *raison d'être*; but we will not ignore the work of scholars trained in other disciplines, who bring their special perspectives to bear upon historical studies. We will document with impartiality the triumphs and failures of Canadian Jewry, its struggles and its achievements, those events which generate pride and those which some would perhaps like to see forgotten, but which the historian is in duty bound to record.

Rabbi Plaut is the proverbial “tough act to follow” but we trust that our efforts will do justice to his pioneering work.

One final word: No publication can survive without contributors. Therefore, we encourage scholars in relevant fields to offer their articles to us for consideration and we urge our readers to be our ambassadors.

S.A.S.