

## **Acadiensis: The First Decade**

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## ACADIENSIS: THE FIRST DECADE

This issue marks the end of the first decade of publication of the revived *Acadiensis*. During that decade the journal has grown in size and, we hope, in stature. We have nearly tripled our original subscription list and have recently begun to sell copies directly to the public. In the near future we will produce our first cumulative index. We have also initiated a new series of "Sources in the History of Atlantic Canada" with the publication of Clifford Rose's *Four Years with the Demon Rum*, edited by E.R. Forbes and A.A. MacKenzie (Fredericton, Acadiensis Press, 1980). Later this year we plan to publish S.A. Saunders' *Economic History of the Maritimes* and we would welcome suggestions for future contributions to the series. In 1974, 1976 and 1978 *Acadiensis* sponsored the first three Atlantic Canada Studies Conferences and in 1980 assisted in sponsoring a fourth Conference which was organized by Professor Judith Fingard and hosted by Dalhousie University. The 1978 Conference was held jointly with the Western Canadian Studies Conference; a number of the papers delivered then, including several that have already appeared in *Acadiensis*, are soon to be published by the University of Toronto Press in *Eastern and Western Perspectives: Papers from the 1978 Joint Atlantic Canada/Western Canadian Studies Conference*. During 1980 we also established a prize in honour of the late David Alexander, a member of the history department at Memorial University of Newfoundland and a frequent contributor to this journal. The prize will be awarded for an undergraduate essay on the history of the Atlantic Provinces and the first competition will take place in 1982.

Ten years ago we declared that *Acadiensis* had been revived to encourage scholarship in an area badly neglected and only infrequently dealt with in established journals. That remains our primary objective. Much has been accomplished and a start has been made in the recovery of the rich historical heritage of the Atlantic region, but as many of the articles in this issue of *Acadiensis* reveal, there is a great deal that has yet to be done.

This issue is our first special issue. In 1975 the death of Andrew Hill Clark robbed the Atlantic region of one of its most productive and influential scholars. Although he was born in Manitoba, Clark's roots were in the Maritimes and he published extensively on the historical geography of Maritime Canada. A pioneer in the field, he laid the foundations upon which contemporary historical geographers continue to build and this special issue is dedicated to his memory. This issue is special in another respect. Professor Graeme Wynn of the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia not only contributed to it; he also acted as co-editor. Indeed, Professor Wynn suggested the idea of a special issue on historical geography, solicited a series of papers on broad interpretative themes of interest to both historians and geographers, pre-edited

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the papers before they were sent to external readers for assessment, and was involved in every stage of the editorial process. The issue as a whole is largely his creation.

The past decade has seen an increasing overlap in the work of historians and historical geographers interested in the Atlantic region. Inevitably, geographers and historians begin with different perspectives on the past and will continue to produce studies which differ in emphasis. Yet they address many of the same interpretative themes and each may benefit from the insights of the other. A good deal of valuable interdisciplinary work is already underway in historical geography and prospects for the future are exciting. If this issue helps to stimulate further interaction between historians and geographers, it will have served its function and provide a fitting tribute to Andrew Hill Clark.

P.A. BUCKNER