

HSTC Bulletin

Journal of the History of Canadian Science, Technology and Medicine
Revue d'histoire des sciences, des techniques et de la médecine au Canada

hstc
bulletin

Queen's University. Volume I 1841-1917. Hilda Neatby. Ed. F.W. Gibson and R. Graham, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1979.

Donald J.C. Philipson

Volume 5, numéro 1 (17), janvier 1981

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/800098ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/800098ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

HSTC Publications

ISSN

0228-0086 (imprimé)

1918-7742 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Philipson, D. J. (1981). Compte rendu de [*Queen's University. Volume I 1841-1917.* Hilda Neatby. Ed. F.W. Gibson and R. Graham, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1979.] *HSTC Bulletin*, 5(1), 54–55.
<https://doi.org/10.7202/800098ar>

Peter J. Bowler
Queen's University, Belfast

Queen's University. Volume I 1841-1917. Hilda Neatby. Ed. F. W. Gibson and R. Graham. Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1979.

The main interest of Volume I for readers of the *Bulletin* is in the 19th century embryonic schools of philosophy and science at Queen's, under the leadership of such men as James Watson and Nathan Dupuis. It is unfortunate for historians of science that the book ends at just the period when scientific research, rather than undergraduate teaching, was beginning. But it provides a valuable account of how religious denominations influenced educational foundations.

Queen's was founded as Ontario's college for Presbyterians; King's College served Anglicans and Victoria Methodists. Its medical school was founded in 1855 when dissenters enrolled at Toronto were denied their MD degrees by Trinity College, Bishop Strachan's Anglican riposte to the secular

University Act of 1849.

From 1868 the Ontario government subsidized universities, but only non-denominational colleges, so the Queen's medical school remained formally separate until 1892. In 1886 the government endowed a School of Practical Science at the University of Toronto. Queen's hoped to get the same subsidy but was able to found its own, in 1893, only under an Act enabling schools of mining. The School of Mining and Agriculture was nominally separate from Presbyterian Queen's until 1916, when it became the Faculty of Applied Science. The sciences proper, however, never left the Arts Faculty.

Dr Neatby does not discuss scientific research. But it is noteworthy that, in the whole of the 19th century, only two staff members (Lawson 1858-63 and Goodwin 1883-1919) had any modern research training. Research at Queen's seems to have begun with A. P. Knight's appointment to the Fisheries Research Board (Biological Board of Canada) in 1898, i.e. outside university auspices.

The foundation of the National Research Council in 1916 (and a quarrel between Queen's and the NRC, leading G. Y. Chown, the university registrar, to endow Queen's first research chair in 1917, in physics) was to change all this. But readers will have to wait for the second volume of this work to deal with the arrival of modern science, and perhaps modern philosophy, too, at Queen's University.

Donald J. C. Philipson
Carlsbad Springs, Ontario