

Editors' Note

To paraphrase a Biblical phrase, the sins of the forbears will be visited on the children. In this case, the sins amount to decades of governmental deficits, and the payback comes in the form of decreased government operating grants to universities and other post-secondary institutions. As universities assess their financial position, many are engaging in selective cuts, and the by-words in assessing performance are "excellence" or "world class." This rhetoric filters down to graduate students in the form of decreased financial assistance as well as in an active culling of student ranks themselves in order to ease out the less-than-excellent. The definitions of excellence appear to vary and are subject to peer review. *Past Imperfect* is evidence that students are meeting the pressures not only of society but also of their scholarly peers.

Chris Frazer has used published material, archival sources, and oral history to present a fascinating picture of the cat-and-mouse game that the RCMP played with Canadian communists before and during the Second World War. By careful use of his sources, Frazer shows us that Canada's internal anti-Communist policies during the war were applied haphazardly and often were negated by the exigencies of the war itself.

Robynne Rogers Healey shows how health-related concerns dominated the meanings of motherhood for both plantation mistresses and their female slaves in antebellum Low Country South Carolina. By using both planters' diaries and secondary sources, Rogers Healey skilfully reconstructs a world in which motherhood was dominated by harsh climatic conditions, and maternal and childhood illnesses, and even death.

Philip Massolin, a former editor of *Past Imperfect*, places the thought of Harold Innis, Marshall McLuhan, and George

Grant into its historical context to reveal how these three scholars reacted to a shared experience in developing their ideas on the impact of technology on society. Massolin has provided us with intellectual history in which the history is as meaningful as the ideas themselves.

Rauncie Murdoch-Kinnaird, like Chris Frazer, has used published material, archival sources, and oral history to dispel the myth that the Union of Saskatchewan Indians was created by and remained a captive interest group of the CCF government of Saskatchewan. Those individuals and groups which came together to form the Union of Saskatchewan Indians were perfectly aware of the government's agenda; however, they were also sophisticated enough to use government support while keeping their own independence.

Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, by going over documents long in the public domain, has broadened the definition of slave women's "resistance" in the American South. Myers's careful analysis of these documents gives us a picture of meaningful resistance on the part of slave women to slavery.

Once again, *Past Imperfect* has attracted a variety of articles from students at various universities and the editors are gratified to see authors who represent three universities in two provinces. We would like to thank both the authors and referees with whom we worked. In all cases, the referees gave detailed critiques and the authors took these in stride and better and stronger papers were the result. For the editors, even though the work is time consuming, it has been a labour of love. Thanks also to the many others who have made this publication possible; it is impossible to name them all. But in particular, thanks are due to the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of History and Classics; the survival of the journal continues to depend on their cooperation and financial support.