

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am pleased to present the 2005 edition of *Past Imperfect*. I am so proud to have worked on a journal which provides graduate students with an opportunity to publish their work and reach an audience outside of their classrooms and universities. I believe that publications such as *Past Imperfect* are extremely beneficial to the growth and development of graduate students and will assist them in the difficult world they seek to enter. I have been honoured to be involved in such an important project and I thank you for supporting this publication.

This edition of *Past Imperfect* includes articles on a wide variety of historical topics and covers a number of geographical and temporal periods. It clearly illustrates the diversity of work being undertaken by graduate students. The opening article by Christopher Gainor, "Alberta's Resources Negotiations and Banff and Jasper National Parks," examines one aspect of Canadian history in the early 20th Century. It argues that the decisions made about national parks during the negotiations between the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada over natural resources had an impact on the Canadian nation as a whole and continue to reverberate today. The second article, "Ikeda Daisaku Compared to Cho Yonggi: Insights into Post-War Japanese and Korean History" by Brian Gold, moves us across the world and forward in time. This article examines the role of so-called 'New Religions' in both Japan and Korea in the years following World War II and argues that the treatment of religious leaders can tell us a great deal about the differences between the two nations. For the next article, "A History of Neglect: Negotiating the Role of Safety in the Manhattan Project, 1939-1945," we move to the United States and examine the development of nuclear weapons during World War II. In this paper Katherine Zwicker argues that secrecy and speed were the primary concerns of those involved in the Manhattan project and, as a result, safety was often ignored and compromised. We then make our largest geographical and temporal jump in the fourth essay, "The Disposal of Human Waste: A Comparison Between Ancient Rome and Medieval London" by Craig Taylor. This article examines the methods used by two cities to address the problems caused by human waste and argues that for both cities concerns over odour and appearance were more important than issues relating to public health. Our final essay, "Text as Discourse: The Chinese in Canada in Historiographical Perspective" by Samantha Scott, brings us full circle back to Canada and takes us to the present day. This paper examines the development of historical writings on the Chinese in Canada since the 1970s and argues that historians have moved from a consensus/top-down/passive perspective to a specialist/bottom-up/active perspective. All together, these articles illustrate the broad spectrum of work being undertaken by today's graduate students.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Timothy Harfield, the winner of the first annual *Past Imperfect* History and Classics Graduate Students'

Association Conference Essay Competition. His paper, "Alterity and the (im)possibility of Ethical Oral History," was chosen as the most outstanding paper presented at the 2005 History and Classics Graduate Students' Association Conference, "Present(ing) the Past: Power, Knowledge, and the Practice of History and Classics."

A journal such as *Past Imperfect* cannot be successful without the hard work and dedication of a number of people. I am grateful for the enormous contributions of the Assistant Editor, Tanya Henderson, the Book Review Editor, Tonya Lambert, and the previous editors, John Barwick and Matthew Eisler. As well, the assistance of the Department of History and Classics office staff – Louise Jenkins, Linda Bridges, Lydia Dugbazah, and Dietlind Berchtold – has been invaluable and is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank the *Past Imperfect* editorial board members, Dr. Margriet Haagsma, Dr. David Johnson, Dr. Jane Samson, Dr. Guy Thompson, and Dr. Sinh Vinh, who have helped guide and support both the journal and myself personally.