

## EDITORIAL

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Allan Smith “retired” at the beginning of July after twelve years as editor of *BC Studies*. Under his guidance the journal expanded, attracting many more submissions and becoming an indispensable forum for interpretations of a changing British Columbia. All of us who seek to understand this curious province owe Allan Smith a warm vote of thanks.

We, his editorial successors, have found a full larder. Plans were well advanced — in most cases articles are in hand — for issues through the summer of 1996. Therefore, the double spring-summer issue and the fall issue did not bear our editorial imprint. We have meddled considerably in this one, as we will in the first two issues of 1996, but “our” first issue probably will not appear until the fall of 1996. There is time, therefore, to discuss our editorial plans, and to invite submissions.

Essentially, we want the journal to be more argumentative, and more explicitly caught up with the current cultural, economic, and political life of the province. We would like to see it do so in ways that engage issues and literature that transcend the boundaries of British Columbia. We want a journal that is idea-based, accessible to a range of readers, and in touch with the real ground of British Columbia. Perhaps half the material published in *BC Studies* should be contemporary in focus. It should be lively, and rewarding for readers who know little about British Columbia as well as for those who do. If articles treat very local subjects, as many will, they should do so with a sense of larger issues.

For the time being, at least, we will probably not produce many special issues, and will try to ensure that the topics covered are fairly diverse. We want most readers to find something of interest in most issues. We want to reduce the lag time between acceptance and publication to a year, at most. Good pieces that are particularly topical will be published very quickly.

We would like to encourage more short submissions, something like the 1,500-2,000 word “articles” (plus figures and notes) that appear in *Science*. At the other extreme, we are prepared to give much of an issue to a single article if we judge it important and interesting enough. Authors should understand that the more space they ask of the journal, the more intensely their submissions will be scrutinized. Authors who are uncertain about the suitability of their work for *BC Studies* should be in touch with us; we are more than prepared to provide editorial assistance to inexperienced authors.

We do not consider that everything in *BC Studies* needs to be in a standard academic format. We will be happy, for example, to publish good poems with obvious British Columbian content, or a few photographs, maps, or drawings, together with brief commentaries on them. The drawings by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun in this issue are an example. There will be others. We have asked Patrick Lane, poet, to choose a selection of poems (including two of his own) for publication in 1996; Joan Schwartz, director of the photo collection in the National Archives, to select several photos from the collection and provide commentaries on them; and Robert C. Harris, engineer, map historian, and trail walker, to give us a selection of early maps.

We think that *BC Studies* should attract more readers. Currently it has about 700 subscribers. But our booming, fractious province is a large, fascinating corner of the world, which *BC Studies*, more than any other journal, is in a position to interpret. The journal cannot offer disinterested scientific analysis — heaven help us — but it can be a home for reflection and analysis of a measured, knowledgeable type that is too rarely available anywhere else.

*The Editors*