

EDITORIAL

I take up the role of *BC Studies* editor with a measure of both pride and anxiety. Since its inception more than thirty years ago *BC Studies* has grown under the guiding hand of an exceptional group of editors into a major forum for the presentation and interpretation of knowledge about British Columbia. In the last few years Jean Barman and Cole Harris have taken the journal in new directions that have gained it national and international recognition as one of Canada's most important scholarly publications. Filling their shoes will not be an easy task. All of us who seek to understand this complex province owe them a hearty vote of thanks.

Over the years several ideas have emerged as the guiding principles of *BC Studies*, principles that I fully endorse. *BC Studies* is, first, a scholarly journal that seeks to understand human experience in British Columbia from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. An interdisciplinary focus is not only a defining characteristic of *BC Studies* but, I think, an important stimulus to creative thinking about the region as well. While "scholarly," *BC Studies* aspires to present ideas and information that can be read and appreciated across disciplinary boundaries, and by non-specialists. In addition, having a regional focus does not mean being parochial, and *BC Studies* enjoys a well-established reputation for work informed by theoretical insights and comparative analysis. However, as Jean Barman and Cole Harris observed in the last issue, regional journals must "write from the local out into the world," and *BC Studies* should never lose sight of the importance of place. Above all, a good journal should present serious work in a lively and accessible manner. I promise to do my best to maintain the reputation of *BC Studies* as a journal that subscribers from a variety of constituencies will want to read.

Scholarly enquiry about British Columbia is flourishing as never before and offers exciting possibilities for *BC Studies*. Our next issue, which I will edit with Jean Barman, will focus on Aboriginal Art, and special issues are contemplated on theatre in British Columbia, domestic space in British Columbia, and BC studies on the environment. A forum based on the concluding chapter of Cole Harris's recently published book, *Making Native Space*, which explores the possibility of a "postcolonial land policy" for British Columbia, is also being organized. I am especially pleased to announce the inception of a prize, to be given every second year, for the best article published in *BC Studies*. To be called the Margaret Prang and Walter Young Prize in BC Studies, it will honour the journal's two founders. I have asked my three predecessors, Jean Barman, Cole Harris, and Allan Smith, to serve on a new committee of past editors that will have as its mandate the task of choosing the prize winner. They have kindly agreed to do so.

BC Studies is a healthy journal, a fact that owes much to the skilled management of Carlyn Craig, who, I am delighted to say, has agreed to continue to serve as its managing editor. The journal has a respectable list of subscribers, but the number could be higher. More subscribers and a continued flow of excellent manuscripts account for two additional goals that I hope to achieve as editor. I look forward to working with the many authors, reviewers, manuscript readers, and subscribers upon whose assistance and support the success of the journal depends.

Robert A.J. McDonald