

2010 Annual Report from the ACMLA Second Vice-President

The Second Vice-President of the ACMLA is responsible for publication activities of the association.

The following committees and officers report to the Second Vice-President. Reports of their activities, where available, are also posted on the association's web-site.

Historical Maps Committee - Dan Duda (chair)
Web Committee - Colleen Beard (chair)
Webmaster – Siobhan Hanratty [2009 report is covered by the web committee]
ACMLA Bulletin Editor - Cathy Moulder
Publications Officer - Natalie LeBlond

Summary:

The most noteworthy activities with respect to association publications over the past year have been changes to the ACMLA web site, and a reduction of excess inventory of old printed issues of the Bulletin. Current and upcoming matters are an increased cost of mailing the Bulletin, a desire to add and improve French language content for the association's web page, and results of a pilot project for scanning past issues of the Bulletin (and potentially of other association documents) to maintain them digitally.

Activities:

In the late fall of 2009, the ACMLA's web-site successfully migrated to a new registered domain name, www.acmla.org, with Canadian Web Hosting. By and large, it appears that many have updated their bookmarks accordingly. There has also been considerable reorganization and enhancement of the site, with many thanks to members of the web committee (Colleen Beard, Trudy Bodak, Siobhan Hanratty, Sue McKee) and others. Watch for a demonstration about it at this year's conference. E-mail forwarding from the web-site to executive members has been instituted using a corporate e-mail address for simplicity and security (for example: president@acmla.org). In the coming year, it is hoped that there will be members who step forward to help with translation to French.

At the beginning of last year, the ACMLA had over one hundred and fifty boxes containing surplus copies of old editions of the Bulletin in storage at Library & Archives Canada. Thanks to Natalie LeBlond and her colleagues who dealt with them, most of this excess has been recycled. A few extra copies from recent years have been kept on hand for claims requests. One copy of each edition of the older issues was sent to Dan Duda and his staff for a Bulletin digitization pilot project (more on this below). Two other backup copies were maintained, by the President and by the Publication Officer.

There are two main items to report regarding the Bulletin. The Fall 2009/Spring 2010 issue of the Bulletin was combined into one volume and, perhaps more importantly, shipping costs for future Bulletins are expected to rise. Copies of the Bulletin had previously been shipped at no charge via IUTS/PEBUQUILL, but this will no longer be available starting with the Spring 2010 issue. With sixty-three subscriptions currently being affected, this will add approximately \$175 (\$2.75 per copy) to Bulletin shipping costs in order to now have them sent by Canada Post. The ACMLA extended a "Thank you" to Anne Pottier and staff at McMaster Library for years for support in allowing us to ship

the ACMLA Bulletin through IUTS.

In 2009, the executive started looking into long-term digital preservation of the Bulletin through a pilot project spearheaded by Dan Duda at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The project's goal is to check how feasible it will be to digitize years of back issues of the Bulletin so they could be available as online downloadable PDF files, and ideally to link them in a searchable index. Hopefully, a demonstration of some of the initial digitized material will be forthcoming at the association's conference in June 2010 and useful discussion will follow about access to, and maintenance and preservation of these records. At the moment, the focus is on back issues.

I would especially like to thank Cathy Moulder (ACMLA Bulletin Editor), Natalie LeBlond (ACMLA Publications Officer) and Siobhan Hanratty (Webmaster) for their tireless efforts and enthusiasm for the publication activities of our association.

Best wishes for a successful conference in Guelph in June. I will be on maternity leave by then and hope to see you all at the conference next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Wenonah van Heyst
Second Vice-President (Publications)
June 2010