

Editorial Note 33/2013

Welcome to Volume 33 (2013) of the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale* – the journal of the Canadian Oral History Association (COHA). Last year was another productive year for *Forum*. It was also the first year that our journal was completely open access.

We were happy to see the publication of two special issues in 2012: Initiated and editorially stewarded by Kristina Llewellyn, “Making Educational Oral Histories in the 21st Century” was guest edited by Nicholas Ng-A-Fook, Sharon Anne Cook, and Marie Ainsworth (University of Ottawa). The issue featured an excellent introduction and eleven superb articles on educational experiences and practices in Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel, and the United States, as well articles on the use of oral history as a teaching method. This special issue expands the pedagogical possibilities of oral history for university researchers, community organizers, public historians, educators, and students. The interdisciplinary collection of articles explores: ethno-religious identities and public memories in the history of schooling, the value of witnessing history to democracy, empathy, and community in education, and the transformation of testimony into performance, young adult fiction/non-fiction, and English language learning. Thanks to the hard work of the guest editors and contributors, this multimedia issue will be an educational resource for years to come.

Initiated and editorially stewarded by Alexander Freund, “Oral History in Latin America/Historia Oral en América Latina,” was the *Forum*'s first bilingual/trilingual (English, Spanish, Portuguese) special issue/edición especial. It was guest edited by Pablo Pozzi, Alexander Freund, Gerardo Necochea, and Robson Laverdi. The ten articles and two book reviews explore everyday lives, life stories, and memory throughout Latin America. They investigate narratives of Mexican entrepreneurs in the Mexican-American borderlands, folk narratives and cultural memory in Argentinean and Mexican working-class cultures, and the interconnections of sexuality, class, race, and political activism in Brazil. Other articles explore the recent history of dictatorships, military coup d'états, political violence, torture, kidnappings, and other forms of state violence as well as the transitions to democratic structures in Argentina and Brazil. We hope that this special issue will be used widely, especially by oral historians who do not have direct access to the Spanish and Portuguese language literature of Latin America.

Our regular issue included Alexander von Plato's excellent survey of oral history developments in Eastern and Central Europe, which he originally delivered to the meeting of the International Oral History Association in Prague in 2010. Four book reviews rounded out the 2012 volume.

We hope that both the regular issue and the special issues will encourage more oral historians from around the world to publish in the *Oral History Forum d'histoire orale*. With Patrice Milewski as one of our co-editors, we can also accommodate French-language manuscripts.

We are starting the new volume with an excellent article by Tamara Fleming. She explores how Canadian politicians drew on global collective memories of the Second World War and the Holocaust as well as national narratives of Canada's military past and its role as a United Nations peacekeeper to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on 11 September 2001.

Our readers, we hope, will also be delighted to hear that we started into 2013 with yet another special issue: "Working Lives: Special Issue on Oral History and Working-Class History" was guest edited by Joan Sangster (Trent University) and Janis Thiessen (University of Winnipeg). Joan Sangster introduces this issue with an illuminating and insightful essay on the long entanglement of oral history and working-class history. Like the other special issues, this special issue continues *Forum's* focus on high-quality, peer reviewed articles that cover the globe. The authors they have gathered discuss case studies from Canada, Greece, Mexico, and the United States. Three book reviews round out this special issue.

More special issues are in the works. If you have ideas for a special issue or would like to guest edit a special issue, please contact one of us and we will guide you along in the process.

We wish to thank Janis Thiessen for her excellent work in her new role as book reviews editor and for her continued excellent work as the Canadian Oral History Association's secretary-treasurer. She has been instrumental in getting our members online and subscribed to *Forum*. We also thank Kathy Killoh, Sergiy Kozakov, and their colleagues at Athabasca University Press for a splendid working relationship and continuing support of our journal.

Membership

We encourage you to continue your membership in the Canadian Historical Association. There are many good reasons for supporting COHA through membership fees:

- COHA and *Forum* need members and subscribers for our application to SSHRC for journal funding.
- While funding allows us to make *Forum* open access, a solid base of membership fees allows us to develop both COHA and *Forum*, for example by sponsoring national meetings or the translation of oral history articles.

- If COHA wants to participate in public discussions about the role of oral history in Canadian society, this can only be accomplished with a strong membership behind us.
- Oral history is a social movement to democratize history. Large organizations in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States as well as a strong international associations (IOHA) demonstrate this as much as the rapidly growing organizations in the Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, and many other countries around the world. Canadians can best be part of this movement if we have a strong association, build networks, and connect more systematically to global oral history networks.

All of this requires not only funds (coming in part from membership fees), but also active participation. Please contact us at forum@uwinnipeg.ca if you would like to get involved in COHA.

Please renew your membership so that we may continue to develop the *Forum* into an energetic journal dedicated to the advancement of oral history in Canada and abroad. All correspondence regarding membership, including the payment of membership fees, will continue to be handled by Janis Thiessen, the treasurer-secretary of the Canadian Oral History Association. For more information, visit <http://www.canoha.ca/membership>.

New to *Forum*?

If you are new to the journal, here is how it works: “The journal is published on an ongoing basis: a new volume is opened on 1 January of each year and closed on 31 December. We publish articles as soon as they have passed all editorial stages. The advantage for authors is a shorter turn-around time than print journals can offer. For readers, the advantage is that they do not have to wait for the publication of a complete issue but rather can read, listen to or watch contributions as they become available. The main reason for transforming *Forum* into an electronic journal was, however, to take advantage of the new media, which are particularly suitable to oral history.”

“If you are thinking about submitting a contribution to *Forum*, please note that we publish a great variety of contributions. Next to academic articles that go through a double-blind peer review, we publish short think, discussion, and opinion pieces; works of art emerging from oral history (visual art, play scripts, poetry, fiction, etc.); annotated transcripts; and transcripts in the form of testimonies. If you have an oral history contribution that does not seem to fit any of our sections, please let us know. We cannot promise it, but you should not be surprised if we created a section just for your work!”

“If you would like to find out how to become a member of the Canadian Oral History Association and thus a subscriber to *Forum*, please email Janis at ja.thiessen@uwinnipeg.ca. Our rates are fairly low: Institutional (Cdn\$ 30.00); Individual (Cdn\$ 20.00); Student (Cdn\$ 15.00)” (quoted in: Alexander Freund et al., “Editorial Note 29/2009,” *Oral History Forum d’histoire orale* 29/2009: 1-2, 1).

For further information, visit the Canadian Oral History Association online at <http://www.canoha.ca>

If you did not view this editorial on our journal website, please visit it at <http://www.oralhistoryforum.ca>

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