A Word from the President

A happy, peaceful, and rewarding New Year to you all!

As you will already know, 2005 was something of a chequered year for the ICCS. On the credit side, it was marked by two very successful events. In February, a lunch was held at the Rideau Club to honour Jean Pigott, past chair of the Friends of the Council, and to welcome Victor Rabinovitch as the new chair. A highlight of the occasion was the address by the guest speaker, Andrew Cohen, the author of *While Canada Slept*. And in May, we held our biennial conference, this time in partnership with the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. Whilst due modesty precludes us from too much trumpeting, this was by any standards a thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable conference, one that – to echo the hopes Zilá Bernd expressed this time last year – ‘helped us to celebrate our ideals’. This was the first time that we used a call for papers and the outstanding success of this strategy means that we will certainly use it again in the future. A selection of the papers given is currently being edited by Zilá and Pierre Anctil for future publication.

In other respects, unhappily, 2005 proved to be something of a nightmare for the ICCS and, when I took over the responsibilities of the Presidency in May, I was left wondering what I had let myself in for. In fact, what I and the other members of the Executive Committee had to contend with was a financial crisis exacerbated by the regrettable failure to retain the Canadian and International Scholarship Program contract, serious criticism of the Secretariat’s recent performance, and the resignation of the Executive Director, Catherine Bastedo-Boileau who, in the light of that criticism, considered her position to be untenable. The grave financial situation led immediately to a shedding of several members of staff and to the need to move to new premises during the summer. A major reform, prompted by a perceived need to foster a sense of teamwork and collaboration as much as by financial restraints, was the introduction of a ‘twin’ directorship of Guy Leclair and Cristina Frias. I am happy to report that, thanks to the sterling efforts and the zest and enthusiasm of all concerned, the much reduced Secretariat is working well and with renewed efficiency. Morale amongst the staff is high. I am also happy to report that Gaëtan Vallières is once again back with us on a part-time basis and that under his careful guidance and the watchful eye of our Treasurer, Joseph Glass, the Council’s finances are being sorted out and brought under control. My own feeling – shared, I know, by my colleagues on the Executive Committee and in the Secretariat - that the way ahead lies in enhanced collaboration and cooperation, was reinforced by Mr. James Lambert, the new Director General of the Public Diplomacy Bureau, when I met with him in London in October. Mr. Lambert made it clear that, despite the changes that have taken place within Foreign Affairs Canada, and despite the financial reductions that led to the temporary suspension of some components of the Canadian Studie Program, the future of the ICCS is secure. However, he insisted that it must be *efficient, accountable and open*. To ensure that that is the case and that the ICCS can thus continue to prosper and grow must now be my primary objective.

The new Strategic Plan has now been finalised and, despite the reshaping of the ICCS, is still considered to be in most respects suitable and feasible. However, given that the ICCS is now in a period of (re)consolidation, it will be the blueprint for our activities for just three years, rather than five.

The ICCS has a new Secretary: Martin Howard of University College, Cork in Ireland. Martin, who is a linguist specialising in francophone Canada, has already proved his worth during the difficult summer months. Our heartfelt thanks go to his predecessor, Esther Mitjans, for all her commitment and loyalty during her term of office. And, although we have not lost Zilá completely (for she continues on the Executive Committee as Past-President) this is an appropriate place to thank her for a Presidency notable for its initiatives, its grace and elegance, and its irresistible *joie de vivre*. This coming year will see the election of a new President-Elect – how time flies! – and applicants (who should definitely be able to see the funny side of things!) are currently being sought. Finally, we must put on record our thanks to Catherine Bastedo-Boileau whose resignation, I know, saddened all those who appreciated her many personal and professional qualities.

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Israel Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Israel Association for Canadian Studies marked its 20th anniversary (1985-2005) on Friday, January 6, 2006 at a special event held at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Over 200 participants enjoyed a special program which included greetings by Museum Director, James S. Snyder, and Canadian Ambassador Donald Sinclair. The event included a tour of the Museum and a keynote address by Charles Bronfman, renowned Canadian businessman and philanthropist, who was made the first Honorary Member of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies. Daniel Ben-Natan, President of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies, proudly announced that, with the help of a matching grant from Foreign Affairs Canada, the Israel Association will award an average of five graduate fellowships per year for the next ten years, thus ensuring the future of Canadian Studies in Israel.

ACSUS Conference

The ACSUS 18th biennial conference took place November 16-20, 2005 at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference, one of the largest gatherings in the world of leading scholars and practitioners focused on Canada and Canada-U.S. relations, featured 90 panels and roundtables, with 350 presenters.

Highlights included an opening reception sponsored by the Southern Association for Canadian Studies and the Canadian Consulates General of Atlanta, Dallas and Miami, featuring Mayor Francis Slay of St. Louis; a Government of Canada plenary lunch featuring The Right Honorable Frank McKenna, Canada’s Ambassador to the United States; a Government of Quebec plenary reception featuring Benoît Pelletier, Québec Minister of Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs; a screening of Quebec film C.R.A.Z.Y. by director Jean-Marc Vallée, winner of the 2005 Toronto International Film Festival’s Best Canadian Feature Film and Canada’s nominee for the Best Foreign Film at the 78th edition of the Academy Awards; a reception celebrating Alberta and Saskatchewan’s centennial with Murray Smith, Minister-Councilor Alberta, Alberta Office, Washington D.C.; a panel with representatives from Alberta and Manitoba discussing different views on the Kyoto Protocol.

During the ACSUS 2005 biennial conference the Western Canadian Studies Association held its organizational meeting. The new association will include Canadianists from the western states not already served by a regional organization: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The group elected Carol Beran of St. Mary’s College as President for a three-year term, and Alan Artibise, Arizona State University, as Membership Chair/Treasurer for a two-year term. Yitan Li, University of Southern California, and Patrick Coleman, University of California Los Angeles, were elected to the Council.

ABECAN conference

Brazil/Canada: Visions, Landscapes and Perspectives from the Arctic to the Antarctic was the theme of the 8th biennial international conference of the Associação Brasileira de Estudos Canadenses (ABECAN) held November 9-12 in the picturesque city of Grama, state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Prof. Núbia Hanciau, President of ABECAN and host of event, prepared a magnificent welcome to the 405 participants, which included 67 international guest speakers from Canada, United States, Latin America and Europe. The opening ceremony, which featured a speech by Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski outlining the importance of Canadian Studies in Brazil in the broader context of Canadian foreign policy, included the Mayor of Gramado, Prof. Zilá Bernd, the Past-President of ICICS, and the Rector of the Fundação Universidade do Rio Grande, which hosts the present headquarters of ABECAN.

Over 200 papers were presented, including papers by poet Patricia Keeney (York University); aboriginal writer Lee Maracle (University of Toronto); Lise Gravel, Chef du Pupitre Brésil/Ministère des Relations internationales/Québec; Victor Rabinovitch, President and CEO of the Canadian Museum of Civilization; and Helen Rodney from FAC headquarters.

A Word from the President (continued)

2006 is a notable year for the ICICS in that we will celebrate, as the distinctive poster unveiled at last May’s conference puts it, ‘25 years of service to Canadianists around the world/25 ans au service des Canadianistes partout dans le monde’. Commemorative events to take place in Ottawa about the time of this year’s AGM are currently being organised and an illustrated book to mark the anniversary will be published. As we reach this milestone in the history of the ICCS, we think of all those who, from its earliest beginnings up to the present, have lent themselves to its enterprise and we look forward to pursuing, with vigour and enthusiasm, the task of promoting the study of the country that unites us all.

Christopher Rolfe
President
The ICCS is pleased to announce that two important Canadian Studies databases are available on the ICCS web site. Both databases have been done at the initiative of Foreign Affairs Canada and highlight the vigor of Canadian Studies internationally.

The Database of Canadianists is available at http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/pages/8-otherpubs/d_directory.html with a convenient link from the ICCS front page. It provides selected information on over 6,000 individual Canadianists from around the world, searchable by Name, Country, and Research Interest. Also on the ICCS web site in its “Bibliography” section is the Database of Foreign Canadiana, which contains over 8,000 titles of books, serials and theses produced outside Canada and dealing in whole or in part with Canada. Many of the titles included in this bibliographical database can be found in the permanent collection of Library and Archives Canada (LAC) as part of an ongoing collaborative project between FAC, LAC and the ICCS to identify and collect the scholarly work of the international Canadian Studies community. Both database sites include PDF questionnaires for additions or corrections to the databases, and updates are posted regularly.

Canadian Studies Milestones Celebrated in Ottawa

In 2006 two important Canadian Studies milestones will be celebrated in Ottawa. The year marks the 30th anniversary of Canadian Studies at Foreign Affairs Canada and the 25th anniversary of the founding of the International Council for Canadian Studies.

Canadian government support for the international study of Canada began in 1975-76 when it began to contribute financially to the Canadian Studies Centre at the University of Edinburgh. Speaking at the time, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan MacEachen, called the initiative a key element in a plan recently approved by Cabinet “to expand and diversify Canada’s cultural relations with other countries”. The main objectives were: to expand the “influential community already informed about and favourably disposed toward Canada”; to raise awareness of Canadian realities overseas; to foster productive exchanges between Canadian and foreign universities; and thereby to improve Canada’s bilateral relations.

To celebrate 30 years of Canadian Studies at Foreign Affairs Canada, the International Education and Youth Division asked an independent committee to select about thirty of the most notable books in Canadian Studies from around the world. These titles can be viewed at http://www.cdnstudies.ca/e_resources/e_bibliographyEn.html.

The ICCS, established in 1981 by nine associations for Canadian Studies and now numbering 21 member associations and 5 associate members, is proud to be a partner with FAC, and remains committed to its initial mandate to promote the study and teaching of Canada in all disciplines and in all countries.

Organizational Changes at FAC

Foreign Affairs has made some organizational changes. Under the direction of James M. Lambert, the new Public Diplomacy Bureau (PCD), formerly the International Cultural Relations Bureau (ACD), will be responsible for three divisions including the International Education and Youth Division (PCE), formerly the International Academic Relations Division (ACE).

The International Education and Youth Division (PCE) will manage academic relations, including scholarships and Canadian Studies, and youth exchange programs in support of Public diplomacy strategic objectives. Christopher Greenshields is the Director of PCE, replacing Alan Bowker who retired in August 2005.

Canada from the Outside In

The ICCS Biennial Conference, ‘Canada from the Outside In’ organized in conjunction with the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, brought together, from May 25-27, 2005, some 180 Canadianists from thirty countries and five continents. Over sixty papers expressed the multiplicity of viewpoints through which Canada is perceived, imagined and compared. Keynote speakers included past ICCS presidents Jean-Michel Lacroix (Directeur général, Centre National d’enseignement à distance, France) and Xavier Arbos (University of Girona, Spain), novelist Neil Bissoondath, and Alanis Obomsawin, a member of the Abenaki Nation and one of Canada’s most distinguished documentary filmmakers.
Young Scholars Online Forum

Young scholars within the Association for Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries are part of a Young Scholar's Canadian Studies Network, or Nachwuchsforum für Kanada-Studien. With financial assistance from Foreign Affairs Canada, the young Canadianists have established a trilingual (German, English, French) online website and open forum, NAME DER SEITE, for the exchange of ideas and information among young scholars and advanced students in all disciplines in the field of Canadian Studies. It is designed as a platform for the exchange of ideas with other young scholars and to post information about current Canadianist activities and events – both in German-speaking countries and internationally. The goal is to strengthen existing networks between young Canadianist scholars and to give young scholars around the world an opportunity to easily access these networks and to cooperate with others working in similar fields or on similar projects. The web site also features a section on Canada-related research projects in progress. The web site can be found at http://www.nachwuchsforum.net/.

It complements a 2004 initiative of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries, developed by Marburg University Library, and funded by the Canadian Embassy in Berlin. “The Virtual Canadian Reference Library / Database of Online Canadiana,” is an interdisciplinary database, accompanied by a learning module “Virtual Canadian Studies.” The interdisciplinary database, structured into four main modules, provides access to selected online resources on Canada for students, teachers in secondary education, and university professors. It can be accessed at http://www.ub.uni-marburg.de/digibib/canadiana.php while “Virtual Canadian Studies” can be found at http://www.kanada-studien.de/Vrl.htm.

Second International Canadian Studies Conference in Serbia and Montenegro

The Second International Canadian Studies conference organised by the Association for Canadian Studies in Serbia and Montenegro (YACS) took place at the University of Niš, October 21-23, 2005. More than sixty academics including Canadianists from Canada, Belgium, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Niš university students, participated in the Conference Images of Canada: Interiors and Exteriors. Forty one presentations in English and French tackled a variety of Canadian Studies topics including history, literature, drama, Native studies, women’s studies, multiculturalism, federalism, education, and bilingualism. At the opening ceremony, the participants and guests were welcomed by Prof. Gradimir Milovanovic, Rector of the University of Niš, Yvan Jobin, Chargé d’affaires of the Canadian Embassy Belgrade and Prof. Vesna Lopicic, President of YACS. The key-note lecturer was Nancy Burke, a renowned Canadianist, teacher and poet living in Poland.

Cultural events associated with the conference included the staging at the Niš National Theatre with video beam subtitles in English of the play I Forget by Canadian director Michael Devine; an exhibition of paintings of the Canadian artist, Jennifer Garrett; and the launch of the Serbian translation of the three poetry collections by Fraser Sutherland, Nancy Burke and Joe Blades.

BACS 30th Anniversary Conference

Small Nations, Big Neighbors was the theme of the BACS 30th anniversary annual conference, held April 11-14, 2005 at the University of Kent, Canterbury, in conjunction with the New Zealand Studies Association. Among the 110 participants were His Excellency Mel Cappe, High Commissioner for Canada, Suzanne Blumhardt, Deputy High Commissioner for New Zealand, George MacLaren, Agent General for Québec in London and Christopher Rolfe, ICCS President-Elect.

International Acclaim for Quebec Writer Benoît Lacroix

With the patronage of both the Embassy of Canada and the Agence Culturelle du Québec, a most successful international conference on L’Humanisme franco-canadien : un cas, Benoît Lacroix, took place November 14-15, 2005 at the Istituto Universitario Orientale in Naples with the collaboration of the Pontifical University “Angelicum” of Rome. The event was organized by Marina Zito, member of the Italian Association for Canadian Studies who, like Benoît Lacroix, is an expert on the Québécois poet Saint-Denys Garneau. Benoît Lacroix, 82, authored the critical edition of Saint-Denys Garneau, in addition to works on Lionel Groulx and Jacques Brault. A Dominican priest with a charismatic personality, he has a high profile in Québec as medievalist, philosopher, creative writer and broadcaster. The program included lectures by Benoît Lacroix, Pietro Boglioni (Università de Montréal), writer Cécile Cloutier, and scholar and journalist Gisèle Huot, as well as excerpts from the book on Benoît Lacroix by Luc Gouin of Montréal. About 100 people, half of whom were students, attended the conference, and ten graduate students read papers.
Wisdom of Diversity at Expo 2005

The Japanese Association for Canadian Studies hosted a diversity forum “Canada and Japan: Identities and Values Symposium” to mark Multiculturalism Day, June 27th, 2005. The first day of the two-day event was held at Aichi Gakuin University, followed by a day at the Canada Pavilion Manulife VIP Lounge. Leading Canadian thinkers of diverse backgrounds joined Japanese scholars for presentations and a roundtable discussion, as well as a pavilion tour hosted by Norman Moyer, Commissioner General for Canada at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. The Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005 tells the story of Canada’s Wisdom of Diversity through three metaphors, each one drawing upon Canada’s diversity—the Geosphere, the Biosphere and the Ethnosphere.

Tijuana Setting for Conference on Multiculturalism in North America

The Mexican Association of Canadian Studies (AMEC) held a very successful Congress in Tijuana at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, one of Mexico’s leading educational institutions. From March 3 to 4, 2005 over 200 participants, comprising about 100 academics from Canada, Mexico and the United States, outside experts and an additional 100 Canadian and North American studies students from various parts of Mexico, met to discuss “Challenges of Multiculturalism in North America”, along with secondary themes relating to migration, security issues and other challenges facing North America. Canadian Ambassador Gaëtan Lavertu attended the event as part of his trip to Mexico’s north-western border region and delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Canadian Consul General in Los Angeles, Alain Dudoit, also spoke at the AMEC conference on the development of North American higher education initiatives. Other notable Canadian speakers included Rosemarie Kuptana, former president of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Roch Carrier, author and former National Librarian of Canada. Parallel to the academic discussions, the Embassy, in cooperation with the private university “CETYS” in Tijuana, developed a very successful and well-attended joint cultural programme.

Environmental Issues in India

Canadian experience and expertise are valued in India where environmental issues are becoming major concerns. The theme of the Indian Association for Canadian Studies conference, held February 24-26, 2006 at the Centre for Canadian Studies, P.G. College, Osmania University, was “Society, Environment and Technology; Canada and India.” The annual international conference was attended by over 250 eminent writers, critics, environmentalists and technologists from India and abroad, and about 50 scholars from Hyderabad. Keynote speakers included environmentalist and tsunami expert Tad Murthy; sociologist Peter Li; technologist, Said Easa from Canada; Greenhouse expert Jag Maini; and William Dar, Director General Icrisat, India. The environment was also a featured topic at two academic workshops in India. In February 2005 the Department of Sociology at the University of Assam held a four-day workshop “Canadian Studies: Culture, Society and Environment” while the Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of Kerala held an international workshop March 21-23, 2005 on “Environmental Concerns: Canada and India.”

60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, Canada-Cuba, celebrated

The 5th Cuban Conference on Canadian Studies took place at the University of Havana on March 16-18, 2005. The conference, dedicated to the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Cuba, was opened by Canadian Ambassador Alexandra Bugailiskis, Jean Labrie, Head, International Academic Programs, and Gustavo Machín, Director of North American Department, Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations. Scholars from twelve Cuban universities, research centres and NGOs, along with academics from Canada and Mexico presented 37 papers on a wide variety of topics, including international and trade relations, tourism, gender studies, health services, literature and music.

Anniversary Congratulations

Congratulations to the following ICCS member associations celebrating an anniversary year in 2006:

35th
Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS)

30th
Association Française d’Études Canadiennes (AFEC)

15th
Associação Brasileira de Estudos Canadenses (ABECAN)
Asociación Venezolana de Estudios Canadienses (AVEC)
Conferences in the Canadian Studies network

The ICCS keeps detailed and up-to-date information on these and other conferences on its Web site at http://www.iccs-ciec.ca

Indian Association for Canadian Studies (InACS)
XXII Interdisciplinary Conference on Canadian Studies
“Traditions and Transformations: Canada and India”
Madras University, January 27-29, 2006
Chennai, India

Korean Association for Canadian Studies (KACS)
“How to Promote Canadian Studies in Korea”
Annual Spring Symposium, February 7, 2006
Daejeon Metropolitan City, Korea

Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries/ Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien (GKS)
“Kanada in den Amerikas” Annual Conference, February 17-19, 2006
Grainau, Germany

Universidad de La Habana. Cátedra de Estudios sobre Canadá
Havana, Cuba

Seminario Internacional de Estudios Canadienses en Latinoamerica (SEMINECAL)
4th Interuniversity Seminar, Universidad del Rosario
April 6-7, 2006
Bogota, Colombia

Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSA NZ)
Biennial Conference, April 11-13, 2006
Dunedin, New Zealand

British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS)
“Migrations” 31st Annual Conference, New Hall,
University of Cambridge, April 19-21, 2006
Cambridge, U.K.

Association for Canadian Studies in Ireland (ACSI)
“Canada at Home and Abroad” 13th Biennial International Conference,
April 27-29, 2006
Galway, Ireland

Association Français d’Études Canadiennes (AFEC)
“Parcs nationaux et régionaux, grands espaces et nature sauvage au Canada et en France” 30th Anniversary Conference, Centre d’études canadiennes in Angers, June 8-10, 2006
Samure, France

Israel Association for Canadian Studies (ISACS)
Biennial Conference, July 2-6, 2006
Jerusalem, Israel

Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSU S)
“Canada in the North Pacific”, 6th Interdisciplinary colloquium,
September 28-30, 2006
Anchorage, Alaska

Central European Association for Canadian Studies
4th triennial Central European Canadian Studies Conference,
October 27-29, 2006
Debrecen, Hungary

Spanish Association for Canadian Studies / Asociación Española de Estudios Canadienses (AEEC)
“Identities in the Making: Migration and Cultural Change in the 21st Century”, XI Congreso, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Miraflores de la Sierra, November 17-18, 2006
Madrid, Spain

Did You Know...

Diddy R.M. Hitchins, President of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the 2005 New Year’s Honours List for her services as British Honorary Consul for Alaska.

Ingo Kolbloom (University Dresden), Past-President of the AIEQ was awarded an honorary doctorate by Université du Québec à Montréal and on December 7, 2005 received the title “Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Québec” in Québec City.

Jane Koustas (Brock University) has been appointed Craig Dobbin Professor of Canadian Studies at University College, Dublin.

Zilá Bernd, ICCS Past-President, held the “Chaire des Amériques” at the Institut des Amériques of the Université de Rennes 2 (Haute Bretagne), from November 20 to December 20, 2005. She was also honored by ABECAN which instituted the Zilá Bernd Best Thesis and Monograph Award.

Karen L. Gould (Dean of McMicken College of Arts & Sciences, University of Cincinnati), former ICCS President, is the 2005 recipient of the ACSUS Donner Medal in Canadian Studies.

The South African Association for Canadian Studies was established in 2005.

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