

FALL 2020



The Canadian Catholic Historical Association

BULLETIN

Message from Rankin Sherling, President of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association

I am truly honoured to serve as the new president of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association. For close to ninety years, the CCHA has brought together scholars interested in studying, documenting, and preserving the rich story of Catholicism in Canada. Those efforts continue in earnest.



CCHA President 2020-2022, Rankin Sherling

The fact that I am not a Canadian citizen -- although I did receive my Ph.D. at Queen's University in Kingston, where I studied under Donald Harmon Akenson -- highlights the exciting reality that we are an organization that is not only the intellectual home of Canadians who study Catholic history but also of scholars from around the globe interested in the history of Catholicism in Canada. In that light, I would like to highlight the growing strength and broadening intellectual reach of our organization. Devoted to fostering and promoting Catholic history from Victoria to St. John's, we are committed to supporting the preservation of Catholic archival materials. Throughout Canada our members are working to not only preserve invaluable records that would otherwise be lost, but our members have even become involved in the restoration of old buildings, such as The Church of the Good Thief in Kingston, Ontario.

Our respected, peer-reviewed journal, *Historical Studies*, continues to provide a forum for both emerging and veteran scholars to present new research of the highest standard, but our recent decision to (1) include reviews of books on Catholic history that may not be specifically Canadian but are relevant to Canadian Catholicism and (2) to bring in associated editors whose main purpose will be to find and funnel new research and scholars our way are good signs that we are moving, as the Irish love

to say, from "strength to strength."

As we begin an exciting new chapter, I hope that you keep safe in these uncertain times and find a way to continue your research, to continue to write, to publish, and to keep in touch.

Rankin Sherling

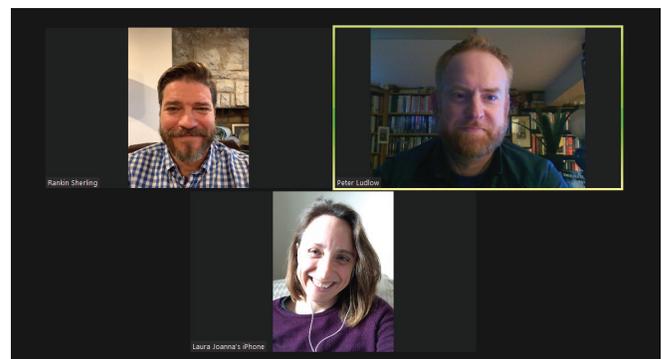
CCHA Annual Conference 2021

After some deliberation by the executive, and consultation with our members, it has been decided that the 2021 conference will be hosted online. It was also decided that the conference will be held independently of Congress. We expect to rejoin Congress once we can safely return to in-person conferencing.

Many thanks to Indre Cuplinskas for her short, but effective stint as Local Area Coordinator for Edmonton!

CCHA Program Committee members, Peter Ludlow, Rankin Sherling, and Laura Smith, are working with Valerie Burke.

The Call for Papers will be on the CCHA website and will be distributed to members by email before the end of the year. Please watch the website for updates about the conference.



2021 Program Committee for our Virtual Congress - Rankin Sherling, Peter Ludlow and Laura Smith

Book Notes

Some Short Book Reviews for our CCHA Members

Despite the current coronavirus pandemic there continues to be a number of worthy publications in the field of church history. I am happy to list three of them, all published in 2020, that have come to my attention. We are also happy to report that the latter two books are by present and former members of the CCHA executive and that there has been much consultation with other prominent members of the CCHA in their production.

Grzegorz Gorny and Janusz Rosikon. *Vatican Secret Archives - Unknown Pages of Church History*. Warsaw: Ignatius Press, 2020. 350pp. Hard Cover.

This book was originally published in Polish and later translated into English.

This is a book that definitely belongs on the coffee table yet it is a quite legitimate book of church history. It begins with a popular but adequate description of the Vatican archives and its many vicissitudes over the centuries. Succeeding chapters detail the archival resources to be found including:

The Crusades, the Trial of the Knights Templar, the Inquisition, the Spanish Conquistadores, the Trial of Galileo, the French Revolution, the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s, and the so-called Silence of Pope Pius XII before the Nazis.

The strongest point of this book is its excellent colour photography of all the prominent figures and documents described in the text. It is a book to be looked at first of all, and only secondly to be read, but the latter cannot be dismissed.

Colin Barr. *Ireland's Empire - The Roman Catholic Church in the English-Speaking World, 1829-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. 556pp. Hard Cover.

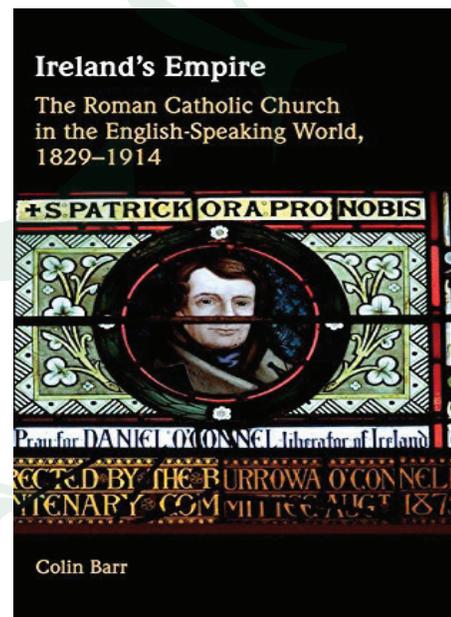
It might be said that Professor Barr is a professor of everywhere in that he has literally travelled everywhere in the English-speaking world to research and write this book. Covering Canada, Newfoundland, the USA, India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, he shows the basic unity of the church in all these countries wedded as they are to a kind of Hiberno Roman Catholicism both religiously and culturally. Priests and prelates were transferred back and forth, among the above-mentioned countries. Explanations are given such as the case of

the Auxiliary Bishop Timothy O'Mahony of Armidale, New South Wales, and later of Toronto.

Most prominent among ecclesiastical wheeler-dealers was the Rev. Paul Cullen, (1803-1878) Archbishop of Armagh from 1850. Archbishop of Dublin in 1853, and a Cardinal in 1867, the first Irish Bishop to be so honoured. With a priestly formation in Rome he was able to interpret Irish affairs to Italians who never really understood the Irish. He also revived the church in Ireland and elsewhere.

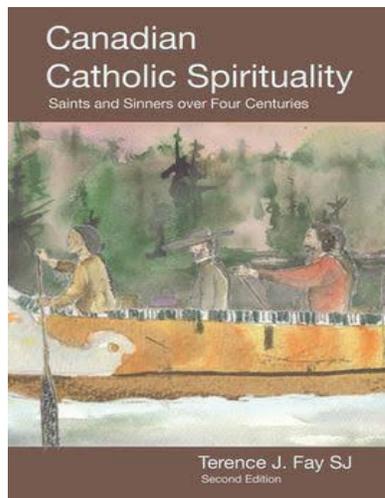
This is certainly a book that will stand the test of time. Filled with a plethora of facts about the 19th century Church it is a must read for those who want to know the background to our Canadian Catholic Church. We were never really alone. Outside foreign influences played a large role in shaping us into what we have become. In more ways than one this is a weighty volume. It will open the minds of many to the full history of the worldwide Hiberno-Roman Catholic Church.

"The Irish made the church and the church kept them Irish. This was Ireland's empire."



Terry J. Fay SJ. *Canadian Catholic Spirituality - Saints and Sinners over Four Centuries*. Victoria: Tell Well Publishers, 2020. 200pp. Soft Cover.

This book is a mixture of Canadian Catholic history and the spirituality that flowed from the events of the former. While it may be read like a history it is more than that. It is a combination of factors that make our Canadian Catholic identity unique to the world.



Beginning with the missions to New France in the 17th century, the British conquest in the 18th, and the huge Irish migration of the 19th century, the book ends with our own post-modern era. One of the book's highlights are the numerous short biographies of religious figures who really left their mark on our Catholic life and culture. From Bishop Ignace Bourget through to Catharine deHueck Doherty and so many others in-between we experience the depth and diversity of our Canadian Catholic church. For anyone who wants to know what Canadian Catholics are talking about amongst themselves, then this is the right book.

Reviewed by
Father Edward Jackman

COAST-TO-COAST FALL 2020



Congratulations to former CCHA president **Peter Meehan**, who has been appointed President and Vice Chancellor of St. Jerome's University in Waterloo Ontario.

In a press release found on the St. Jerome's website at <https://www.sju.ca/news/sju-welcomes-its-8th-president-and-vice-chancellor>, Mary Ellen Cullen, Chair of the St. Jerome's University Board of Governors said: "At the heart of Dr. Meehan's leadership is a commitment to the Catholic intellectual tradition and the liberal arts ... He understands the value that Catholic universities can add to campuses such as Waterloo's. Based on his demonstrated success as a Catholic leader, he will work with our community to realize SJU's mission, support our faculty and staff, and inspire our students on their educational journey." She adds, "his deeply rooted commitment to engage people from diverse backgrounds is a natural fit with St. Jerome's, where all are welcome."

Former CCHA executive member **MC Havey** who recently retired after 25 years as an archivist has volunteered to process the CCHA archives now housed with the Basilian archives in Toronto. The records consist of founding documents, correspondence, reports of presidents, secretaries, and treasurers between 1933 and 2016. About half of the records in the 19 boxes, gathered by **Margaret Sanche** while CCHA president, have been reviewed and undergone archival conservation practices before being placed in acid-free folders. The project was unfortunately interrupted in March as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mark G. McGowan has been active on the virtual lecturing circuit. He spoke at a virtual event hosted by the Knight's of Columbus Museum in New Haven Connecticut in June. His talk was entitled "Bishop Michael Power: Pastor, Peacemaker, and 'Martyr of Charity.'" He also took part in the Famine Heroes events hosted by the Irish Heritage Trust. Mark spoke on the subject of Irish emigration from the Strokestown, Roscommon estate of Denis Mahon to Ontario, and specifically to the Niagara region.

The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) has renamed its ACA Outreach and Advocacy award in honour of the late **Larry Dohey**. The Larry Dohey Outreach and Advocacy award, according to the ACA website, identifies and honours members of the ACA "whose work has raised public awareness of archives and recordkeeping, and to recognize, celebrate, and encourage outstanding examples of advocacy and outreach within the archives and records profession."

CCHA President General **Peter Ludlow** has with **Terrence Murphy** contributed a chapter, "Residing in this distant portion of the great empire": the Irish in Imperial Halifax, Nova Scotia," in *Ireland's Imperial Connections, 1775-1947* published by Palgrave MacMillan.

The Archivists at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Toronto have concluded their Archivist's Pencil Blog. A farewell post can be found at: <http://archives-archtoronto.blogspot.com>.

CCHA Executive members **Mark G. McGowan** and **Laura J. Smith** each have a chapter in the newly edited volume, *Irish Famines Before and After the Great Hunger*, from Cork University Press.

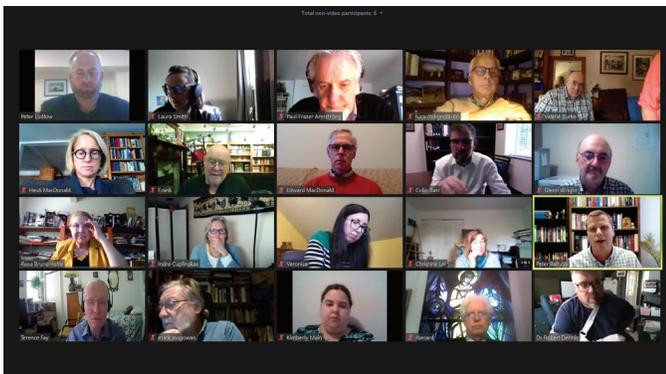
At its AGM in September, the Catholic Archivist Group (CAG) changed its name to the Catholic Archives Group.

CAG also has a completely new executive that includes CCHA Secretary **Veronica Steinburg** who was appointed Chair of CAG. CAG's first virtual conference was also held in September. It was a scaled-down version of the usual in-person conference, but it was a great success. One or two live sessions were held each afternoon over the course of 4 days.

CCHA member **Clara A.B. Joseph** (University of Calgary) recently received an honourable mention at the Catholic Press Associations' 2020 Book Awards for her work: *Christianity in India: The Anti-Colonial turn* (Routledge, 2019).

Annual General Meeting 2020

With Congress cancelled, the 2020 AGM looked a little different. Members from across Canada and beyond met via Zoom for a productive session including the election of a new executive.



Two important awards were presented to very deserving recipients. **Fred McEvoy** was awarded the inaugural *Edward J.R. Jackman Service Award*. The award was created in 2020 by President **Peter Ludlow** to recognize any member of the CCHA who has offered exemplary service to the Association. Fred has served in a number of CCHA positions over the years, most recently as Book review editor of *Historical Studies*. He is a regular attendee at our conferences and events, and has often helped to organize tours at each year. Fred is an invaluable member of and ambassador for the CCHA.



The Frederick Varley painting above entitled *Stormy Weather* was chosen as the symbol for the Edward J.R. Jackman Award for Service to the Canadian Catholic Historical Association because it was this very scene that has meant so much to our Secretary-General of the CCHA. This is the view that Father Jackman had from his family cottage when it was often visited by a few members of the Group of Seven. The view still means so much to Father Jackman as does the CCHA. The inscription on the back reads as follows:

Named in honour of the long-serving
Secretary-General of the Canadian Catholic Historical
Association,

The Edward J R Jackman Service Award
recognizes those individuals who have dedicated themselves
to the CCHA through acts of service and fellowship.

The CCHA is pleased to present the Edward J.R. Jackman
Service Award to the first ever recipient,

Fred McEvoy

Michael Power was presented with the G.E. Clerk Award. The Clerk Medallion is awarded to an individual who has distinguished themselves in one of three categories: research and writing of the history of the Catholic Church, service to the CCHA, or exceptional work in the preservation and promotion of material in Catholic archives. It is very rare that a recipient of the award has demonstrated excellence in all three categories, but Michael Power, has worked with distinction in all of them. His words of thanks from the AGM follow.



“To my Colleagues and Friends in the Canadian Catholic Historical Association:

I am deeply grateful and humbled to have been chosen to receive the G.E. Clerk for 2020. I am now in the excellent company of sixteen previous recipients. This Award means a great deal to me. It is an affirmation of the highest order of my work as a Catholic historian. The smartest move I ever made in my career as a writer and researcher was to join the CCHA, which welcomed and nourished me, published three of my articles and allowed me to participate in its operations at the executive level. I have fond memories of our annual general meetings at different campuses across Canada. The fellowship was always congenial, with plenty of stories and laughter filling the air. The beer was good; the wine was even better.

It is impossible to thank everyone who has been a blessing to me in the great adventure of Canadian Catholic historiography. You are as numerous as the stars in heaven. And among those stars are all the wonderful people at the archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. Time and again, you were a life line. You have my gratitude. I would be remiss, however, if I did not acknowledge by name at least four people who have done so much on my

behalf: Father Jackman, for his kindness and generosity over the years; the late Jack O’Farrell, professor, historian, and friend; Mark McGowan, the gold standard of Catholic historians who taught me a great deal about the history of the Church in Ontario; and Kathleen, my wife. Her wide knowledge and appreciation of the English language, and her gentle editorial suggestions, from one assignment to the next, especially during the early years when I was in the sink or swim phase of my writing life, made me the writer I became.

God Bless! May the good work of the CCHA continue.”

Michael Power
Welland, Ontario

IN MEMORIUM Robin Gresko



After a struggle of three weeks with symptoms and complications from COVID-19, Robin Gresko has succumbed to the very devastation that keeps us all apart. I cannot remember a CCHA conference without seeing Robin supporting Jacqueline and indeed supporting the CCHA members in any way that he could. As coordinator for many of the functions around the CCHA conference there were many times that I would have forgotten something and Robin would always offer to pick it up for me. If not being available to the CCHA, he was helping Jacqueline (who was likely helping the CCHA). At last year’s conference in Vancouver, Robin volunteered to drive members during the tour!

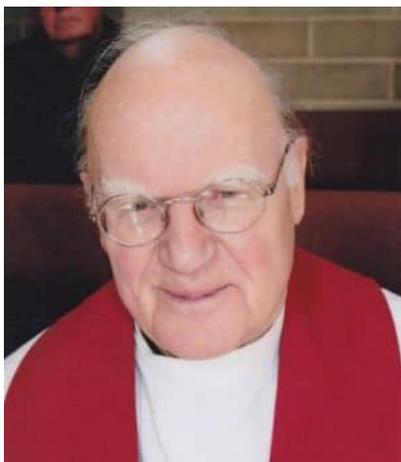
Robin was a retired Science teacher and I recall his funny stories that would continue to make him laugh. He always had a smile on his face. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we are going to miss Robin dearly. We offer full support to Jacqueline in any way possible

as well as our deepest sympathy and dedicated prayers to Jacqueline and her family. We look forward to celebrating Robin's life during our next Mass for the Deceased Members of the CCHA.

Valerie Burke

IN MEMORIUM Reverend Alphonse deValk

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Reverend Alphonse deValk.



He was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands March 27, 1932. After his family had emigrated to Canada, he entered the Basilian novitiate and professed his vows in 1962. Three years later he was ordained to the priesthood. As a member of the Congregation of St. Basil he taught at St. Thomas More College, at the University of Alberta. Rev. deValk was President of the CCHA from 1975-1977. Following two years as Past-President of the CCHA he became editor of the CCHA Historical Studies until 1988 and a regular participant at our annual CCHA meetings. Since 1988 he has worked on various editorial projects including the Interim and Catholic Insight. His obituary was published in The Toronto Star on April 18, 2020.

Rev. deValk remained a member of the CCHA right up until his death. His direction and contributions to the CCHA will always be highly regarded and admired. We thank him for his leadership and his continued support of the CCHA.

The Canadian Catholic Historical Association would like to acknowledge the generous support of the Jackman Foundation and our personal benefactors of 2020.

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