

## Editorial

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: IN VALEDICTION

The decision to establish the *Dalhousie Review* in the heady years following the end of World War I (then still known as the Great War), came shortly after the demise of *The University Magazine*. This had been a joint venture of three universities, Dalhousie, McGill and Toronto. Twenty-six years later the *Review's* editorial board remarked that "it needed strong faith to attempt alone what three universities had grown disheartened in doing" (vol. XXVII, no. 1). With this issue the *Review* completes its seventy-fifth year, a venerable life for a journal anywhere and particularly in Canada.

A lifetime ago, the *Review's* founders, took as their example the quarterly and monthly journals of opinion in other countries, particularly Great Britain. The salutation that appeared in volume I, number 1, in April of 1921, emphasized the critical role that these had played, and promised to perform a similar function in Canada. The editor, H. L. Stewart, proclaimed his intention to position the *Review* somewhere between "technical learned journals, through which experts may exchange views on subjects quite foreign and in language quite unintelligible to the general reader" and magazines "of more literary entertainment, in which questions which demand serious thinking are avoided and whose attractiveness depends upon vivid but superficial chattering about the transient occurrences of the hour" (vol. I, no. 1, p. 3). Of both types he thought, in 1921, there was a sufficient number. When Stewart retired in 1946, just after the *Review's* twenty-fifth anniversary, he wrote, as he bade farewell, that it had been meant "to serve as a medium of exposition, criticism and debate on public problems, as a guide to the most important contemporary literature, and as in special degree a journal of Maritime Province history" (vol. XXVI, no. 4, p. 394). Stewart's faith, "not shared by many of his colleagues at Dalhousie," as his editorial board later remarked, ensured that the *Review* survived.

From the beginning, the editor cast his net wide for contributors and subscribers. One result was that Dalhousie University became known around the world on the strength of the *Review*. Allan Bevan, who later enjoyed a long association with the *Review* as assistant editor, literary editor and eventually editor, liked to tell the story of a Dalhousie professor, on a walking holiday in Europe, encountering a British aristocrat, who said: "Dalhousie University? Isn't that where the *Dalhousie Review* comes from?" Apocryphal though this tale was, the instances are legion of those whose first knowledge of Dalhousie has been through the *Review*.

The *Review's* contributors have often been persons of considerable distinction. They have included, amongst Canadian political figures: Robert Borden, Robert L. Stanfield, Eugene Forsey, Paul Martin, Heath MacQuarrie; and from abroad: R. A. Butler, Count Sforza, Otto Strasser, Edvard Benes. Gaetano Salvemini, the Italian anti-fascist, and Gilbert Murray, the famous classicist, humanist and internationalist, were also among contributors in the '30s and '40s. Canadian scholars who have written for the *Review* have included Harold Innis, Marshall McLuhan, A. R. M. Lower, Malcolm Ross, Desmond Pacey, George Grant, Helen Creighton, Wilder Penfield, George Woodcock, Ernest Macmillan, Northrop Frye, Claude Bissell, Peter Waite, James Eayrs, Linda Hutcheon and Edgar Friedenberg. Other distinguished Canadians whose work we have published include Charles Ritchie, Hugh MacLennan, Mavor Moore, Margaret Atwood and Janice Kulyk-Keefer. We have published Sigrid Undset, Nadine Gordimer and Karlheinz Stockhausen. Among the poets and story-tellers have been D. C. Scott, Charles G. D. Roberts, Ralph Gustafson, E. J. Pratt, Thomas Raddall, Douglas Lochhead, Miriam Waddington, Alden Nowlan, Earle Birney, George Bowering, John Newlove, as well as Malcolm Lowry, Mikhail Sholokhov, Dannie Abse and Janette Turner Hospital. The present issue represents both the catholicity of taste and interest and the distinction of contributors that have continually characterized the *Review*, as does the entire volume, as can be seen from a glance at the index on p. 474.

As the last issue of the *Review* in its present form, there is a neatness about the fact that this number completes seventy-five years of continuous publication. Tribute is due to the editors who sustained it. Stewart, the founding editor, remained at his post for the first twenty-six

years. He was succeeded, in turn, by Burns Martin (1948-51), C. Fred Fraser (1951-52), W. Graham Allen, assisted by Allan Bevan (1953-57), C. L. Bennet, with M. G. Parks as assistant editor and Bevan as literary editor (1957-72), Allan Bevan, with R. L. Raymond as associate editor (1972-79), and Alan Kennedy, with J. E. Crowley as associate editor (1979-84).

For most of its lifetime, Dalhousie University has stood solidly behind a publication which has carried its name to the far corners of the world, and which has often been the means whereby the University's existence was known. Unfortunately, more recently the central administration of the University decided that it would no longer nourish the *Review*, so that, despite the support of friends and subscribers, of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC), and the acquisition of new funding from the Cultural Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and from CanCopy, the copyright collective, it has proved necessary to bring its present existence to a close. However, it is gratifying to be able to report that the *Review* is to be revived in a new guise, under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie and with closer ties to the Department of English, under the editorship of Dr. Ronald Huebert. I wish him and it well.

It remains for me to thank those whose unselfish efforts on behalf of the *Review* have enabled us to continue in the tradition established by our forebears. I am particularly grateful to Andrew Wainwright, who has worked with me as Associate Editor, performing Bevan's old function as literary editor, and to Debbie Hills, who has managed the business side of the *Review* and acted as its production manager. I also thank the members of the Editorial Advisory Board and the many readers, who have served as referees and provided opinions on the articles submitted, both those which have been published and those not, and all those who submitted articles, poems, short stories and book reviews to the *Review*.