



Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society took place at St. Anthony's Soccer Club, Ottawa, at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday 24 October 2013. CIHS President Mike Molloy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Special guests Ben Pflanz and Jenna Hennebry of the International Migration Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University, were welcomed.

President's Report

This has been an exceptionally active year for the society—in some ways too active—but one that gives us a certain amount of satisfaction.

The video interview series we initiated with the University of Western Ontario's Pathways to Prosperity last year has made a favorable impression, and we are on track to create a second set of videos with the same partner in 2014.

Our Ugandan Asian exodus archive project with Carleton University is now being funded by members of various Ugandan Asian communities, and we expect to put the collection on line and make it accessible to students, academic and others in the coming year.

We recently contracted with a web site expert to have the site serviced and monitored on a regular basis, and over the next couple of months we will be uploading a lot of new material.

We continue to produce bulletins that fill in gaps in the historical record, such as Jim Versteegh's articles on the programs for Argentinian political prisoners and the Cuban Marielitos, Thomas Waldock's "Reflections of a Home Child", and Larry Carroll's delightful account of how the visa section in New Delhi introduced Canadian ice hockey to India.

By far the biggest effort this year went into two projects related to the Indochinese refugee program and, in particular, the Canadian resettlement programs that took place between the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the big push in 1979 and 1980.

The board decided late last year to approve a book project that would combine archival research and memoirs to capture the experiences of the immigration department in managing and delivering more than 70,000 Indochinese refugees—including the famous boat people—to Canada between 1975 and 1980. Over the past year, a team consisting of Bob Shalka, Peter Duschinsky and Kurt Jensen spent many hours at Library and

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Archives Canada reviewing files and photographing hundreds of documents. These documents were then expertly catalogued by Laura-May Roth of the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

At the same time, we canvassed CEIC employees who worked on the program in Canada and abroad, and we have a collection of 30 or so memoirs that account in a fresh and compelling manner the toil, tears and sweat that went into selecting, moving, receiving and settling such an enormous number of refugees. We think that the blend of solid archival research and firsthand accounts will result in a book that will interest both experts and ordinary Canadians. We have the interest of a prestigious publisher who likes the idea of a volume that will come out around the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, in April 2015. We have roughed out about six or seven chapters, but we still have an enormous amount to do to meet our deadline.

While I was visiting the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, it was suggested that, since 2013 marks the centre's 25th anniversary and since the centre grew out of the Indochinese Refugees Documentation Project, perhaps CIHS and the centre could collaborate on a conference called "The Indochinese Refugee Movement 1975-1980 and the Launch of Canada's Private Refugee Sponsorship Program". [See article on page 5.] The idea was to use a review of the Indochinese program to jumpstart some reflection on the current state of the refugee program. CIC's Multicultural branch thought it was a good idea and has provided most of the funding.

The first day of the conference is to be an invitational workshop involving CIC, the Sponsorship Agreement Holders' Association and other interested parties. The conference proper runs from 21 to 23 November and includes panels of former refugees, immigration and visa officers, sponsors and scholars. It is to look at the refugee experience—flight and life in the camps, the Canadian regulatory framework and operational innovations, the experience of visa officers in the camps, the role of the media, how Canadian public concern was channeled into the new sponsorship program, and a host of post-arrival issues seen from the perspective of sponsors, refugees and officials.

Keynote speakers include the UNHCR representative in New York, Udo Janz, who began his career as a protection officer in Indonesia in 1979, the Minister of CIC [the Minister was in fact represented by Canada's first senator of Vietnamese extraction, Thanh Hai Ngo], and the famous Vietnamese-Canadian author and surgeon, Vincent Lam. Two of our Toronto members, John Baker and Jim Versteegh, have helped to organize the conference. It has the makings of an interesting event and, combined with the book, it will put our society on the map as never before.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the board for its support over this past year. I would like to thank Lorraine Laflamme for her faithful service and Joe Bissett, who will be stepping down from the vice-presidency after managing a decade of elections in firm soviet style. We owe a debt of gratitude to Ian (and Pat) Rankin for hosting our meetings. Gerry Maffre has contributed his skills as a communications expert in more ways than can be told. I'm deeply grateful to Valerie de Montigny for taking on the bulletin and to Gail Devlin for her work as secretary and for the civilizing effect their presence has brought to the proceedings. Gerry Van Kessel and Kurt Jensen have done yeoman service in regard to the Gunn Prize, along with our colleague in Winnipeg Rob Vineberg. Thanks to Peter Duschinsky, Kurt Jensen and Bob Shalka for their diligent, skilled and creative work on the book, to Raph Girard for keeping our financial books and arranging these AGMs, and to Hector Cowan and Roy Christensen for their continued interest and support.

Election of Officers

Vice-President Joe Bissett reported that Mike Molloy has decided to step down after 10 years as president, but as no replacement came forward he agreed to stay for another year. The following members were elected or re-elected to the board: Treasurer – Raph Girard; Secretary and Membership Secretary – Gail Devlin; Editor – Valerie de Montigny; Members at Large – Gerry Maffre (Communications), Gerry Van Kessel (Gunn Prize), Kurt Jensen (Gunn Prize, book project), Peter Duschinsky (book project), Roy Christensen (publishing), Ian Rankin (host with the most), Joe Bissett, Hector Cowan and Charlene Elgee. [Gerry Maffre has subsequently agreed to assume the double role of vice-president and communications.]

Membership Report

Life – 84, Annual – 36, Honourary – 7, Corporate – 2, **Total – 129.**

Of these, four annual members and one corporate member are in arrears. Our membership is not growing, but it is holding steady

Treasurer's Report

This report covers the period from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013. For the second year in a row, financial returns show a significant gap between our expenditures and our revenues. On the positive side, membership revenues have been stable, as we obtained corporate donations from CIC and from Pathways to Prosperity at the University of Western Ontario. Our expenses would have been closer to balancing with revenues, but there was an extraordinary expenditure of more than \$1,700 to engage a research assistant to organize the material for the Indo-China project.

Our cash position is still healthy, finishing the financial year at \$8,537.71, as invoices for the production of Bulletin 68 will be paid in the next financial year. These figures do not include the CIC corporate membership for 2013, which we expect to receive before the end of December.

Revenue		2012/13	2011/12
CIC Corporate membership		\$1,000.00	0
Pathways to Prosperity Sustaining Membership		\$750.00	\$750.00
Cash Receipts from AGM		\$1,080.00	\$1,255.00
Regular memberships		\$1,225.00	\$1,275.00
Bank interest		\$0.93	\$1.07
	Total	\$4,055.93	\$3,299.94
Expenses			
Printing and postage for Bulletin 64		\$307.61	
Travel for Uganda lectures (Molloy)		\$795.20	
Printing and postage for Bulletin 65		172.55	
Supplies for Indo-China project (Molloy)		\$136.36	
Departure gift for Elgee		\$20.00	
Business breakfast for Pier 21 visitor (Girard)		\$61.74	
AGM catering and hall rental		\$1,302.00	
Canada Post box rental (Girard)		\$194.36	
Printing and postage for Bulletin 66		\$174.37	
Travel for Indo-China conference preparation (Molloy)		\$322.75	
Cheque stock purchase		\$124.55	
Projector rental for AGM (Molloy)		\$119.78	
New address stamp from Grand & Toy (Girard)		\$39.54	
Stationery and supplies (Maffre)		\$21.16	
Memory stick and parking (Jensen)		\$22.37	
Printing and postage for Bulletin 67		\$146.54	
Research assistant (Roth)		\$1,728.70	
	Total	\$5,689.28	\$4,125.49
Cash position on 30 September		\$8,537.71	\$10,996.67
Investment account		\$6,834.27	\$6,827.46
Total assets as of 30 September		\$15,371.98	\$17,824.13

Presentation of the 2013 Gunn Prize



Dara Marcus, winner of the 2013 Gunn Prize, with Dr. Hennebry and CIHS President Mike Molloy.

The Gunn Prize was not presented in 2012 because none of the submissions dealt with immigration history. This year all the submissions dealt with historical events, and the prize of \$1,000 was awarded to Dara Marcus for her paper on the Hai Hong incident in the fall of 1978. The prize was awarded by Jenna Hennebry, director and associate professor of our partner institution, the International Migration Research Centre.

Guest speaker

Dara Marcus, 2013 Gunn Prize Winner, was our keynote speaker. Ms. Marcus is an immigrant from the United States, though her family originally landed in Lower Canada in 1538, and she has a passionate interest in Canadian immigration policy.

Backed by a power point presentation, Ms. Marcus spoke to members about the subject of her prize-winning paper, “The Hai Hong Incident: One Boat’s Effect on Canada’s Policy Towards the Indochinese Refugees”. Ms. Marcus, a student at the University of Ottawa’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, described how a rusty cargo ship, the Hai Hong, crowded with 2,500 mainly ethnic Chinese from Vietnam ran into trouble and eventually anchored off the coast of Malaysia, where the local authorities threatened to tow it back to sea. She described how the then-immigration minister broke with the international consensus that these refugees be ignored and ordered the immigration staff of the Canadian high commission in Singapore to accept 600. Despite daunting obstacles, the team of Ian Hamilton, Richard Martin and Scott Mullin gained access to the refugees, who were subsequently airlifted to CFB Longue Pointe, Quebec. Ms. Marcus argues that this incident, coming as it did as the tide of boat people leaving Vietnam swelled to crisis proportions, sensitized Canadian politicians, officials, the media and the public at large to the growing crisis and helped to create the political conditions that led to the decision to admit more than 50,000 Indochinese refugees six months later. The presentation was very well received and resulted in an extended and lively discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



Hai Hong, 21 November 1978, South China Sea

Bylaw Deadline Looms

October 17, 2014 is the deadline for submitting amendments to CIHS bylaws in order to comply with the new Corporations Canada legislation governing non-profit organizations. Only 49 members of the CIHS have voted so far—well short of the two-thirds majority we are required to obtain before we can submit our draft bylaws for ratification. Members who have not already done so should go to the CIHS website, which has an interactive voting link. Alternatively, members can phone Raph Girard at 613 249 8179, and leave a message identifying themselves and their vote either for or against the changes.

Erratum: Bulletin 68

We regret publishing an error in Roger St. Vincent’s tribute to Roger Martineau in our last bulletin. The fourth paragraph should have started: “I sailed from Liverpool for West Africa and flew a Hurricane aircraft from Takoradi Sekondi, Ghana to Cairo by way of Lagos, Kano, El Geneina, El Fasher El Obeid, Khartoum, Wadi Halfa and Cairo.”

Indochinese Conference

CIHS co-sponsors a four day conference on the Indochinese refugee movement and the launch of Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Program.

Origins

In the fall of 2012, CIHS president Mike Molloy made a tour of various universities in Ontario in connection with the 40th anniversary of the Ugandan refugee movement. While at York University, he met with James Simeon, who at that time was acting director of the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS). Dr. Simeon and Mr. Molloy discussed the book on the Indochinese refugee movement that CIHS was working on. As 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the CRS, it seemed natural that the society and CRS should collaborate on organizing a conference to mark the anniversary and to generate more material for the book. In addition, one of CIHS's objectives is to get other groups, such as refugees and sponsors, to write their own histories of the Indochinese refugee experience, and a conference would provide a vehicle for promoting that goal.

Objectives

From the start, it was agreed the conference would have three objectives.

First, the conference would examine this remarkable period in Canada's history from the perspectives of the refugees, political decision makers at all levels, officials operating both in Canada and in Southeast Asia, the coordinating structures that emerged in communities across Canada, and the thousands of Canadians who took advantage of the federal government's new private refugee sponsorship system and reached out to the refugees.

Second, it would provide an opportunity to reflect on the state of the refugee sponsorship system today. Because of the importance of the sponsorship program, then and now, the organizers invited Brian Dyck, Chair of the Canadian Council of Sponsorship Agreement Holders, to join the project. The process of looking at the sponsorship program was launched at a small workshop involving sponsoring groups, service providers, officials and academics the day before the main conference. It is worth noting that, since the program was established in late 1978, Canadian sponsors have resettled more refugees than any country except the United States, Canada and Australia.

And, third, looking forward, the conference would serve as a launching pad for a complex process that would establish a research agenda and organize an online archive dedicated to the Indochinese refugee movement. The conference would be videoed and key participants interviewed on camera, permitting the creation of a documentary and a host of audiovisual and educational tools to preserve, learn, and draw inspiration from the experiences of the refugees.

Funding

The Multicultural branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council provided funding.

In previous years, our society has co-sponsored a conference on the Hungarian refugee movement and two conferences on the Ugandan Asian expulsion. The conference on the Indochinese movement was by far the most ambitious.

Hearing from the Participants

A critical decision was that this conference would not be about passively listening to learned researchers present papers but would be about learning firsthand from those who were there. What made it unique was that the majority of those who attended had a direct, personal connection with the Indochinese refugee movement.

The conference heard directly from three panels of former refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos who survived terrible events and risked their lives in hopes of creating a new future for themselves and their

children. It also heard from former Minister of Employment and Immigration Ron Atkey about the discussions that led to the political decision to open Canada's door to 60,000 people. The conference provided the first opportunity to hear from former visa officers who were sent to Southeast Asia to organize the movement of those 60,000 people to Canada. It heard from local leaders, regional and local immigration and employment officials, and members of churches and NGOs about the remarkable cooperation between NGOs, faith communities, community organizations, and officials and political leaders from municipal, provincial and federal governments as they organized to support the new sponsorship program and received, resettled and integrated refugees into communities across Canada.

Web Site

A conference web site has been established at York University <http://indochinese.apps01.yorku.ca/conference>. Over the next year, the web site will be expanded and will include an online archive of original documents relating to the Indochinese refugee movement and original footage and interviews from the conference.

A Season of Heroes

By Kurt F. Jensen

The Indochinese Refugee Movement and the Private Sponsorship Programme 1975-1980 Conference was a unique opportunity to explore a historic period. Refugees, Canadian visa and policy officers, Canadian NGOs who worked overseas and those who helped the refugees settle in Canada—all spoke of their experiences. The conference was jointly sponsored by CIHS and York University's Centre for Refugee Studies.

Participants told their stories with little personal acknowledgement of how extraordinary their experiences had been or how dramatic their tales of overcoming incredible adversity sounded. At the end of one refugee's particularly moving story, there was virtually not a dry eye in the conference hall. And the man's daughter, sitting next to him, was hearing most of the story for the first time.

None of the participants thought of their experience as exceptional—whether their role was that of a humanitarian or of a survivor. From their perspectives, the participants were confronted by challenges which had to be met and overcome: they only did what needed to be done.

The visa officers were pleased with their ingenuity at overcoming obstacles and appeared hesitant to acknowledge their impact on so many lives. The refugees were thankful for having survived but seemed unaware of the incredible fortitude which had made their survival possible. The stories which conference participants heard attest to the resilience of ordinary men and women facing great trials and overcoming inordinate adversity. It was a season of heroes who accomplished great things.

The Visa Officers

Although the selection of refugees began immediately after the fall of Saigon, at the end of April 1975, the thrust of the refugee movement took place from 1978 to 1979, a result of the international response to the arrival in Malaysia of the Hai Hong, a ship carrying about 2,500 refugees. [See article on Gunn Prize, page 4.] During the roughly 18 months which followed, about 20 Canadian visa officers selected more than 60,000 of the 74,000 Indochinese refugees who settled in Canada. Canada accepted more refugees per capita than any other nation (although closely followed by Australia and the United States).

Mostly in their twenties and with little experience in their profession, the visa officers worked with almost no down-time throughout their tours in Southeast Asia. Their instructions were broad, and all felt empowered with the discretion to do what was right. Ian Hamilton, the first Canadian to select refugees from the Hai Hong, told officers to make selection decisions "by the sparkle in their [the refugees'] eyes."

Clear leadership, both in Ottawa and on the ground, provided the officers with the confidence to follow their best judgement. They were allowed to think and to make decisions without being constrained in their authority.

All the officers were knowledgeable and understood the environment in which they operated. They were encouraged and empowered to be risk takers. Rules were ignored or worked around in order to save lives.

Murray Oppertshauer, one of the senior members of this outstanding group of visa officers, gave the example of being faced with the impossible situation of a Hmong man with two wives and a multitude of children. This was a culturally acceptable familial relationship in the Hmong culture, but it hardly accorded with Canadian norms or laws. In his typically gruff manner, he asked the family to go outside to discuss which of the wives would become the widow of the principal applicant's "dead brother". Decision made, the extended family was accepted for Canada. When a conference participant confronted him with the legal complexities that would arise in Canada with respect to pensions and survivor benefits, he pointed out that, whatever the ensuing problems, they were better than dying in the camp. His story of morally motivated decision making was not unique; comparable selection decisions were made by most of the officers on the ground.



Murray Oppertshauer



David Ritchie

David Ritchie, himself a young officer at the time, was responsible for selecting young unaccompanied males for adoption in Canada. Unable to distinguish between a 16- and a 22-year old Vietnamese male (many carrying false documents to avoid the South Vietnamese military draft), he hired two Saigon bar girls as his assistants. Where his skills fell short, the bar girls had little difficulty in providing him with professional advice on ages.

The Refugees

The most common refrain heard at the conference from the refugees was "Thank you, Canada": all thought that they had been exceptionally fortunate in being given the opportunity to settle here.

Stories of terrifying escapes and life-threatening obstacles were the norm. Many of the refugees' stories were being presented for the first time—including to their children. Several of the children said privately afterwards that the conference had acted cathartically to overcome repressed emotions in their parents.

One Cambodian refugee, today a Canadian university professor, spoke of his childhood fears of being taken away at night to be shot, a regular occurrence. The nightmares he experienced after coming to Canada only ended a few years ago. Another refugee spoke of the escape by his mother and her five children on one of the boats, often riding the seas in horrendous weather. At one point, one son was swept overboard (with several others) and thought lost. Miraculously, after staying afloat in the South China Sea for more than 20 hours, he was picked up by a passing vessel and reunited with his family.

Another refugee spoke emotionally of his family's escape. They had to walk through the jungle for more than 20 days, with little food or water. Three of his small children died, and one was born. She sat beside her father at the conference as he related their story.

All the refugees were incredibly strong individuals, possibly made so by their experiences. They almost uniformly viewed their choices in stark terms: escape or die. All thought themselves fortunate. One woman was adamant that she had been protected throughout her ordeal by a protective spirit that saved her several times from certain death.



Mrs. Pinkham Sharp with daughter Dr. Stephanie Phetsamay-Stobbe, University of Winnipeg

In Canada

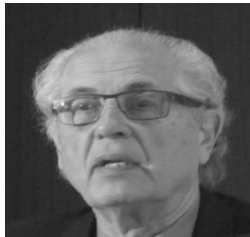
Heroes were also found in Canada. Ron Atkey and Flora MacDonald, Immigration and External Affairs ministers respectively, were very influential in saving the refugees—perhaps none more so than former

Minister Atkey. He recalled how, on the advice of Immigration Deputy Minister Jack Manion, he read to his Cabinet colleagues a passage from *None Is Too Many*, the deplorable story of Canada's reluctance to save European Jews, after which he asked them whether this was how they wished to be remembered.



Ron Atkey

Howard Adelman, the eventual moving force behind Operation Lifeline, a Canadian sponsorship organization, spoke of holding a meeting at his house with other activists to draft a letter about the Vietnamese refugees to the Immigration Minister. He was challenged by Bob Parkes, a CEIC settlement officer who had arrived uninvited, who suggested that the group actually do something constructive. Dr. Adelman also spoke about



Howard Adelman

approaching the financial backers of the National Citizens Coalition to seek their help in curbing anti-refugee propaganda being spread by that organization. His intervention ended a gross misrepresentation of the facts by the right-wing organization.

Conclusion

The Indochinese refugee movement is a great Canadian accomplishment. It was not unique, but it was exceptional. There was a debate at the conference about whether such a remarkable achievement could ever recur. The general consensus was that it could not, as government, bureaucracy and society had changed substantially in the interim. The

success of the Indochinese refugee movement arose from the “can do” attitude of the immigration selection officers who believed that obstacles were there to be overcome. Authority was extended to officers to do what was right. There was respectful communication between headquarters and the field, which resulted in innovative solutions to resource-numbing difficulties. Trust existed among all stakeholders—from government to NGOs.

In sum, the Indochinese refugee movement succeeded because of the actions of ordinary individuals achieving extraordinary feats.

This point was well made by Mike Molloy in a “brown bag” presentation on 15 January at CIC HQ. Before some 50 staffers, he recounted the origins of the movement, the decision making in Ottawa, and the movement's implications for today's refugee situations. He focussed particularly on the ingenuity and dedication of Immigration and Employment personnel in Canada and abroad. This led one audience member to hope aloud that this story of action and dedication would be told to a larger audience often cynical about what public servants do.

Cutting Costs by Moving from Canada Post to Epost

The CIHS bulletin has always reflected the society's concerns to be careful with members' money and take advantage of modern technology, but recently we have made a few changes to try even harder.

We have made the bulletin more “computer screen friendly” by eliminating the use of double columns, except in special circumstances, such as reproducing set text. We have introduced a table of contents on the first page of the bulletin for easy reference and location of articles. And we are asking our authors to provide key words with their submissions to improve the prospects that web searches will lead to the bulletin. These changes also help make our web site easier to use for the increasing number of visitors it receives.

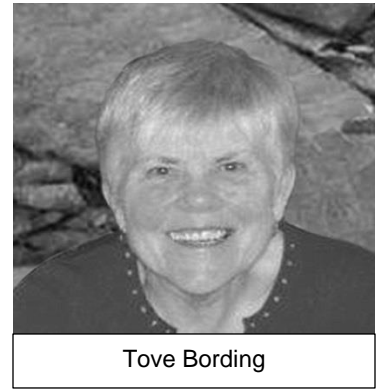
Up to now, it has cost about \$1.50 to print and mail each bulletin, more for special large editions. That price is going to almost double with the new Canada Post rates. Obviously, electronic transmission saves your society, and you, money. Right now, about half our members have opted to receive the bulletin by email. As much as we understand the appeal of the printed word, we are hoping that more of our members will join them in this electronic choice. If you are ready to make the switch from paper to email delivery, please contact Gerry Maffre at gmaffre@storm.ca.

The MV *Batory*

By Tove Bording and Roy Christensen

Retired Canadian immigration officer Tove Bording relates in a letter to the CIHS how the Polish immigrant ship MV *Batory* became a part of her life. As she notes, the *Batory* was much more than a passenger or immigrant ship. Innocently enough, her first acquaintance with the MV *Batory* began with an exciting voyage across the Atlantic when she was just a young woman.

The Polish liner had been requisitioned, diplomatically put, by Britain at the beginning of the Second World War, when Poland had been defeated and occupied by Nazi Germany. In 1947, after yeoman war service, the ship was returned to Poland and soon resumed scheduled sailings between Gdynia and New York. Before returning to regular passenger service, the troop carrier had to be refitted and completely renovated. Finally, in April 1947, it could sail on its postwar maiden voyage from New York to Copenhagen and on to Gdynia. Tove Bording and her parents were on that first voyage, bound for Copenhagen. *Batory* was the first liner which sailed directly from New York to Copenhagen after the war. Until then, visitors to Denmark had to travel via Sweden. The expectations of the passengers on board that first postwar crossing were high, as a gala celebration had been planned for them when they arrived. Alas! Three days out at sea, passengers were informed that King Christian X of Denmark had died. Consequently, when the ship arrived, Denmark was in mourning, and there was no gala.



Tove Bording

That crossing was Tove Bording's first encounter with the Lucky Ship *Batory*. At that time, however, she did not know that she would come across it again.

In the summer of 2013, Tove read, *A Man of Big Heart*, the memoirs of Maurice Mitchell, a senior Canadian foreign service officer who worked extensively with immigration and refugee matters. In Mitchell's memoirs, Tove again came across the MV *Batory*.

After the fall of France in June 1940, preparations to repatriate Canadian citizens, such as Maurice Mitchell, were speeded up. He made his way from France to Britain. On 2 July, Mitchell, his wife and two children, left London for Glasgow, where they boarded the *Batory*, bound for Halifax.

Maurice Mitchell writes:

We embarked on the ship at night, and we were lying in our bunks with the children asleep when I was awakened by the sound of winches and thumping noises on the deck above our heads. I got up, dressed, and went on deck. The deck was full of soldiers, police and guards. I saw the nets bringing down heavy square boxes which were quite familiar to me from my assistant purser days. The guards shooed me away, and I was able to go back down to my cabin and happily inform my wife that we were bound to be safe, since they were loading tons of gold on board the ship. It is now an established fact that the *Batory* transported to Canada not only gold from the Bank of England, but also the Polish Art Treasures.

The next day when the *Batory* left Glasgow she was escorted by HMS *Jason*, as well as a minesweeper and a small destroyer. When the *Batory* reached the open sea, these three ships turned back and a larger escort took over, comprised of four destroyers and the battleship HMS *Revenge*. Mitchell reports that there were few alerts during the crossing. He reckons that the imposing escorts frightened away any rash U-boat commanders. The convoy docked in Halifax 10 days later, and Britain's gold reserves were transported to the secure vaults of the Bank of Canada in Ottawa.

A couple of sources maintain that this was possibly one of the richest treasure transports ever, surpassing the riches carried by any Spanish galleon. The Polish art treasures included the 1320 Polish Coronation sword, a

Gutenberg Bible, 136 huge sixteenth-century Flemish tapestries, and 35 Chopin manuscripts. These treasures, which filled two railway cars, were sent to Ottawa for safe storage.

The *Batory* participated in many dangerous military operations, such as the evacuation of the joint French-Polish-British forces from Narvik, followed immediately by the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk—military setbacks which led to the resignation of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. The *Batory* also participated in the evacuation of Polish troops from St. Jean de Luz in France, the daring raid on the dry docks at St. Nazaire, and the invasions of Algeria and Sicily. The ship was often dangerously exposed in war zones and came under attack several times. However, she escaped serious damage and became known as a lucky ship for her survival and wartime successes.

MV *Batory*, the flagship of Poland's merchant navy, was a large (14,287-ton) ocean liner, built in Trieste, Italy, in 1936. The ship was powered by two sets of Burmeister & Wain diesel engines built in Copenhagen, driving two screws delivering a cruising speed of 18 knots. She could accommodate 76 first-class passengers and 740 in tourist class, and required a crew of 343. She was named after Stefan Batory, a sixteenth-century Polish king.

From May 1949 to January 1951, *Batory* was the subject of several political incidents in which dockers and shipyard workers in the United States refused to unload cargo from her or to service her, because she came from "behind the Iron Curtain". After these incidents she was withdrawn from the North Atlantic run. In 1956 she was overhauled at Bremerhaven and in August 1957 placed in the Gdynia-Copenhagen-Southampton-Montreal service (switched to Halifax in the winter). She steadily plied the North Atlantic for the next 12 years, in the process bringing a good number of immigrants to Canada. In June 1969, she was withdrawn from service and used as a floating hotel at Gdynia until 1971, when she was scrapped. The ship's original purpose—and

In 1968, Polish Ocean Lines bought the TSS *Maasdam IV* and renamed it the TSS *Stefan Batory*. It sailed between Gdynia and Montreal until 1990, at which time transportation across the Atlantic had largely been replaced by



TSS *Stefan Batory*

floating hotel at Gdynia was ultimately entered history.

aircraft.

Jumping Ship in Copenhagen

Tove Bording was posted to Copenhagen as a Canadian immigration officer from 1966 to 1969. She reports that when the *Batory* docked in Copenhagen on the outbound passage, people regularly jumped ship. Many ended up at the Canadian immigration office claiming asylum. The Canadian immigration office was required to call the Danish Foreign Police, who would come to collect these unfortunate souls. The Danish authorities would provide them with accommodation and a small living allowance. Two particular cases have stuck in her mind.

The first involved a man who jumped overboard just as the *Batory* was sailing through the narrow passage between Sweden and Denmark, that is, between Helsingborg and Elsinore. The *Batory* immediately dropped a small boat and the crew hurried to catch the swimmer. At the same time, there was a ferry coming from Sweden and it too hurried towards the swimmer. Luckily for the swimmer, he was picked up by the ferry.

The second case involved a man who turned up in the immigration office's reception area, just as the office was closing. The reception was on the ground floor and Tove was standing chatting with the office's RCMP officer. The man spoke no English, but said "asylum". Tove and the RCMP officer tried to explain to him that they would have to call the Danish authorities. When the man heard the word "police", he fell on his knees, threw his arms around the Mountie's legs and started to cry. The Danish police quickly arrived, and were able to explain things to him. It was arranged that he should check in with the Canadian immigration office once a

week. He had family in Canada who had been trying to get him, his wife and daughter out of Poland, but without success. This was during the Cold War, when it was nearly impossible to leave Poland, even for a short visit as a tourist. He and his wife had decided that if she and the daughter left first, he would be jailed for a long time. However, if he escaped first, the chances were that she would only get a light sentence and in the end it would be easier for them to get to Canada.

During his wait in Denmark, this man used some of his living allowance to buy a hot plate. This allowed him to make his own meals and save some money. He also bought books and taught himself English. Every week when he checked in with the Canadian immigration office, they could see a marked improvement. By the time they had processed his case, which took several months; he was almost fluent in English. Tove and the rest of the office were impressed. Over the years, Tove has often wondered how things went for him and his family. He was a very desirable type of applicant, who, as well as being a skilled worker, had real get-up-and-go. With the help of his Canadian family, he has undoubtedly become a success in Canada.

In Memoriam

Bill Burton

Members will be saddened to hear that Bill Burton died in Ottawa on 23 October 2013, after a short illness. Bill was one of the “old-timers” who maintained contact with his former colleagues and was a strong supporter of the society. After serving as an immigration officer at the border and inland offices, he found he had a special talent as a trainer. He developed these skills in the early 1960s in the Western Region’s Winnipeg headquarters and soon was transferred to Ottawa, where he remained until his retirement. Bill’s outgoing and warm personality will be remembered by former students and by colleagues who had the good fortune to know him and to appreciate his dry humour and repetition of old sayings. Bill’s wife, Bernice, passed away a few years ago. He is survived by his two daughters, Shilaine and Rhona.

Annemarie Desloges

The brutal killing of Annemarie Desloges in a terrorist attack at a shopping mall in Nairobi on 21 September last year sent shock waves through CIC, Annemarie’s department of choice. At age 29, she had already shown great promise and a highly developed sense of public service in her choice of assignments.

The random nature of her death was a devastating event for a family dedicated to the foreign service. Her parents, Michel and Madelaine, logged many years of distinguished service in the administrative and consular stream, and her sister Julie is currently posted to Dakar as an aid and development officer.

Annemarie’s tragic and untimely death underscores the dangers of a foreign service career, dangers she understood and accepted. Those who view foreign service as an unending series of luxurious travels to exotic places unavailable to all but the wealthiest of Canadians should pause to reflect. Annemarie’s passing testifies to the hard reality that the world is an increasingly dangerous place. The number of Canadian missions abroad where physical security is the number one issue grows year by year. Annemarie was the second immigration/foreign service officer to die on duty in Kenya, the first being Patricia Harland, who, along with her husband, was killed in a road accident while returning from a selection visit to Uganda in 1991.

On behalf of the society, Mike Molloy has expressed sincere condolences to the family and to Annemarie’s spouse, Robert Munk.

Madeleine Karp

We received news late last year of the passing of Madeleine Karp at age 93. A woman of great warmth, talent, experience and perspective, Madeleine will be fondly remembered by her colleagues. Born of Russian parents then living in Manchuria, Madeleine moved with them to France after a war-delayed and lengthy stay in Romania. She had a long career with the Canadian embassy and its visa office. Here are a few of the messages we received.

Elvire Westley (tiré de ses remarques aux obsèques de Madeleine) : J'ai connu Madeleine en janvier 1948, alors que toutes les deux nous avons commencé à travailler le même jour à l'Ambassade du Canada. J'étais toute jeune à l'époque et Madeleine m'a pris sous son aile pour m'aider dans mes premiers pas dans le monde de travail. Nous nous sommes toujours suivies depuis et nous avons eu la chance de trouver bien des amitiés avec des Canadiens et des Français du fait de notre travail ainsi que dans la vie courante....Je terminerai pour dire que Madeleine a toujours été à l'écoute des autres, prête à aider et conseiller et pour cela je la remercie.

Birgit Zawisza: My late husband John Zawisza and I met Madeleine Karp during our posting in Paris from 1977-1981. Madeleine was supportive and kind in many ways. Despite her Latvian roots, her strong command of French was second to none. Her local knowledge was that of a native Parisian. She inspired and helped ceaselessly. During the years of retirement, her eloquent seasonal greetings were always looked forward to and appreciated. In John's last years, when he could no longer read, he enjoyed her lengthy phone calls during which they would reminisce about old times to his great pleasure.

Peter Duschinsky: I met Madeleine Karp on my first posting to Paris in the 1970s. She was the model of a locally engaged program officer. Always discreet, she trained me without my noticing it. Besides French and English, she spoke virtually every language of Central and Eastern Europe, knew every nook and cranny of Paris, read every book worth reading, but especially and most of all, she could read people extremely well. She may not have been Canadian, but there are few people who did as much for Canada as she did. She was a real old-fashioned "lady". May she be remembered by all who had the good fortune to work with her.

Gerry Maffre: I met Madeleine in Paris (1977-1979), where she greatly helped me acclimatize to a very different office setting and client mix. She also and enthusiastically helped me regain my French conversation skills and learn a range of Parisian idioms that would stand me in good stead in and out of the office. She had a firm grasp of immigration policies, programs and procedures and threw herself into the challenge of learning a new Immigration Act as we worked through our local training sessions. Stories of her past experiences in Asia made for great conversations in quiet moments. I'll also retain memories of Madeleine and Elvire at their daily lunch with a red and white checked tablecloth with some very tasty-looking dishes arrayed on it, and the debates she and M. Gidouin, the long-serving head of records, would engage in over the details of some long-ago significant case. She was a true friend and colleague to those of us lucky enough to have known her while working in the City of Light.

Jack Manion *remembered by Jim Pasman*

I first met Jack Manion in the early 1960s, when I was a young immigration officer serving in London, England, on assignment from Niagara Falls. I was invited to meet with Jack to discuss a project I had worked on. It turned into a wide-ranging discussion that included talk about my career plans. Some time later I was told that I had qualified for a position in Ottawa, a position that I had applied for but for which I was never given an interview.

My posting to Ottawa was postponed because of a re-organization, and, on my return to Canada, I worked in Grande Prairie, Alberta, for 18 months before finally getting to Ottawa. Walking down the hall on my first day in NHQ, I met Jack, who said as we passed, "Well, you finally made it, Jim. See you later."

<p>The Canadian Immigration Historical Society (www.CIHS-SHIC.ca) is a non-profit corporation registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act.</p>	<p>Goals: > to support, encourage and promote research into the history of Canadian immigration and to foster the collection and dissemination of that history; > to stimulate interest in and further the appreciation and understanding of the influence of immigration on Canada's development and position in the world.</p>	<p>President - Michael J. Molloy Vice President and Communications - Gerry Maffre Treasurer - Raph Girard Secretary and Membership - Gail Devlin Editor - Valerie de Montigny CIC Representative - Kathy Sigurdson Board members - J. B. 'Joe' Bissett, Roy Christensen, Hector Cowan, Peter Duschinsky, Charlene Elgee, Kurt Jensen, Ian Rankin and Gerry Van Kessel</p>
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