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## Contact List

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- TICKNER, A.W., National Research Council, Ottawa, K1A 0R7;  
993-0286; B.E., M.Sc. (Sask.), Ph.D. (Toronto);  
History and archives of the NRC.
- WEAVER, Martin, E., Heritage Canada, 237-1867; Dipl. Arch.  
Assn. London; Historic building materials; Preservation  
technology.
- WILSON, Andrew H., 580 Wavell Ave., Ottawa, Ont. K2A 3A5;  
B.Sc. M.A. (Glasgow), P. Eng.; Science policy in the  
industrial context; history of mechanical engineering;  
engineering and manpower studies.

#### CONTACT LIST

This list includes those whose work has come to the attention of the editors but who have not provided us with full entry information. This list is not complete. We encourage those who wish their names included in the 1980 directory to send us full particulars.

- BELFIELD, Robert, MHT 5025: Electricity, Smithsonian  
Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560; Electrical technology.
- BERNIER, Jacques, Dept. d'histoire, Université Laval, Québec,  
Québec.; Histoire de la médecine au Québec.
- BISHOP, Roy L., Dept. Physics, Acadia University, Wolfville,  
N.S.; History of Canadian astronomy.
- DE BRESSON, Christian, Science Council of Canada; 1526 7th  
Ave., New Westminster, B.C.; 525-8136; Science policy  
esp. industrial innovation.
- ENROS, Philip, Institute for History and Philosophy of  
Science and Technology, University of Toronto;  
Biobibliography of Ontario scientists.
- GUEDON, Jean-Claude, Institut d'histoire et sociopolitique  
des sciences, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128,  
Montréal, Québec; biobibliography of Québec scientists.
- JAMES, William, Dept. Civil Engineering, McMaster University,  
Hamilton, Ontario; Hamilton, engineering.
- LORTIE, Léon, 5585 ave Gatineau, appt. 1, Montréal, Québec  
H3T 1X6; History of Chemistry; History of science in  
Canada and Québec.
- MIDDLETON, W.E.K., Apt. 2406, 2020 Haro St., Vancouver, B.C.,  
V6G 1J3; History of Canadian physics, esp. at NRC.

RABKIN, Yakov, Institut d'histoire et sociopolitique des sciences, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Montréal, Québec; Engineering education.

ROLAND, Charles G., Faculty of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont.; History of Canadian medicine.

RUSSELL, Loris S., Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen;s Park Cr., Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6; History of Canadian invention.

SHEETS-PYENSON, Susan, Dept. Science and Human Affairs, Concordia University, Montréal, Québec; J.W. Dawson and 19th century Canadian science.

The Carleton Lecture Series  
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The majority of speakers, being scientists, have spent most of their lives in working within the scientific tradition of Canada whether they realize it or not, and could speak from first-hand experiences. This factor gave the series its strength. Unfortunately, the nominal theme--the scientific tradition in Canada--was addressed by only a couple of the speakers. If the series demonstrated anything, it was that Canada does not have a scientific tradition or at least if it does, that tradition is irrelevant to most of the lecturers. It was very obvious that most of the speakers had little if any training in history and their attempts to convey the historic basis of their specialty to the audience was, for the most part, totally inadequate. Like many other gallant forays by scientific groups into the history of science, the Carleton series seems to manifest two hidden assumptions: (1) that because scientists often achieve consensus in scientific matters, they are likely to agree on other subjects like history, and (2) that someone who is a genuine expert in a scientific subject X is also likely to be a competent historian of X.

The Carleton lecture series, if continued under much stricter guidelines, could prove to be highly successful and not alienate a large proportion of its audience. The point must be made that the history of science has two components, history and science. This will mean that humanities and science departments must work in conjunction with one another and not in isolation.

--Donald Phillipson and Arnold Roos