

Editorial

The publication of yet another journal in a community already choking on an ever-increasing number of publications that compete with one another both for the scarce reading time of hard-pressed scholars and the scarce dollars of supporters deserves at least a brief explanation by way of justification. Since the explanation is simple, it can be brief.

Great developments have taken place in Canadian higher education during the past decade; further developments continue to take place. The details of these developments need not detain us here, since they are well known. The numbers of persons seeking higher education have multiplied several times; the types of institutions of higher education and the variety of programmes offered in them have also multiplied greatly; the internal organization of these institutions and their relations with one another and with outside agencies have been modified significantly; and, not least in importance, higher education has become a very public activity.

These developments signal the coming of age of Canadian higher education. One illustration among many of this coming of age was the formation, a little over a year ago, of The Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education / La société canadienne pour l'étude de l'enseignement supérieur. The Society groups individual scholars, researchers and other interested in the broad field of higher education and undertakes to promote the study of higher education. In the furtherance of its objectives the Society holds an annual conference in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the Learned Societies. It also has as one of its principal objectives the sponsorship of a journal of Canadian higher education in which will be published scholarly articles on a variety of topics and in a variety of academic disciplines related to higher education and bibliographical instruments of value to persons interested in the study of higher education. By providing a Canadian forum specifically devoted to the publication of the results of scholarly research and reflection on higher education in Canada, the journal hopes to stimulate such research and reflection. By publishing an annotated bibliography of higher education in Canada and information on current research in higher education, the journal hopes to provide direct assistance to persons actively engaged in research in the field.

Stoa is that journal and this is its first issue. Confident that higher education in Canada has come of age and that there is a place for a journal devoted specifically to the publication of research in this inter-disciplinary field, the editors look forward to receiving comments, criticisms and suggestions on ways to improve our service to this constituency.

E. J. M.
Editor