

Honorary President

The Historical Society of Alberta continues to benefit from the exceptional work of Dr. Hugh Dempsey. He has devoted his life to the preservation of history in this Province and we are fortunate to have him as part of our organization.

The Society is most familiar with Dr. Dempsey's work on the quarterly magazine, now known as **ALBERTA HISTORY**. He is an author, historian, and researcher. He is the former associate director of the Glenbow Museum, and is currently its chief curator emeritus.

Dr. Dempsey holds a number of honours, including the Order of Canada, an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary, an honorary chieftainship of the Blood tribe, the Sir Frederick Haultain Award for Excellence, an Alberta Non-Fiction Award, and a life membership in the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. He is the author of twenty books on western Canadian history and has edited another seventeen. He has written nine monographs and more than two hundred articles for periodicals, books, and newspapers. He is a well known lecturer and specialist on the history of the Indigenous peoples of western Canada and the early history of Alberta.

The Historical Society of Alberta wanted to acknowledge the contribution to Alberta's history by Dr. Dempsey. We associate Dr. Dempsey with the quarterly magazine. We asked him to provide us with a little background on how he became involved with the Society. The following is his "In the Beginning":

"IN THE BEGINNING"

In 1953 I was a publicity writer for the Alberta Government when I was called upon to undertake an unusual assignment. Apparently there was a group known as the Historical Society of Alberta, and it was anxious to start a newsletter or journal. It approached the government and I was given the task of coordinating the first issue. The editor was the Rev. W. Everard Edmonds and the president of the Society was Jim McGregor.

Over the previous years, various people had given talks to the Historical Society and their manuscripts had been retained by the Provincial Library. This gave Mr. Edmonds a rich trove of articles to help launch the new journal.

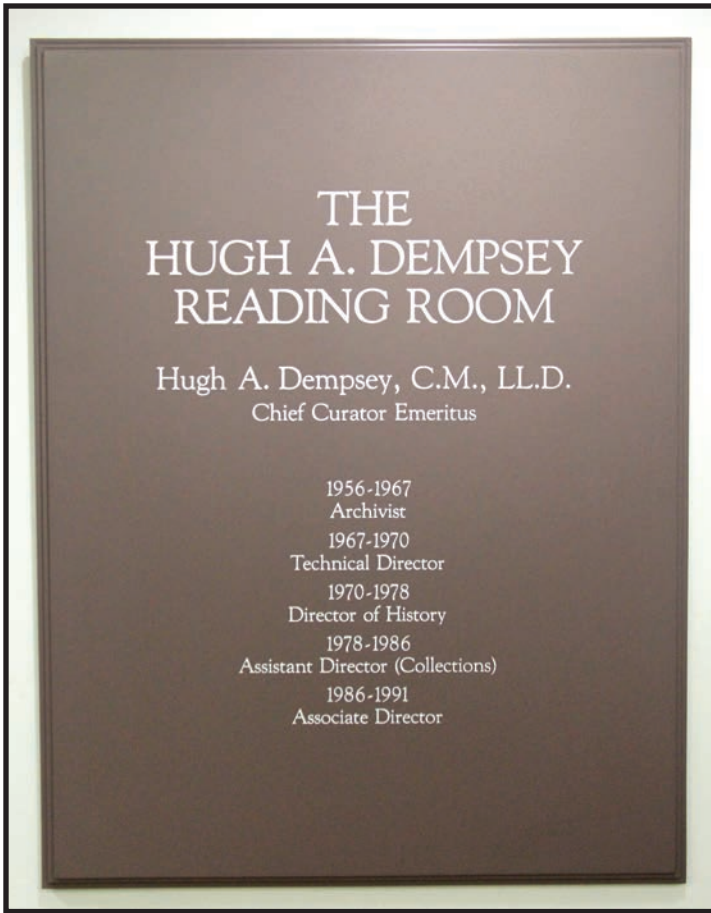
The title of *Alberta Historical Review* was chosen, seeing itself as a counterpart to the *Canadian Historical Review*. However the title was later shortened to *Alberta History*, as book reviews were not a big part of the magazine. Mr. Edmonds gathered a number of articles together and I organized them and arranged for printing the first issue. The result was something bulky and awkward. It was 8 ½ by 13 inches in size, 35 mimeographed pages, with no illustrations, no table of contents, and no index. It included an article by Dr. George Stanley on medical pioneering, John Shera's account of Poundmaker's capture of a wagon train in 1885, buffalo hunting out of Edmonton by F.C. Jamieson, and a brief history of the Society.

Four hundred and fifty copies were printed and despite its shortcoming, it was a huge success. Letters came from all over the province, congratulating both the Historic Society and the government, and for this first issue additional copies had to be printed to meet the heavy demand. From this humble beginning the magazine printing went from mimeograph, to lithograph, to letter press, and to the offset printing that we know today. All this came about through the initial pioneering efforts of the president, Jim McGregor, and the editor, W. Everard Edwards.

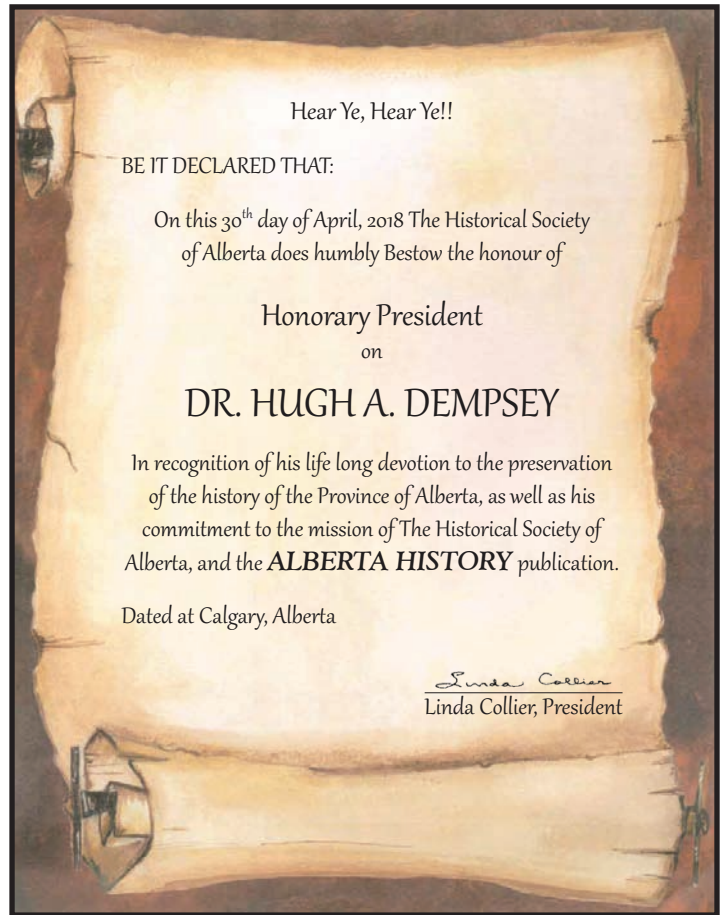
Hugh A. Dempsey
April 12, 2018"



That was Vol. 1, No. 1 Spring 1953. Dr. Dempsey has just completed Summer 2018, Vol. 66, No. 3. That is SIXTY-FIVE years of preserving Alberta's history!! The devotion to just this publication is astounding. He continues to be the 'go to' person for history in this province. How fortunate we are to have someone like Hugh Dempsey as part of our family. The Historical Society of Alberta is pleased to present Dr. Hugh A. Dempsey with the title of **HONORARY PRESIDENT**.



Dr. Dempsey and Linda Collier
 Photo Credit: Roberta Ryckman



Pauline Dempsey and Dr. Dempsey
 Photo Credit: Roberta Ryckman



Don Smith, Sheila Johnston, and Dr. Dempsey
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