

TUUM

EST

A HISTORY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF

BRITISH

COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER · THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA · 1958

HARRY T. LOGAN

WITH A FOREWORD BY

N. A. M. MACKENZIE

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THIS BOOK is published as part of the Jubilee celebrations of the University. It traces the story of U.B.C. from the passing of the University Act on March 7, 1908 to the end of the session, 1957-58. A preliminary chapter describes the work of McGill University and of others who lit and carried the torch of higher education in the Province.

The story is one of courage and determination to rise above the obstacles placed in the way by the course of events. The pattern is all too familiar in the history of Canadian Universities. The University of British Columbia is unique, however, in the fact that its work began in a time of war. In the Thirties it encountered the depression, and in the Forties a period of war longer and more ruthless than World War I.

In his Foreword President MacKenzie writes: "This history also reflects my own conviction, which I know my colleagues share, that it is most desirable as we enter another era of unavoidable expansion and uncertainty to take stock of what has been achieved in the formative years. Those who follow us and will complete the second half-century at U.B.C. may find both encouragement and admonition in this record.

"It was entirely appropriate that Professor H. T. Logan should have been asked to be the University's historian. Himself a member of the 'founding fathers' of 1912, Harry is the only person associated with U.B.C. who has been in a position to serve as a member of the teaching staff and Head of the Department of Classics, as a member of the Senate, as a member of the Board of Governors, and presently as editor of the *U.B.C. Alumni Chronicle*. Like his mentor, Thucydides, he writes out of the richness of his personal experience, which has made him the teacher and friend of hundreds of students. I commend his affectionate and scholarly account of our first half-century to the goodly company of our graduates and to those friends of the University whose numbers and generosity made us both proud and humble during the recent University Development Fund Campaign."

HVIVS
VNIVERSITATIS
CONDITORIBVS

PREFACE

THIS BOOK is the result of a combined operation. A Convocation Founders Committee, whose chairman is Elmore Meredith, q.c., sponsored the work and raised funds from among the founder members of Convocation; a University Committee, under the chairmanship of Dean F. H. Soward, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Head of the Department of History, Director of International and Asian Studies, arranged for the writing and preparation of the materials; the University Editorial Committee, of which Professor Stanley E. Read is Chairman, guided the book through the Press.

The author has tried to conform to the specifications given him by the Committees that the book should be "of general rather than of purely academic interest." The story of the University has been told from the inside, looking out; some day, perhaps, the task may be attempted in the reverse direction. The writer has described the University as a living, developing institution, during each stage of its history, keeping in mind the constituent elements of Administration, Faculty and Student Body. No attempt has been made to record the achievements of Alumni: to do so would require a separate volume. It is hoped that, as they peruse these pages, Alumni will find some of the familiar features in the chapters which record the events of their own undergraduate days.

The endeavour has been made also to show how the University has fulfilled its function as a public institution, discharging its responsibilities to the citizens of the Province and to the nation.

The author is doubly indebted to Dean Soward, whose well-documented work, *The Early History of the University of British Columbia*, written in 1930, provided much of the material for the first four chapters. His history has thus

fulfilled a part of its purpose for it was prepared, in typewritten form, with the understanding that it "should not be published but should be kept in the University archives . . . as an aid to the historian who may some day write the centenary history of the University." In addition, Dean Soward read the entire manuscript with scrupulous care and offered valuable criticism throughout.

To John M. Norris, Assistant Professor of History, a special debt is owed for his brilliant and painstaking work as Research Assistant in collecting and compiling data for the last four chapters from official records in the University and documents in the Provincial Library. Dr. Norris also wrote the whole of chapter five. The timely help is acknowledged of Mr. Peter Krosby, B.A. '55, M.A. '58, who gave considerable assistance with research and the writing of chapter eight.

Thanks are due to Professor Stanley E. Read, who prepared the manuscript for the Printers; to Mr. Neal Harlow, Librarian, Miss Anne Smith and others of the Library Staff for frequent help in answering questions; to Mr. Wayne Hubble who prepared the Index, and to a host of colleagues and former students who have patiently submitted to having their memories probed. Acknowledgement is made of the kindness of the President's office, and especially of Miss Margaret Frederickson and Miss Sheila Buchanan, in making documents available as required throughout the past two years.

The Design and Typography of the book are the choice of Mr. Robert R. Reid and reveal his artistry.

The author feels he should express gratitude to the Convocation Founders, and to the President and Board of Governors for making possible the preparation and publication of this book.

Harry T. Logan.

The University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, B.C.
September, 1958.

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FOREWORD

TO MANY universities fifty years are a very short span in their record of achievement. From a vantage point of greater longevity than ours they may regard their first five decades as having been little more than a prelude to the more important things to come. But we of The University of British Columbia, of U.B.C. as we have come affectionately to call it, feel, as we celebrate this year the fiftieth anniversary of our incorporation, that we have far more reason than most to reflect upon the days of our youth. For us they have been a period of struggle and achievement, of sadness and success for which there are few academic parallels.

Those who did all in their power sixty or seventy years ago to have higher education established in British Columbia could not possibly have foreseen that the new university must, of necessity, begin its lectures one year after the outbreak of the First World War. As a consequence, both staff and students had to make do with what limited "temporary" quarters were available, while during each of the wartime sessions many of their ablest colleagues and friends left for overseas service. To-day the khaki cord on the undergraduate gown has almost lost its significance for those who wear it, but it symbolizes a precious inheritance. The delay of a decade before the University was installed on its present beautiful campus had scarcely been overcome when a world depression shattered all hopes of expansion, or even of consolidation, and came near to closing the University. Again U.B.C. overcame its difficulties only to enter a longer and more pitiless world war. Again it had to cope with the needs of those who came back on a scale of magnitude which required enormous efforts at improvisation. The uses of adversity may be sweet — bittersweet — but often they are difficult to

appreciate until some time after they have been endured. I think we now recognize that those years of frustration and sacrifice, of waiting for daylight, only increased the loyalty of our students to their Alma Mater and deepened the devotion of their teachers. Necessity has made this University develop qualities of experimentation and self-reliance. Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret was good enough to make an implicit reference to them when the University conferred upon her an honorary degree in July, 1958. After mentioning her participation in the celebrations marking the one hundredth anniversary of the Province, Princess Margaret added:

It is altogether fitting that you should join in these celebrations, for your institution has shown itself a true adventurer worthy of standing beside those bold travellers and hardy colonists who first discovered and then transformed this country.

The publication of this history is another example of the interest in higher education which has long been displayed here. One of its chapters includes a description of the first Convocation of this University in 1912, which those residents of British Columbia who were graduates of universities in Canada or throughout the British Empire were eligible to attend. A surprising number did so and retained a pride in their association with U.B.C., which impelled those of their number who are still among us to raise a substantial fund to make possible the compilation of this history. We are deeply grateful to them for their energy and enthusiasm. This history also reflects my own conviction, which, I know, my colleagues share, that it is most desirable as we enter another era of unavoidable expansion and uncertainty to take stock of what has been achieved in the formative years. Those who follow us and will complete the second half-century at U.B.C. may find both encouragement and admonition in this record.

It was entirely appropriate that Professor H. T. Logan should have been asked to be the University's historian. Himself a member of the "founding fathers" of 1912, Harry is the only person associated with U.B.C. who has been in a position to serve as a member of the teaching staff and Head of the Department of Classics, as a member of the Senate, as a member of the Board of Governors, and presently as editor of the *UBC Alumni Chronicle*. Like his mentor, Thucydides, he writes out of the richness of his personal experience, which has made him the teacher and friend of hundreds of students. I commend his affectionate and scholarly account of our first half-century to the goodly company of our graduates and to those friends of the University whose numbers and generosity made us both proud and humble during the recent University Development Fund Campaign.

Norman MacKenzie,

PRESIDENT