

Donald A. Bailey, 1940-2015



On 8 September 2015 the French Historical community lost a long and loyal friend with the sudden and unexpected passing of Donald A. Bailey in Winnipeg. That loss is shared by friends and colleagues at the University of Winnipeg as well as by several generations of former students who remember him with great affection. Countless members of the Winnipeg cultural community also lament the passing of a man whose presence in our theatres, galleries, concert halls, and folk festivals was so greatly appreciated. So, too, the members of his Unitarian church in Winnipeg where, in recent years, he spent half of his life, and those in Paris where he spent the other half. None will miss him more than his partner in France, Jacqueline Labaste, his son Marshall in London, and his daughter Monica and her partner Sharon in Winnipeg.

Born in Rochester, Minnesota on 24 February 1940, Don received degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, Oxford University, and the University of Minnesota. He was a long-time member of the Society for French Historical Studies and of the Western Society for French History. He served on the latter's Board for many years, including one term as its President. Though a scholar of eclectic interests, Don's principal field of research was seventeenth-century France, a field to which he contributed a transcribed and edited biography of Michel de Marillac, a work *de longue durée* that had been preceded by an assortment of scholarly articles and manuscripts—including a major study of French language rights and practices in Canada.

With Marillac finally put to rest, Don devoted most of his remaining scholarly life to two major book projects: one entitled *Religious Explorations* (2012), a work heavily historical in nature, and a second entitled *Seven Reasons for Supporting Social Democracy* (2014), a work that not only testified to his own political commitment but also to his remarkable historical and intellectual breadth. Those who knew Don can only take solace in the fact that he had completed three large, life-long projects within the last decade of his life. Those who knew him well will find comfort in their memory of his sense of humour, his uncompromising candour, and, above all, his compassion for others.

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