

our students not only to recognize corruption and evil but to take a stand against it.” Always the feminist-activist, she was awarded several Honorary Degrees after her official retirement in 1987 and was tireless in participation in conferences here and abroad, particularly in Norway where as Scholar in Residence 1987-8 she shared in the establishing of Kvinneuniversitet (The Women’s University), the first of its kind in the world. Its purpose, Fulton said, is

to challenge all the old assumptions about male or female values and to seek alternatives which empower all people, aboriginals as well as oppressed national groups—to create a different global society.

Early in her career she picked up the word “transformations” from Lewis Mumford’s recipe for improving society and used it enthusiastically to describe her own ideals as well as the major moves in her own career path. At 85 she continues her crusade with indomitable will and courage.

It is impossible to find a clearly marked biographical path through Doyle’s narrative. Because he is primarily interested in Fulton’s thought and in commenting on her plethora of public speeches, he gives his readers no simple time-line through her life and career. Without it the overall effect of his work suffers and the reader is constantly back-checking for simple details of times and places, a frustrating necessity. Still his *Transformations* is a tribute to her rare stamina and spirit. Her name is an outstanding one on the Honour Role of Canadian feminism.

Clara Thomas was one of the two first women to be hired by York University. She has been with York since 1961, the year Glendon opened. She is now a retired Professor Emeritus. In 2005 York did her the honour of naming the libraries’ Archives and Special Collections the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, York University.

RECOLLECTIONS OF WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY 1960- 1973

Flora Roy
Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University
Press, 2006

REVIEWED BY CLARA THOMAS

Recollections of Waterloo Lutheran University 1960-1973 follows Flora Roy’s *Recollections of Waterloo College*, telling the story of the evolving institution that we now know as Wilfrid Laurier University, a major player among Canadian universities. All three of the stages were achieved and maintained by groups of dedicated faculty and students; Dr. Roy is ideally suited to trace their story, having been Head and then Chair of the English Department throughout the often stormy times that inevitably accompanied their development. She begins her tale with a tribute to the Registrar, Tamara Giesbrecht, as well as to the many dedicated women who “kept us afloat . . . accountants, secretaries, cooks, et al” and who “did as much as faculty and administration, and perhaps more.” As a pioneer of York University, one of two women faculty members at the beginning of Glendon College (1961), I especially applaud her care to recognize the importance of the various women in their supporting roles, too often ignored by official historians. We certainly had our share at York, too, and they were very much its builders as the Board or the Faculty.

As was the case with her first volume, Dr. Roy is impeccable in her telling, with a constant wry wit that gives her account her own special flavour, implied in every sentence: “I was there and I know how it was: this is all that I choose to say about it, but it is by no means all that I COULD say if I chose.” Reading her

account is a constant realization of the effectiveness of a writer’s restraint as well as a constant testament to her own dedication to the institution. She divides her work into sixteen chapters, covering all the themes that were important to the growth and sustaining of the institution: Finances takes first place, after it University Government, Heresy Hunts, The Campus Family and Guests, and on to The Ending, a triumphant finale really, and a strong bridge to the institution we have today. Of course its transformation into Wilfrid Laurier was mourned by a number of its devoted Lutheran supporters. Its Seminary, preparing Lutheran Clergy for their careers, remains:

when the Lutherans gave over the university to the government of Ontario, they did not give up their presence. . . . I must leave you to decide, but in these days of pervasive distrust and self-seeking, the most rigorous opponents of religion in education might be persuaded to acknowledge the seminary’s considerable accomplishment.

Most, probably all of Ontario’s new universities in the sixties had a chaotic time in their early years and Waterloo Lutheran was no exception. In her Chapter III, Heresy Hunts, Dr. Roy writes of the presidential tenure of Dr. Villaume, 1961-1967, as being the period of their major crises. He had come from the States where he had held positions in several Lutheran schools and

he was not aware that Canada was not The United States. If we protested some of his suggestions—“You don’t do that in Canada”—he replied, “Well, you should.” He set up a regime of “family dinners” to which faculty members would be assigned as the “parents” and the students were expected to be the willing “family.”

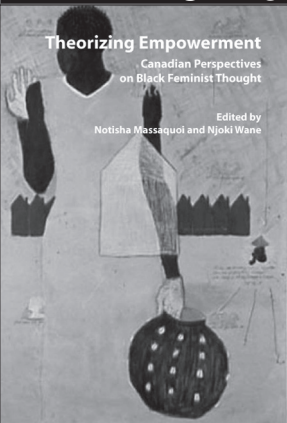
Most damning, he was called by at least one of his faculty a “Madison Avenue religionist.” “Our friend said that they had spent their lives greeting one another while getting off planes carrying handsome briefcases.” Faculty discontent finally reached its apex with complaints to the board of governors and the appointment of a consulting firm to examine administrative practices. Villaume, his all-controlling methods thus threatened, resigned. However, he is given his due by Dr. Roy: he was an enthusiastic builder, providing

much of the impetus that transformed a tiny institution to a university with about six thousand students, partly through his program of erecting more buildings on the original campus.... By the end of his regime passers by could see that something was going on around the university.

This is an excellent companion volume to Roy's first one, *Recollections of Waterloo College*. Together the two make a major contribution to the histories of universities in Canada. There will undoubtedly be other and lengthier histories of Wilfrid Laurier but, I firmly believe, there will never be one published that has been written with such economy, authority, and authenticity as Flora Roy's two volumes.

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