

GUEST EDITORS' NOTE

Carrollcroft, the Italianate villa that was home to four generations of the Colby family before becoming one of Canada's most outstanding house museums, recently celebrated the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its construction. In order to mark this occasion the *Journal of Eastern Townships Studies* and the Stanstead Historical Society *Journal* have joined forces in producing this special celebratory issue. Carrollcroft is exceptional not only as an example of mid-Victorian domestic architecture but because so much of the building's past contents have remained *in situ*, including the voluminous Colby family archives with their remarkable diaries and correspondence. The articles assembled here make full use of these resources in illustrating how the house and its contents can open up new perspectives in understanding the culture and everyday life of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Canada. D'Arcy Ryan's introductory essay describes the historical context at the time of the building of Carrollcroft. Annmarie Adams and Silvia Spampinato explain the ways in which the women of the Colby family shaped Carrollcroft as a living environment that reflected aspirations and sensibilities particular to their time and social station. For his part, art historian Robert G. Colby discusses the cultural significance of the Carrollcroft collection of paintings by the American artist Willbur Reaser in reflecting the Colby family's sense of memory and cultural identity. In the concluding article, Monique Nadeau-Saumier describes Helen Lovat Colby's role in the transition from ancestral home to Colby-Curtis house museum. This commemoration of Carrollcroft therefore demonstrates the importance of cultural preservation and heritage to nineteenth and twentieth century Canadians. It highlights the roles of art and architecture in framing memory and identity, women's roles in family heritage, and the transition from private to public commemoration. Finally, the publication also includes an archival section, made up of two articles by Karl Bourassa and Raymond Frizzell that sum up the holdings of the Stanstead Historical Society and the holdings of the Eastern Townships Resource Centre pertaining to Stanstead County.

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