

The History Education Network/ Histoire et éducation en réseau (THEN/HiER)

Penney Clark, UBC, Director

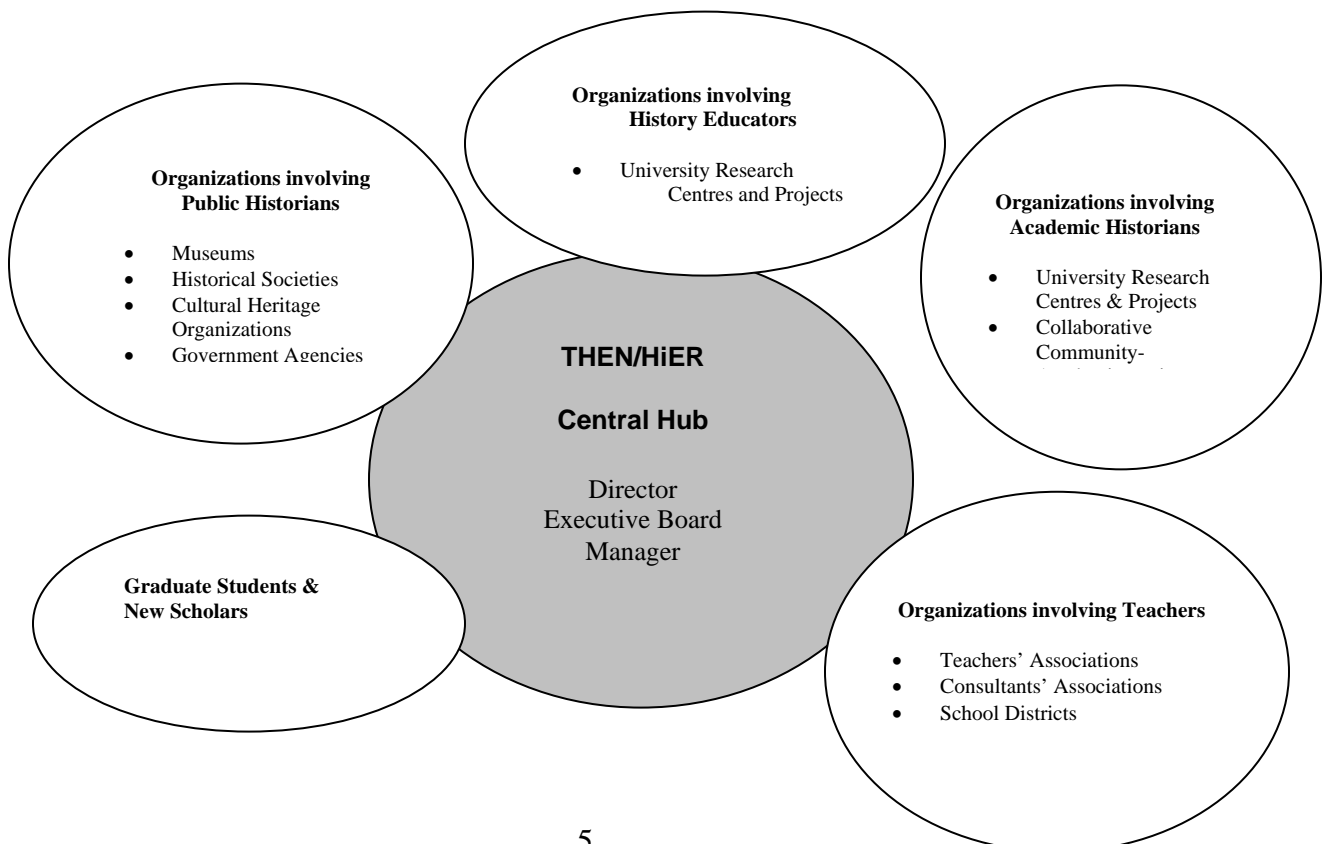
You may not have heard of The History Education Network yet, but you will be hearing about it quite a bit in future. The Network is a seven-year project, sponsored by a \$2.1 million federal government grant awarded in March of 2008.



The above photograph was taken in April, 2006 at the Peter Wall Centre, UBC. This was an initial meeting of THEN/HiER participants, organized by Peter Seixas, UBC and Ruth Sandwell, OISE/UofT. BCSSTA members Tom Morton and Charles Hou gave presentations, which can be found on our website: www.historyeducation.ca.

THEN/HIER is a pan-Canadian network which is devoted to history education reform. I am the Director and there is an Executive Board, with ten members who work closely with me. Anne Marie Goodfellow joined us in January as the Network Manager. Our aim is to promote research, dialogue and collaboration among the various constituencies involved in history education. These include history and social studies teachers; academic historians; history educators in faculties of education; public historians at museums, archives and historic sites and curriculum policy-makers. We currently have 28 partner organizations, representing every Canadian region.

The BCSSTA is one of our partner organizations. Other teacher organizations which have signed on as partners are: the Manitoba Social Science Teachers' Association, the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association, the Ontario History, Humanities and Social Science Consultants' Association and the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association. Some of our other Canadian partners are: the Surrey School District; the Museum of Anthropology, UBC; Glenbow Museum; McCord Museum; the Ojibwa Cultural Society; the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, UBC; Historica and Canada's National History Society. International partners are the Instituts Universitaires de la Formation des Maîtres (France) and the National Centre for History Education (Australia).



We want to develop pro-active connections with ministries of education, textbook publishers, other curriculum developers, and practicing teachers. We will collaboratively develop teacher resource materials and on-line museum-based activities and other digital resources for schools. We have already committed to the development of on-line activities using digitized artifacts with the Museum of Anthropology and the Glenbow and McCord Museums. We will engage in the development of authentic approaches to assessment of students' historical literacy through collaboration with the Benchmarks of Historical Thinking project, developed by the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness at UBC. We will promote research in classrooms in order to find out how teachers can best teach history and how students can best learn it. We also intend to disseminate current Canadian and international research on history education out of the universities to broader communities of stakeholders.

Some of the highlights of our first year have been a celebratory reception which took place during the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities last June, a THEN/HiER sponsored panel presentation to the Association for Canadian Studies Conference in Quebec City in October (Chair: Penney Clark, Faculty of Education, UBC; Presenters: Peter Seixas, Faculty of Education, UBC; Gerald Friesen, Department of History, University of Manitoba and Mark Perry, secondary school social studies teacher, Fredericton, NB) and an opportunity to co-publish *Exemplars in Historical Thinking: 20th Century Canada*, in cooperation with the Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²), another partner. We were also able to contribute funds to the Begbie Canadian History Contest Society (yet another partner) to assist in its efforts to publicize the test across the country.

We held an invitational symposium in February that will result in an edited collection reflecting the cutting edge of Canadian history education research. The chapters will examine the teaching, learning and assessment of historical thinking in various settings, including K-12, postsecondary and museum contexts. The published volume will be the first in a series of THEN/HiER sponsored edited collections on history education in Canada, as well as internationally. Another major project over the past few months has been the development of a new website. We hope to have a highly interactive site where users can participate in forums on topical issues, provide commentary on site content, and upload content themselves. Of course, a

major highlight for me personally was to be awarded the BCSSTA Innovator of the Year Award at last fall's conference, as acknowledgement of my work with THEN/HiER. Thank you again for this very special recognition.

Here are four projects/events that may be of special interest to you:

- Session on historical thinking for elementary teachers with a visitor from Australia, during the 2009-10 school year (co-sponsored with the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness, UBC)
- Summer Institute on historical thinking at UBC, Summer, 2010. Participants can choose to take it for graduate credit toward a Master's degree or for professional development purposes (co-sponsored with the Dept. of Curriculum & Pedagogy, UBC)
- Small Projects Program. We offer ten \$2500 grants each year to individuals or organizations which submit a plan for a project involving history education in schools or other settings. For more information on this program, go to our website and click on "Documents."
- Conference on History and New Media in St. Catharines, Ontario, April, 2010.

(Sessions will be available as podcasts on our website.)

If you would like more information about our new network and the projects/events mentioned above, please have a look at our website: www.historyeducation.ca. Information will be posted as plans become more firm. This site is current, but temporary. The new interactive site should be up by June, 2009. I would be happy to talk with anyone who would like to know more. I can be reached at penney.clark@ubc.ca or 604.822-3958. Or you may wish to contact the Network Manager, Anne Marie Goodfellow, at annemarie.goodfellow@ubc.ca or 604.822-6915.

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