When, in 1969, the Queen’s trustees decided to commission a new history of the university, one of the considerations that weighed with them in their choice of author was their knowledge that Dr. Hilda Neatby had had no previous connection with Queen’s and might therefore be expected to bring to the task an independent judgment and a fresh view. As the author of the second and concluding volume of this study, I can claim no such detachment. As W.A. Mackintosh said of himself, Queen’s University has been “rather bred in my bones.”

My mother was a member of the class of ’07. Two of my uncles were Queen’s graduates, and so are my wife and two of our children. I was brought up in Kingston in a house on the northern perimeter of the university; from my bedroom window I could look across the walled oval of the original George Richardson Stadium to the clock tower of Grant Hall rising in the centre of the campus. My earliest memories of Queen’s are of sitting on my father’s knee in the covered grandstand, about 1924, and watching Harry Batstone, “Pep” Leadlay, and “Red” McKelvey lead Queen’s football teams to “yet another victory”; a little later I cheered their successors from the more distant perspective of the north-end standing-room section to which children were admitted for ten cents. I suppose that at an early stage I began to assume that if my parents could afford to send me to university, I would go to Queen’s.

And so, indeed, it turned out. I enrolled as a freshman in the autumn of 1937, graduated in arts in 1942, and took a master’s degree in history in 1944. I was fortunate to study history with R.G. Trotter, political science with J.A. Corry, and economics with Frank Knox and Clifford Curtis. After further graduate work at Harvard and several years of employment in the Public Archives of Canada, I was appointed in the fall of 1952 to the staff of Queen’s Department of History. I am now completing my thirtieth year as a professor in that department, a period broken only by a stint of administrative work as vice-principal academic from 1966 to 1969.
I can even claim a slight connection with the preparation of the first history of Queen's, over forty years ago. In the summer of 1938, as my first summer job, I was employed by the Douglas Library as a part-time assistant to D.D. Calvin. My duties were to draw correspondence and other documents from the university's records and summarize them for Mr. Calvin; for these services I was paid five dollars a week and thus introduced both to historical research and to the legendary frugality of Queen's.

Whether as student or professor, most of my life has been spent at Queen's, and the reader should not expect from me an absence of that strong loyalty to the university which has often been seen as a leading virtue and vice of Queen's people. At no stage, however, has my attachment been one of blind devotion. I hope it may be said of me, as I have written below about the late Chancellor James Richardson, that he was too loyal to be uncritical.

As an historian, I have tried to view the history of Queen's dispassionately and to write about it candidly and fairly, believing that for a university, no less than for an individual, it is worth being reminded of failures as well as successes. In attempting a candid portrait, I have not been conscious of any serious obstacle with respect to the period covered by this volume. I know, however, that I would have found it very difficult indeed had I carried the story forward into the 1960s or beyond, when I would have been writing about individuals who were my colleagues and friends, some of them still active in the service of the university.

I have received help from many quarters. Principal Watts, the Board of Trustees, and the Senate gave me access to the minutes and proceedings of the governing bodies and to the records of the university's administrative officers. The principal relieved me of one teaching course during part of the time when I was engaged in this study, and the trustees provided funds to pay research and publication costs. These research funds were supplemented by grants from the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada which I also gratefully acknowledge.

The Queen's archivist, Anne MacDermaid, and her colleague, George Henderson, have been extremely helpful in bringing forward university records which are in their custody. Documents pertaining to Queen's are also to be found in other repositories, including the Public Archives of Canada, the Public Archives of Ontario, the University of Toronto Archives, McGill University Archives, the James A. Richardson and Sons Archives in Winnipeg, the archives of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Rockefeller Foundation, the permanent archives of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Ottawa, and the library of St. John's College, Cambridge. To the staffs of these institutions I tender warm thanks for efficient and courteous service.

I have benefited from interviews with many Queen's people, some of whom have, in addition, read particular chapters. Five of them - J.A. Corry, R.L. Dunsmaxore, Roger Graham, John B. Stirling, and Principal Ronald L. Watts -
read the entire typescript. They gave helpful advice on matters of fact and form, while at the same time making no attempt to alter my interpretation of men and events. Errors that remain are my own.

This volume is by no means a solo effort. The preparation of memoranda, from which a large part of the text was written, I entrusted to several research assistants who were employed for varying periods of time. They included Barbara Robertson, James Carruthers, Brian Smith, Peter G. Smith, and Ann Green. Mrs. Green also helped in the assembly of illustrations. Peter Greig prepared the index. Elizabeth Wagner typed cleanly each succeeding draft. David Wang and his staff in the circulation department of the Douglas Library photocopied important documents and successive drafts. Murray Gill made available photographs from the Queen's Alumni Office's collection. Members of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre also helped to supply illustrations. The university's maintenance department assisted in finding maps. Peter Dorn designed this volume, as he did its predecessor; and Larry Harris, also a member of the Queen's Graphic Design Unit, prepared the maps which appear in the endpapers. Charles Beer was a discerning and meticulous copy editor.

By far my greatest obligation, however, is to my senior research assistant, Barbara Robertson. A graduate of the University of Toronto and of Queen's, an able professional historian in her own right, Mrs. Robertson gave invaluable assistance. She prepared memoranda, criticized successive drafts of the text, checked end-notes and compiled the bibliography, helped in the final selection of illustrations and in proof-reading, and could be relied on throughout for informed and cogent discussion of points of interpretation. It is a special pleasure to record my appreciation of Mrs. Robertson's collaboration.

Frederick W. Gibson