

Sydney F. Wise
1924-2007



Sydney F. Wise, 1924-2007, academic, internationally renowned scholar, writer and lecturer, dedicated over fifty years to the study of war and peace in the 20th Century. He began his academic career as a lecturer in history at the Royal, Military College while working on his Master's degree at Queen's University. He completed his degree in 1953, became a professor in the department of history at Queen's in 1955 and a full professor in 1964. In 1966 he became the director of history at the Department of National Defense. He also served as president of the Ontario Historical Society and the Canadian Historical Society. In 1973 he joined the history department at Carleton University, later becoming director of the Institute of Canadian Studies and dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

He actively worked to establish joint science and engineering programs at the University of Ottawa and Carleton.

Brian McKillop, then Chair of the History Department said, "I will remember how alive and open he was to ideas, how enthusiastic and engaged he was about history. He was a pioneer in heritage conservation and spent many years ... memorializing Canadian-history." His wife said, "It was like being married to an encyclopedia. He had one of those photographic memories."

He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Eastern Air Command, during the war. After the war, he graduated from Victoria College in 1949 with a gold medal in history. He was named the official historian of the Canadian Armed Forces in 1966. He was author of many articles, papers and books. He was best known as the co-author of *Men In Arms: A History in Warfare and Its Interrelationship with Western Society*, 1956. He also wrote with Craig Brown, *Canada View the United States: Nineteenth Century Political Attitudes*, 1967 and *Arms, Men and Governments: The War Policies of Canada 1939-1945*, 1970, and *Canadian Airmen and the First World War*, 1980. He also wrote with Doug Fisher and Nancy Green, *Canada's Sporting Heroes: Their Life and Times*, 1974.

He received numerous awards including honorary degrees from Guelph and Carleton. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1989 and promoted within the Order to Officer in 2004. He was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1983. He wrote assiduously until the day of his death. When he passed away, he left three children and three grandchildren. A tribute to him was written by W.A.B. Douglas, in *Canadian Military History*, vol 16, no. 3, Summer 2007, pp. 75-80.