Monuments
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN PERPETUAL REMEMBRANCE
OF ONE HUNDRED & NINETY-TWO MEN OF
THE NEWFOUNDLAND ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE,
THIRTEEN HUNDRED MEN OF
THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT,
ONE HUNDRED & SEVENTEEN MEN
OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND MERCANTILE MARINE, AND
OF ALL THOSE NEWFOUNDLANDERS OF OTHER UNITS
OF HIS MAJESTY'S OR ALLIED FORCES WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES BY SEA AND LAND FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE
BRITISH EMPIRE IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918;
FOR ENDURING WITNESS ALSO TO THE SERVICES OF THE
MEN OF THIS ISLAND WHO DURING THAT WAR FOUGHT
NOT WITHOUT HONOUR IN THE NAVIES AND ARMIES
OF THEIR EMPIRE:
THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED BY THEIR
FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND WAS UNVEILED
BY FIELD MARSHAL EARL HAIG, K.T.
G.C.B., O.M., ETC. FIRST OF JULY 1924.
"LET THEM GIVE GLORY UNTO THE LORD AND DECLARE
HIS PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS." ISAIAH 42:10.
Beaumont-Hamel

- 1 July 1916, first day of the Somme offensive
  - British suffer 57,470 casualties
- 1st Newfoundland Regiment virtually annihilated:
  - lost 700 men trying to advance over 500m of open ground
1 July in Newfoundland

- The anniversary of the Beaumont-Hamel slaughter
- Canada Day
- Conflicting memories
Monuments

• Landscape symbols
• Sites of memory
• Make claims about history
  – What and how to remember
• Monument must endure changes in meaning
Monuments and Power

- Monuments help to project cultural power?
Monuments and Memory

• Monuments attempt to
  – Promote a way of looking, thinking
  – Promote a public memory

• But culture, politics change
  – Monuments of one era may become embarrassing to the next
WWI War Memorials

• Landscape elements
• Allied ones tend to be grand in scale, dominating
• Mostly built in the 1920s
• Become places of official memory
Lutyens: Thiepval cenotaph
WWI War Memorials

• May sanitise war
  – noble sacrifice remembered, brutal horror forgotten
  – Confer purpose and meaning on often senseless slaughter
Fred Varley 1918

- For What?
WWI War Memorials

- Product of official culture:
  - selected architects, sculptors, artists
  - officially-sanctioned symbols
    - cross of sacrifice
    - sorrowing angels
Vimy Memorial

- Designed by Walter Allward
  - Sorrowing angels, mothers, fathers
Vimy unveiled 1936
Monuments and Monuments

• Grand schemes for monuments displaced earlier attempts to erect monuments
• Even at Vimy Ridge
Canada’s National Cenotaph

• Peace tower intended as a war memorial
• Temporary cenotaphs on Parliamentary steps
• National Cenotaph unveiled by King George VI in 1939
Vancouver

- Unveiled April 1924
London UK

- National cenotaph
- Designed by Lutyens
Commonwealth War-Graves Commission

• Began building WW1 cemeteries in 1919

• Each has:
  – Standardized grave stones
  – Sir Reginald Bloomfield’s Cross of Sacrifice (in 3 sizes)
  – Lutyen’s altar-like stone of remembrance
Their name liveth ...

- Bible verse chosen by Rudyard Kipling
  - Ecclesiasticus 44: 14
    - “Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.”
Lutyens: *stone of remembrance*
Port Stanley, Falkland Is
Toronto Cenotaph, 1925

- Dedicated 11 Nov 1925
- Erected on the spot where departing troops were given a civic farewell
- Canon H J Cody leads prayers, gives sermon – “a mystic shrine …”
• 2003
• Canon Cody addresses the troops at Queen’s Park, 1916
Soldiers’ Tower, UofT

- Constructed 1919-1924
- Canon Cody leads prayers at laying of foundation stone, 1919
Canon Henry J Cody 1868-1951

- Rector of St Paul’s, Bloor St 1899-1932
- U of T
  - Chairman of Board of Governors
  - President 1932-1945
  - Chancellor 1944-1947
- Ontario Minister of Education 1918-1919
- Admired Italian fascism in early 1930s
Cody’s Speeches to the Empire Club

- 1908: Religious Contributions Toward Imperial Unity
- 1914: The Safeguarding of Imperial Democracy
- 1919: Empire Day
- 1920: The Forward Movement
- 1922: The Growth and Genius of the British Empire
- 1923: The Northland of Canada
- 1925: The Growth of Democracy
- 1929: Palestine, Today and Tomorrow
- 1932: Toronto University and the Public
- 1939: Guarding Our Heritage
St Paul’s Bloor St

- Built by Canon Cody
- The only Anglican church in the Toronto diocese to
  - Seat 3000
  - Have a rifle range in the basement
  - Have a Cross of Sacrifice (1931)
• Canon Cody was regimental chaplain to the Queens Own Rifles
Tait McKenzie Centre

• York U athletic facility
Robert Tait McKenzie

- Canadian-born doctor and sculptor
- Served in WW1, Black Watch of Canada
  - Subsequently designed war memorials
- University of Pennsylvania Prof
  - Expert in sports and rehab medicine
• Cambridge UK
• Scottish-American WW1 memorial,
  – Edinburgh
Newfoundland Memorials

- The howling caribou
German WW1 Cemeteries

- German cemeteries subdued affairs
- Allies insisted that graves be black
Hidden Stories
War Memorials

• Blood sacrifice making the ground sacred to national memory?
• Patriotism trumps all other interpretations?
• Symbolic landscapes strongly connected to power
Fuchs 2004

- British military cemeteries in the Holy Land
- A relic from WW1, 15,000 dead from British Empire
- British defeat of Ottoman Empire brought British Mandate in Palestine
  - Eventually the creation of a Jewish state
British War cemeteries

• Uniformity of design
• Ethos of the equality of the dead
• But need to acknowledge differences
  – Of rank
  – Of nationality, religion
  – Of host region
• Need to commemorate the unknown soldier
Accommodation

• Need to accommodate ethnic, religious & national variety of Allied armies
  – Christians & Jews get headstones
  – Muslims and Hindus don’t

Fig. 1. Indian section, Haifa War Cemetery, Plan. Source: IWC Register for Haifa.
Local Sensitivity

• British tone down the crusader metaphors, cross of sacrifice

Fig. 2. Design for the monument of the 60th London Division, Jerusalem. Source: Building News, 27 February, 1920.
Fig. 3. Memorial Chapel, Jerusalem War Cemetery, Mt Scopus. Photo after completion in 1927. Source: Courtesy of CWGC Archives.
Fig. 4. View over Jerusalem from the War Cemetery, ca. 1940. Source: Courtesy of CWGC Archives.
JERUSALEM WAR CEMETERY

THE LAND ON WHICH THIS CEMETERY STANDS IS THE FREE GIFT OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE FOR THE PERPETUAL RESTING PLACE OF THOSE OF THE ALLIED ARMIES WHO FELL IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918 AND ARE HONoured HERE
A SOLDIER
OF THE GREAT WAR
24TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT
27TH DECEMBER 1917
720315 PRIVATE
F. W. JEFFERY
24TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT
21ST DECEMBER 1917 AGE 19

SLEEP ON DEAR BOY
IN A GRAVE WE CANNOT SEE
FOR OUR HEARTS
ARE SAD O’ER THEE
Fuchs

- The British faced difficulties in creating war memorials, war cemeteries in Palestine
- A colonial situation with fragile politics
- The difficulties of promoting an official memory through monuments.