

James Russell Mallory 1916-2003

Born at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 5 February 1916, James Russell Mallory received a BA (Hons.) in Economics and Political Science from the University of New Brunswick in 1937. In 1940, he earned a LLD from the University of Edinburgh, and, in 1941, an MA from Dalhousie University. As a professor, his career took him to Saskatchewan, Toronto, Brandon and, in 1946, to McGill University, where for ten years (1959-69) he was chairman of the Department of Economics and Political Science and in 1982 named Emeritus Professor.

James Mallory transformed Canadians' understanding of their institutions of government. There is scarcely a topic to be found in the syllabus of a traditional Canadian politics course on which he did not write: the Crown, Parliament, cabinet, administration, parties, the courts, federalism, representation, constitutional amendment, legislation, delegated legislation, and, not to be forgotten, the Constitution that set of mutual understandings that articulates the whole. More than that, he was one of the first Canadian political scientists of his generation to be exposed to a legal education. And it showed, not only in his frequent references to courts, which in the Canadian federation (as in all others) have played a determinative role in its evolution, but also in his legal sensibility, which explained his early concern about executive power and the need for Parliament to exercise supervision over delegated legislation, that is, the myriad orders-in-council employed by government to carry out the principles of legislation. The conjunction of legal and political science training equipped him, notwithstanding his age and maybe even to his surprise, to be a model of a modern social scientist. Even before the patriation of the Constitution and the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, he foresaw a shift in the conduct of Canadian politics, as citizens would increasingly look to courts to redress their grievances. He understood too, although he did not use the phrase, the advent of "identity politics". To summarize, James Mallory was prescient in his assessment of Canadian politics.

There is a timely, even timeless, quality to his writing. *Social Credit and the Federal Power in Canada* appeared in 1974, as one work in the ten-volume series on Social Credit published by the University of Toronto Press. As economic and political phenomena social credit and Social Credit seem antique. By contrast, Mallory's analysis of the relations between Canada as a whole and one of its regions that followed the doctrine is anything but dated, and explains the central place the book continues to occupy in syllabuses on federalism.

The same may be said of his later book *The Structure of Canadian Government*, which first appeared in 1971. Like R. MacGregor Dawson's pioneering work, *The Government of Canada*, Mallory's book is a foundational contribution to the study of the institutions and processes of parliamentary government. During his career, James Mallory demonstrated a mastery of the scholarly article in nearly every area of Canadian politics. *The Structure of Canadian Government* constitutes the summation of this labour at the moment of his greatest productivity.

In his writing Mallory frequently cites Walter Bagehot, the nineteenth-century journalist, political theorist and interpreter of the English Constitution: it is an illuminating reference in a study of his own legacy, for it is as an interpreter of the Canadian constitution as a whole rather than as a scholar of any of its single parts on which Mallory's reputation rests. The breadth of his understanding of the intricacies of Canadian politics at all its levels federal and provincial; executive, legislative and judicial directed his perspective to the large questions of politics. In his work there was never any touch of the provincialism of the expert. Despite his devotion to the study of Parliament, his work was never institutionally hermetic. On the contrary, he took care to stress that governments in Canada were determined by election and thus by the people. The people were ever present in his conception of politics, as were other forces. He wrote extensively, for instance, about binary relations, the centrifugal and centripetal strains of federalism, or the centralizing and decentralizing tensions inherent in a Parliament composed of individuals selected by constituency-based parties. The reach of his interests, combined with his intellect, meant that in Canadian political science there was no one quite like him.

James Mallory was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1964 and President of Section II in 1973-1974.

In retirement, he moved from Montreal to Ottawa, where he died on 24 June 2003.

*David E. Smith, FRSC
Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan*

(Author's title given as of the time of writing)