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# BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

John T. Saywell, *'Just Call Me Mitch': The Life of Mitchell F. Hepburn* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1991).

THIS DEEPLY-RESEARCHED and long-awaited study of the man who headed the Liberal Ontario government during much of the Great Depression has much to recommend it. Balanced appreciatively on a knowledge of the public and private Hepburn, the study also contains much useful commentary on labour relations and the state, especially as this relates to the major strikes of the period, including the important 1937 Oshawa General Motors battle. Saywell's assessment of labour-related matters can no doubt be questioned, but working-class historians will benefit from his detailed portrait of the major political opponent of the CIO and the 'Lewis gang.'

Robin Fisher, *Duff Pattullo of British Columbia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1991).

ELEGANTLY WRITTEN, this account of a central liberal reformer on the west coast provides much important background for labour historians, but little direct commentary on the dynamics of class formation and relations. Like Hepburn, Pattullo ruled BC through much of the 1930s, but Fisher pays less attention to the strikes and social dislocations of the period than Saywell. This may relate to differences in regional political economies and the

centrality of labour issues, but there is also a conscious construction of the history at work here as well. The two biographies share much, but the prefaces show up significant differences, as well. Fisher's is the more defensive, and it is probably too bad that his impressive account of a major and neglected figure is destined to be remembered as an exercise, in the author's words, in "redinking history."

John Richards, Robert D. Cairns, Larry Pratt, ed., *Social Democracy Without Illusions: Renewal of the Canadian Left* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart 1991).

A NUMBER OF COMMITTED social democrats address what they consider the central political priority of the contemporary moment: how can a reform-oriented socialism achieve political power? The answers provided indicate how much the project of renewal of the left has been influenced by the rightward drift of politics in the 1980s. 'Socialists' in this volume make the case for competitive markets, balanced budgets, and the reorganization of collective bargaining. Ideas abound and nothing established as resting in the past is safe or cherished.

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J.M.S. Careless, *Frontier and Metropolis: Regions, Cities, and Identities in Canada before 1914* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1989).

THESE FOUR LECTURES, presented in 1987 to honour Donald Creighton, restate Careless' long-standing interest in the relations of regions, urban centres, and Canadian identity.

Alison Prentice and Marjorie R. Theobald, ed., *Women Who Taught: Perspectives on the History of Women and Teaching* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1991).

THIS COLLECTION OF essays covers public and private school teaching, as well as the experience of women in Universities. It ranges broadly across the Australian, English, American, and Canadian experiences. Providing a useful historiographic introduction to the subject, it will stimulate and advance scholarship in a number of related areas.

Roxana Ng, Gillian Walker, Jacob Muller, ed., *Community Organization and the Canadian State* (Toronto: Garamond 1990).

SIXTEEN ESSAYS ADDRESS the ways in which community and state connect at the point of organizing for change. Among the many issues studied are native women, the policing of gays, immigration, and education.

Glen Downie and Pam Tranfield, ed., *More Than Our Jobs: An Anthology* (Vancouver: Pulp Press 1991).

THE VANCOUVER INDUSTRIAL Writers Union offers us a series of stimulating poems and essays on work and its contents and discontents.

Felix Albert, *Immigrant Odyssey: A French-Canadian Habitant in New England*, introduced by Francis H. Early (Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press 1991).

WRITTEN IN 1909, and introduced by a lengthy and historically sensitive essay by Francis H. Early, this memoir recounts the life of a French-Canadian migrant to the New England mill town. It supplements nicely the growing body of scholarship on Lowell and other communities where French-Canadians formed an important social presence.

Theresa Serber Malkiel, *The Diary of a Shirtwaist Striker*, introduced by Francois Basch (Ithaca, New York: School of Industrial and Labor Relations 1990).

FRANCOIS BASCH introduces this memoir of the 1909 "uprising of the 20,000" with a fascinating essay on the strike as history and myth. She also introduces the author, Theresa Serber Malkiel, whose account provides a strong state on the ways in which gender and class emancipation are inseparable.

Steven H. London, Elvira R. Tarr, Joseph F. Wilson, ed., *The Re-Education of the American Working Class* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press 1990).

WORKERS EDUCATION IN the United States is detailed, explored, and analysed in twenty-two essays. Contributors include academics from a range of disciplines as well as union leaders and labour educators.

Elmer Clarence Sandmeyer; *The Anti-Chinese Movement in California* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1991).

THIS REPRINT OF A 1939 text addresses the important role of the labour movement in tilting the balance of political forces in a state where anti-Orientalism was of fundamental importance. Together with more recent scholarship, the book prompts historians to consider seriously the tangled relations of class and race.

Ton Korver *The Fictitious Commodity: A Study of the U.S. Labor Market, 1880-1940* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press 1990).

BASED ON SECONDARY sources, this overview provides a fascinating exploration of the unskilled, the skilled, and the strategic importance of employee power in structuring managerial and state responses.

Robin D.G. Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 1990).

IMPRESSIVE IN ITS detail and its ability to co-ordinate a political narrative with thematic attention to race, gender, and locale, this exploration of communism nicely captures the making of a movement of poor blacks related to the world-historic rise of radical opposition to capitalism.

Sanford M. Jacoby, ed., *Masters to Managers: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on American Employers* (New York: Columbia University Press 1991).

AS AN ATTEMPT TO merge the perspectives of business and labour historians, this collection offers a series of useful essays on personnel policies, Taylorism, the closed shop, corporate paternalism, employers' associations, and Fordism. It should be studied by all interested in the reciprocities of class struggles and class formations.

Richard A. Couto, *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round: The Pursuit of Racial Justice in the Rural South* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1991).

THROUGH ORAL HISTORY the author attempts to explore how the federally-funded community health centres of the rural south provided a context in which activists struggled to give the civil rights legislation of the 1960s concrete meaning in terms of improving the physical well-being of African-Americans. Situating this mobilization historically, Couto also explores how gains registered in the 1960s have, subsequently, been displaced.

Edward P. Morgan, *The 60s Experience: Hard Lessons About Modern America* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1991).

TO BE AGAINST THE 1960s is now something of a fashion. In this book, Edward P. Morgan argues that the experience of the 1960s exposed the failure of American democracy and led to a radical reassessment of basic American institutions. The stage was thus set for popular movements of the 1970s and 1980s, as

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well as for the "right turn" and the rise of sixties' bashing.

Larry Neal, *The Rise of Financial Capitalism: International Capital Markets in the Age of Reason* (New York: Cambridge University Press 1990).

THIS STUDY, AN exploration of capital markets in the 18th century, will likely revise understanding of merchant capitalism. It examines American and European connections, suggesting that the financial panics of the late 18th century moved capital out of a France wracked by revolution and into the budding Industrial Revolution in Great Britain.

James A. Jaffe, *The Struggle For Market Power: Industrial Relations in the British Coal Industry, 1800-1840* (New York: Cambridge University Press 1991).

JAFFE CONTENTS THE definition and distribution of power in the marketplace were the result of historical class struggles. Turning on perceptions of the market by capital and labour, the study will generate most controversy around its contention that working-class culture accepted much of the utility of the market.

John Belchem, *Industrialization and the Working Class: The English Experience, 1750-1900* (Portland, Oregon: Areopagitica Press 1990).

A SOCIAL HISTORY survey, this text is noteworthy for its attempt to develop a distinct periodization (Industrial Revolution, the mid-Victorian 'Boom,' and the Great Depression of the late 19th century years) within which common themes of living standards, housing, work, reform agitation, popular culture, and radicalism are discussed.

Alan McKinlay and R.J. Morris, eds., *The ILP on Clydeside, 1893-1932: from foundation to disintegration* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1991).

THIS HIGHLY REVISIONIST collection of essays explores the ILP tradition and its mythologies, paying special attention to the ways in which shifts in popular politics conditioned changes in the fractured community of Clydeside labourism.

Linda Swindells and Lisa Jardin, *What's Left? Women in Culture and the Labour Movement* (London: Routledge 1990).

THIS SPIRITED AND engaged text addresses the major male figures of British leftism, from Morris to Orwell to E.P. Thompson, questioning how it is that these writers capture the left rather than moving it on to new agendas and purposes, most emphatically those in which women are central.

Karen Offen, Ruth Roach Pierson, and Jane Rendall, ed., *Writing Women's History: International Perspectives* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press 1990).

TWENTY-SIX ESSAYS deal with the complex conceptual issues of women's history and the specificities of particular 'national' peculiarities.

Hilda Sabato, *Agrarian Capitalism and the World Market: Buenos Aires in the Pastoral Age, 1840-1890* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press 1990).

A BOOK ABOUT SHEEP and labour, this study also explores the importance of world-wide commercial networks and the importance of credit in the pastoral sphere.

Dale W. Tomich, *Slavery in the Circuit of Sugar: Martinique and the World Economy* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press 1990).

TOMICH PROVIDES A richly-textured account of the world market, the labour process in sugar producing in the Caribbean, and the social relations of slavery and emancipation.

Ramesh Mishra, *The Welfare State in Capitalist Society: Policies of Retrenchment and Maintenance in Europe, North America, and Australia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1990).

THIS BRIEF, BUT wide-ranging, essay focuses on the ways in which western governments have responded to the crisis in welfare, arguing that the reformist construction of the state in the age of Fordism is indeed reversible and that this process of setback is currently well underway.

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