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ADRIAN MORRISON

Review of

Maudlin, Daniel and Bernard L. Herman (eds). 2016. *Building the British Atlantic World: Spaces, Places and Material Culture, 1600-1850*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

239 pp. 80 illustrations, maps, and plans. ISBN: 978-1-4696-2682-6, \$55.95.

Maudlin and Herman's edited collection adds a fresh body of work to an ever-growing discussion regarding material history and the British Atlantic world. With a focus on culturally constructed spaces and places, the editors connect an impressive pool of multi-disciplinary researchers from fields including folklore, vernacular architecture studies, archaeology and cultural geography among others. The intention is to introduce readers to the architecture and built landscapes constructed and consumed by British inhabitants who dwelled along the Atlantic seaboard, and to illustrate the central role of the ocean as a transmitter of both objects and ideas. Included are thirteen case studies temporally spanning the colonial period and geographically spanning the whole of the transatlantic world. The book contains a well constructed introduction, which connects a broad assortment of topics as widely diverse as the region discussed. It is then organized into four sections which include Part I: Empire and Government, Part II: Religion and the Churches, Part III: Commerce, Traffic, and Trade, and Part IV: Houses and the Home. The themes examined range from farmhouses to mansions, public building to ecclesiastical spaces, and isolated forts to urban plans. They highlight examples from areas such as West Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, England, and the American colonies. Connecting these disparate topics and locations is no small feat.

Combined, the authors discuss the impact that urban England had on the customs, ideologies, and belief systems, as well as the buildings and cultural landscapes of the British Atlantic world—from the centre to the Empire's distant peripheries. In doing so, this book joins an extensive and well-established corpus focused on the Britishness of material culture across the

transatlantic. However, it progressively strays from more traditional texts in its focus on hybridizations and cross-pollinations that took place between England, English settlers, and Indigenous populations. The authors highlight not only the influence of England upon its colonies, but also the impact of remote territories on the broader region, as well as specific contextual variations from one location to another. Kenneth Morgan, for example, provides an interesting overview of the influence that American trade had on English port cities. Furthermore, Peter Guillery examines the influence of a diverse and multi-cultural group of waterfront workers on the building styles and techniques employed during the construction of the church of St. George in Portsea, England. On the other hand, in his study of colonial public buildings in New England, Carl Lounsbury describes how British architectural traits were manipulated to reflect and incorporate local needs, ideas, and building materials. Significantly, there is also reference to foreign nations shaping the material culture of Britain's Atlantic world. Anna O. Marley, for example, explores the impact that Thomas Jefferson's time in France had on the interior design choices he made while decorating Monticello's interior. Approaching this theme from a different angle, Peter Benes looks at the genealogy of New England meetinghouses and the role that European Protestants from various nations imposed upon stylistic characteristics, therefore illustrating the impact not only of Britain, but of foreign nationalities as well.

Maudlin and Herman have assembled a strong collection of case studies that are relevant, thoughtfully researched, and well written. Collectively, this work provides an entry point into the material culture of the British Atlantic

world, and a foundation upon which to build future research. However, while the threads that connect these works are drawn out and elaborated, the essays provide only a snapshot of a small number of very specific places, topics, and periods in time. Much has been left unexamined and unexplained. Several regions have been underrepresented or are excluded altogether. For example, the entirety of West Africa and Canada are limited to one study each. It would also be refreshing to see a greater representation of Indigenous peoples, and their impact on the material culture of the Atlantic region. This is explored by Alison Stanley in her work on seventeenth-century praying towns—constructed

for Indigenous inhabitants of Massachusetts—but it is an area deserving of far more attention. These gaps are understandable given the vastness of the topic and the breadth of material examined, but it would be risky to presume that the trends outlined in this book are reflective of the entirety of the British Atlantic region and those who dwelled within it. This is particularly the case considering the recent prevalence and success of studies that are specific and contextual rather than broad and overarching. Given the enormity of the topics undertaken, this book will be most useful to those interested in specific chapters or sections, rather than as an encompassing and singular study of the British Atlantic world.

SARAH MACINNES

Review of

Campbell, Claire Elizabeth, ed. 2011. *A Century of Parks Canada, 1911-2011*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press.

Pp. 458, 19 maps, 44 colour and b&w images. Includes notes, references, appendices, and index. ISBN 978-1-55238-526-5, (E-pub) 978-5238-558-6, \$34.95.

The Canadian national parks system has become an institution that is representative of many Canadian ideals, in particular the preservation, protection, and promotion of some of Canada's most treasured landscapes. Since it was founded in 1911, its parks have been subject to substantial change, shaped by the ever-evolving needs and desires of the Canadian public.

In *A Century of Parks Canada, 1911-2011*, editor Claire Elizabeth Campbell explores the history of Canada's national parks through the works of multiple contributors. Focusing on the growth and evolution of the institution during its first hundred years, the collection shares stories from across the country, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the world's first national park system. The authors describe the difficulties and challenges faced by an organisation that was truly navigating the unknown, as parks staff at the national level were met with an ever-increasing number of unique sites that were spread across the vast expanse of the Great White North.

Campbell notes early on that her goal is not to present a typical institutional history, and in

that she is successful. *A Century of Parks Canada* goes far beyond what that the reader may expect from this collection, painting a detailed portrait of the relationship between Canada's levels of government, the national parks service, and the diverse Canadian public. Throughout these essays, the reader can expect to gain a better understanding of the uniqueness of Canada's national parks, and the distinctive challenges that each location faces. Campbell and the other authors provide a fair and balanced view of some of the trials and triumphs that stemmed from the development of the service, and provide modern readers with a deeper understanding of the way in which it has adapted over the past century.

In her introduction to the collection, Campbell notes that the writers of the enclosed essays did something unusual by making an effort to come together a number of times throughout the writing process to discuss themes and connections that were emerging between their works. The collection benefits tremendously from this choice. Each piece, while focusing on independent issues, weaves together to provide the reader