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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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*Thorough. An Illustrated History of the College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan, 1912-1982.* R.H. Macdonald, Saskatoon, The College of Engineering, University of Saskatchewan, 1982. Pp xii, 251, illus., index, select bibliography, ISBN 0-88880-121-1.

*Thorough* is a most enjoyable read. It contains much interesting information now being incorporated into a series of lectures which the reviewer is currently preparing for undergraduate teaching; thank you very much Mr Macdonald. *Thorough* does more than provide a good overview of the history of one Canadian engineering college. Through the choice of issues, events and people highlighted, Macdonald provides an enticing glimpse at the largely undeveloped and exciting historical research potential which awaits the day when the history of Canadian technology and engineering emerges from the chrysalis which, in an unnatural life cycle, it appears to have been born in and more or less inhabited since birth.

In 1907, only two years after Saskatchewan was declared a province it passed a University Act. The search for a suitable philosophy ensued and in 1910 construction started. It was decided to aim for 'an Undivided University' which would embrace all disciplines rather than exclude some functions such as mining, law, agriculture or medicine from the university. In addition, it was decided that the university would be devoted to meeting the needs of the people of Saskatchewan. What is most remarkable is that the university did in fact try to live up to these goals and there is no better place to examine the working out of this philosophy than through the College of Engineering which, as Macdonald points out, was among the first to 'take the University to the people.' As if to underscore its practical intent, the first lectures at the new university introduced gasoline engines to agricultural engineering students. One does not know how interesting the lectures were but their symbolism could not have been more appropriate: modern technology, much of it guided by University of Saskatchewan faculty and graduates, was poised to radically transform the West.

In a basically chronological framework, *Thorough* relates how over the years and the varying crises that they brought--World War I, Depression, World War II, the unrest and expansion of the 1960s

and others--the university, faculty and students worked out the expression of a clearly-stated philosophy. Some of the characters and parts of the story such as C.J. MacKenzie, J.W.T. Spinks, T. Thorvaldson and A. Porter are familiar. Others, the reviewer must confess are new, but nonetheless fascinating. *Thorough* introduces much that both historians and engineers would do well to know more about: the exceedingly versatile and innovative Professor A.R. Greig; Dr Carlyle King who, in the 1930s, was named 'the Engineer's English lecturer'; that innovative and influential teaching exercise known as The Snowbirds, not to be confused with the Canadian group of the same name with the bright red jet planes; the 'Better Farming Trains,' etc.

R.H. Macdonald, journalist, University of Saskatchewan graduate and a former chairman and founding editor of Western Producer Prairie Books, has helped to fill a serious gap in Canadian historiography and in doing so has drawn attention to the potential for continuing research. Both he, and the College of Engineering, are to be congratulated. One would have wished for some footnotes to make it easier to follow up some of the tantalizing quotations and topics introduced. But much better a book lacking footnotes than a lack of footnotes accompanied by a lack of book and that seems to be the choice that we often have to make in the present state of the history of Canadian technology and engineering.

Norman R. Ball