

## Book Notes / Référence Bibliographiques

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## BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Louise May, compiler, *A Guide to Labour Records and Resources in British Columbia* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Special Collections 1985).

HERE IS AN exceptionally useful guide to those working on the history of labour in British Columbia and Canada. It is introduced by a bibliography on labour in British Columbia that details secondary sources and labour newspapers and periodicals. Following this introductory bibliography are two lengthy sections on labour records in various archives and in union offices. Well organized and conveniently indexed, the guide will prove indispensable for anyone working on the history of British Columbia's working class as well as saving researchers exploring national developments countless hours of preliminary investigation.

Leo Heaps, *The Rebel in the House: The Life and Times of A.A. Heaps*, MP (Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside 1984).

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED in 1970, this enlarged reprint of A.A. Heaps' biography details the life of a leading early social democrat. Brief (often only one page) statements of appreciation introduce the text, written by such figures as Tommy Douglas and Grace MacInnis.

James Clancy, Wayne Roberts, David Spencer, and John Ward, *All For One:*

*Arguments For the Labour Trial of the Century On the Real Meaning of Unionism* (Toronto: Ontario Public Service Employees Union 1985).

WRITTEN TO PLACE the meaning and history of trade unionism before workers in the midst of Mervyn Lavigne's National Citizens' Coalition-backed lawsuit against the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, this short book contains essays that attempt to situate union life within a long history of Canadian workers' battles to improve not only their workplace but their society. Lavigne and the NCC are attempting, through a court challenge under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to stop union donations to political parties and to end unions' rights to promote such issues as disarmament and freedom of choice on abortion. In addition, they also want to curb a series of other activities. As this collection argues, this represents nothing less than a concerted assault on social unionism. Nor are labour historians uninvolved in the controversy surrounding this case. In affidavits provided for the union, Irving Abella and Desmond Morton have made the historical case for unions' rights and needs to involve themselves politically. On behalf of Lavigne and the National Citizens' Coalition, David Bercuson has provided an affidavit arguing against a union's right to use dues to support a political party with which a union member does not agree. Welcome back to the 1920s.

J.M.S. Careless, *Toronto to 1918: An Illustrated History* (Toronto: Lorimer 1984); and James Lemon, *Toronto Since 1918: An Illustrated History* (Toronto: Lorimer 1984).

BEAUTIFULLY PRODUCED, these illustrated urban biographies sweep over Toronto's history in a bold and imaginative manner. Labour is hardly central to the story here, but does merit some consideration. Lemon's volume, breaking newer ground, will prove useful as a background text to those researching the yet-to-be written post-World War I history of workers in Ontario's major city.

Participatory Research Group, *Strong Women, Strong Unions: Speeches By Union Women* (Toronto: PRG 1985); and Participatory Research Group, *Short Circuit: Women in the Automated Office* (Toronto: PRG 1985).

AVAILABLE FROM PRG, 229 College St., Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1R4, these pamphlets present important speeches by Madeleine Parent, Judy Darcy, and others, and a perspective on women's particular problems in the face of technological change in the office.

Philip S. Foner, Ronald L. Lewis, and Robert Cvornyek, eds., *The Black Worker since the AFL-CIO Merger, 1955-1980* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1984).

VOLUME VIII in the important documentary history of the black worker, this text presents a wide range of documents organized in five parts. Starting, appropriately, with the economic condition of black workers in the 1955-80 years, the editors move into material on the AFL-CIO role in the civil rights movement, the radicalism of black workers, especially evident in the automobile industry in the mid-1960s, closing with sections on the labour-black alliance and black workers in

the hospital sector, specifically Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospital Employees Union, Martin Luther King's favourite workers' organization.

Thomas A. Kochan, ed., *Challenges and Choices Facing American Labor* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1985).

THIS VOLUME BRINGS together papers produced by academics and union officials for a conference on "U.S. Industrial Relations in Transition." Within the present conjuncture of economic malaise and a politico-legal assault on unionism, stark barriers to organization are appearing in many realms. Specific articles address the new employers' offensive, the impact of technological change, the crisis in collective bargaining, and the lure of worker participation in quality-of-working-life programmes. A final chapter, written by Noah Meltz of the University of Toronto, compares the way in which the labour movements of Canada and the United States have evolved.

Roy T. Wortman, *From Syndicalism to Trade Unionism: The IWW in Ohio, 1905-1950* (New York: Garland 1985).

WORTMAN TRACES THE state history of the IWW in Ohio, paying particular attention to the Akron rubber strike of 1913, referred to in the *One Big Union Monthly* of 1920 as "the supreme mistake of the IWW," and to the 1914 campaigns in the coalfields. Three closing chapters describe the drift to pragmatism in the post-1920 years as the IWW survived only to become a captive of developments — contractual issues and anti-communism — that swallowed craft unionists, industrial organizers, and former radicals alike.

Norbert C. Seldon, ed., *The World of Women's Trade Unionism* (Westport, CT: Greenwood 1985).

EIGHT ESSAYS present outlines of

women and trade unionism in Europe, America, Latin America, and Japan. Many provide original insights within a general synthesis and this book should be of value in comparative working-class history courses and women's studies programmes.

Angela V. John, *Coalmining Women: Victorian Lives and Campaigns* (New York: Cambridge University Press 1984).

THE COAL MINING women of the 1890s stood behind their husbands' and fathers' union to resist the destruction of their communities. Angela John takes us back into the nineteenth century and through examination of Margaret Park, Mayoress of Wigan, and Jane Brown, pit lass, uncovers a hidden history of women in the coal industry — their work and how they came to be forced out of it.

Melvyn Dubofsky, ed., *Technological Change and Workers' Movements* (Beverly Hills: Sage 1985).

SIX SOVIET SCHOLARS combine with eight American academics to present a wide-ranging collection of twelve essays that concentrates not so much on technological change as on class formation within an unevenly developed world economy. The Soviet contributors tend to stress the sophistication of labour in advanced industrial economies, part of the "scientific-technological revolution;" the Americans stress managerial innovation and deskilling. Useful for comparative purposes is Charles Bergquist's analysis of export production structures in Latin America. Closing the collection is a historiographical piece on recent Soviet studies of American labour history.

Amy Bridges, *A City in the Republic: Antebellum New York and the Origins of Machine Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press 1984).

AN ADMIRABLE COMPANION to Sean

Wilentz's *Chants Democratic*, this study explores the politics of New York City in the pre-1860 years. A sensitive chapter probes the ways in which Jacksonian mechanics were won to the democracy at the cost of class consciousness.

Covington Hall, *Dreams & Dynamite: Selected Poems* (Chicago: Charles H. Kerr 1985).

FOR 40 YEARS Covington Hall lived the life of a rebel, all the more remarkable because of his roots in the southern élite. Like many other Wobblies, he was an advocate of the "republic of imagination." Collected here are small testimonies to that history, approximately 30 poems of revolt. Introduced by David Roediger, this little book reminds us that Charles H. Kerr has now been publishing for a century. Hall would know why:

The same old rebels making the same old  
splendid fight  
For the age-old dream of freedom, the age-old  
cause of right.

Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1983).

CONCERNED WITH THE ways in which public rituals and ideological symbolism are created and sustained, Hobsbawm and five other historians and anthropologists address the process of how traditions are made and used, often to obscure the past. Hobsbawm's closing essay is a fascinating attempt to see how these invented traditions were needed and embraced by masses of Europeans in the years 1870-1914.

Angela Hewins, *Mary. After the Queen: Memories of a Working Girl* (New York: Oxford University Press 1985).

A DELIGHTFUL ACCOUNT of an English working woman's experience between the

wars, this little book is an account of surviving the adversities of labouring life.

Neil Harding, ed., *The State in Socialist Society* (Albany: State University of New York Press 1984).

STATE FORMATION IN socialist societies, most decidedly the Soviet Union, is the subject of this edited collection. Labour is far from a major concern — an essay on Poland only touches on Solidarity in two pages — and discussion drifts towards the abstract and shies away from analysis of concrete developments affecting class interests.

David Lane, *Soviet Economy & Society* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1985).

DAVID LANE IS well known for his *State and Politics in the USSR*. In this companion volume he outlines the nature of the Soviet political economy and explores the resulting social relations. In a chapter on planning and administering the economic system he presents useful material on the place of trade unionism, while a later chapter deals with stratification and class.

Donald Denoon, *Settler Capitalism: The Dynamics of Dependent Development in the Southern Hemisphere* (Oxford: Clarendon Press 1983).

THIS SWEEPING SYNTHESIS of the development of colonial economies in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Uruguay, Chile, and Argentina should be of interest to Canadian political economists concerned with staples theory and the export economy.

Rosalind O'Hanlon, *Caste, Conflict and Ideology: Mahatma Jotibao Phule and Low Caste Protest in Nineteenth-Century Western India* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985).

FOCUSING ON PHULE as the architect of

a unique brand of early Third World radicalism, this sensitive study explores the role of ideology and religion in the struggles of the 1870s and 1880s, when indigenous Hindu élites and masses of low/untouchable castes confronted one another on terms established by British colonial power.

János M. Bak and Gerhard Benecke, eds., *Religion and Rural Revolt* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1984).

THIS LARGE TEXT collects papers presented to the fourth interdisciplinary workshop in peasant studies held at the University of British Columbia in 1982, supplemented by the addition of other articles. Virtually all regions — with the understandable exception of North America — are covered, and readers of this journal will perhaps find Karl-Heinz Ludwig's "Miners, Pastors and the Peasant War in Upper Austria, 1524-26," and June Nash's "Religion, Rebellion, and Working-Class Consciousness in Bolivian Tin-Mining Communities" among the most interesting of the more than 25 essays.

Harvey J. Kaye, *The British Marxist Historian* (Cambridge: Polity Press 1984).

IN YET ANOTHER discussion of the British Marxist historians, Kaye provides depictions of Dobb, Hilton, Hill, Hobsbawm, and Thompson. There is little that is new here, although instructors may find it a useful text to introduce students to the essential material. A final chapter purports to sum up the collective contribution, although Kaye's chosen ground of commonality, including a rather strained discussion of so-called "history from the bottom up," does not take us very far.

Alfred Schmidt, *History and Structure: An Essay on the Hegelian-Marxist and Structural Theories of History* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press 1983).

SCHMIDT PROVIDES A brief and enlightening tour of Marxism (especially its French variant) and structuralism, attentive to the increasing separation of history and structure. Drawn to Gramsci and critical of Althusser, Schmidt resur-

rects the Hegelian heritage of *Capital* and makes a compelling case that "the relation of principles to history can be approached only through material studies."

B.D.P.

## RELATIONS INDUSTRIELLES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

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