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# BOOK NOTES/ RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Henry Veltmeyer, *Canadian Corporate Power* (Toronto: Garamond 1987).

DIVIDED INTO TWO sections on "The Corporate Economy" and "Canada in the World Economy," this succinct text provides an introduction to economic concentration and corporate power in twentieth-century Canada. The focus is most directly on the economic realm, but Veltmeyer also addresses the ideological authority of the corporate owners, ending with a discussion of the current economic crisis and the necessity of combatting capitalism's capacity to inflict misery on masses of people with a sustained opposition.

Larry McCann, ed., *People and Places: Studies of Small Town Life in the Maritimes* (Fredericton and Sackville, New Brunswick: Acadiensis Press and Committee for Studying Small Town Life in the Maritimes 1987).

THIRTEEN ARTICLES ADDRESS the experience of small-town Maritime life from the past to the present. There is surprisingly little on labour, with specific essays much more weighted toward consideration of entrepreneurs, promoters, philanthropy, and 'culture,' which includes expected topics such as poetry and theatre as well as the gas station as the corner stone of rural small-town architecture.

Susan E. Houston and Alison Prentice, *Schooling and Scholars in Nineteenth-Century Ontario* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1988).

WHEN REVISIONIST HISTORIES of Canadian education began to appear in the mid-1970s they were often structured around conceptions of class and control. Much of that perspective remains, as this text indicates, but Houston's and Prentice's most recent book also indicates the extent to which the history of education has moved off of this interpretive agenda to consider schooling and scholars as places and processes, with their own internalist set of dynamics.

P.R. Rooke and R.L. Schnell, *No Bleeding Heart: Charlotte Whitton, A Feminist on the Right* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press 1987).

WITH CHARLOTTE WHITTON as their subject, Rooke and Schnell explore the contradictions of a pioneering advocate of the rights of women and children. Oriented to the institutions of state and power, Whitton was nevertheless often exiled from those corridors of power she sought influence within; and uncompromising opponent of male privilege, Whitton was also capable of contemptuous assault on the "undeserving" poor and seemed a captive of entirely conventional and moralistic views on matters such as abortion, divorce, and the personal realm. Second-wave feminism seemed to resolve some of

these contradictions through its capacity to forge a language of consensus and a strategic agenda, but the political controversies fragmenting feminism in the 1980s — around questions of sexuality, morality, personal choice, and the place of the state within a social order conceived as either capitalistic or patriarchal or both — attest to the continuities in the very contradictions that Whitton herself lived within decades ago.

John Potestio, ed., *The Memoirs of Giovanni Veltri* (Toronto: Multicultural History Society 1987).

THESE RECORDANZE, or memoirs, reveal the process of transatlantic migration that stocked the twentieth-century labour pools of North American monopoly capitalism. They also show how the process of chain migration reconstructed families and places, with towns like Grimaldi becoming linked to new world communities such as Thunder Bay.

Peta Tancred-Sheriff, ed., *Feminist Research: Prospect and Retrospect* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 1988).

THIS WIDE-RANGING COLLECTION of essays targets key areas of feminist research and presents articles addressing major areas of concern: reproduction and maternity; education; women's work; the debilitating costs of women's oppression and ways of overcoming depression and abuse; women and literature; and political strategies.

Peter Edwards, *Waterfront Warlord: The Life and Violent Times of Hal C. Banks* (Toronto: Key Porter Books 1987).

THIS JOURNALISTIC and sensationalized account of the life of Hal Banks is noteworthy for its attention to his early career on the west coast waterfront. There Banks

became the kind of figure that could simultaneously serve the interests of capital and the state and walk with some authority among the seafaring men of Canada.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen, *Free Trade and the Future of Women's Work: Manufacturing and Service Industries* (Toronto: Garamond 1987).

COHEN SUSTAINS AN argument that free trade, premised upon the ideological commitment to the "magic of the market," is bad for women, bad for workers, and bad for Canada.

Beverly Dalys, *The History of the Ontario Liquor Boards Employees' Union* (Toronto: OLBEU 1988).

THIS OFFICIAL HISTORY marches through the post-1950 development of unionization in Ontario's Liquor Board.

*Labour Law Under the Charter: Proceedings of a Conference sponsored by the Industrial Relations Centre, School of Industrial Relations and Faculty of Law, Queen's University* (Kingston: Queen's Law Journal 1988).

LIKE MOST CONFERENCE proceedings, this collection is uneven and contains pieces that will appeal to different constituencies. Most likely to appeal to readers of this journal are Harry Arthurs's after-dinner type speech, "The Right to Golf: Reflections on the Future of Workers, Unions and the Rest of Us Under the Charter," Judy Fudge's "Labour, the New Constitution, and Old Style Liberalism," and Brian Langille's "Revolution Without Foundation: The Grammar of Skepticism and Law." The latter takes its cues from a segment of the now fashionable focus on discourse, drawing upon Wittgenstein. Fudge keeps her nose more to the grindstones of political economy and history and has something to say

about actual cases, such as the Merv Lavigne challenge through the Charter to unionism.

Gerard Hebert, Hen C. Jain, and Noah M. Meltz, eds., *The State of the Art in Industrial Relations* (Kingston and Toronto: Industrial Relations Centre, Queen's University and Centre for Industrial Relations, University of Toronto 1988).

THIS TEXT PROVIDES a useful overview of thinking within the field of industrial relations. Quebec, the law, and labour economics all receive specific treatment, as do the ways in which industrial relations relate to sociology, psychology, and management. Discussions of labour history and industrial relations by Desmond Morton and James Thwaites may draw most interest from readers of this journal. Morton uses his space to take some shots at the 'new' labour historians, with their penchant for revolution rather than reform. He seems not to understand what historians mean when they use terms like 'presentism' and actually suggests that because some of the so-called 'new' working-class history focussed on the nineteenth-century it was therefore engaged in a conscious refusal of scrutiny of the modern period. Morton cannot really square this contention with the actual writings of some of his targets, so he just doesn't bother to try. That is one way of handling the issue.

Ben Carniol, *Case Critical: The Dilemma of Social Work in Canada* (Toronto: Between the Lines 1987).

WRITTEN FROM INSIDE the social work community, Carniol's book lets the clients speak and explores the way in which the structures of the welfare state insure the failures that social workers in Canada must reproduce time and time again.

Robert J. Brym with Bonnie Fox, *From Culture to Power: The Sociology of English Canada* (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1989).

THIS TEXT TAKES the reader through the classic questions of European and North American sociology, issues of development/underdevelopment, the analysis of social movements and third parties, and, in two concluding chapters, stratification in its class and ethnic dimensions and inequality as perceived from a feminist perspective.

Edward W. Laine, *On the Archival Heritage of the Finnish Canadian Working-Class Movement: A Researcher's Guide and Inventory to the Finnish Organization of Canada Collection at the National Archives of Canada* (Turku, Finland: Institute of Migration 1987).

THIS EXCELLENT AND amazingly thorough guide will prove indispensable to historians of Canadian labour, ethnicity, and regionalism. It details the textual records of the Finnish Organization of Canada, which contains a wide array of sources relating to politics, sports, publishing, youth, and culture, as well as providing a tour of photographic, film, recorded, and material culture (buttons, ribbons, etc.) items. Well-illustrated and organized clearly and with an eye to the researcher's needs, the 400-page aid will be used for decades. Laine deserves a round of applause from the Canadian historical community.

Nelson Lichtenstein and Stephen Meyer, eds., *On the Line: Essays in the History of Auto Work* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1989).

NINE ESSAYS SURVEY this history of automobile labour in the United States and Great Britain from its beginnings to the 1960s. Many of those writing with authority on the experience of Fordism and auto

worker struggles are brought together in this collection, which achieves a useful coherence in its focus on one industry.

Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton, eds., *To Toil the Livelong Day': Women at Work, 1780-1980* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1987).

DRAWN FROM THE Sixth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, these essays are wide-ranging chronologically, geographically, thematically, and racially. They bring together treatments of farm women, artisanal female workers, women within domestic work relations, and factory labourers; blacks, whites, and Mexicans; free and slave; north, south, and southwest. Organized into four parts by time period, the essays are introduced by an essay that reaches across the apparent divisions to construct relations among the parts of experience encompassed in these essays.

William G. Robbins, *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1985* (Seattle: University of Washington Press 1988).

THIS ACCOUNT OF THE rise and fall of a lumber community on the West Coast reminds us that it is not only mining capital that has ravaged resources and left the people of a particular locale abandoned to lives without jobs. Based on traditional sources and extensive interviewing, the book is a corrective to many studies that understandably limit themselves to a more distant past.

Paul M. Buhle, ed., *Working Lives: an Oral History of Rhode Island Labor* (Providence: Rhode Island Historical Society 1987); Paul Buhle, Scott Malloy, and Gail Sansbury, eds., *A History of Rhode Island Working People* (Providence: Regine Printing Company 2nd printing 1988).

THESE TWO WELL-ILLUSTRATED popular histories draw on oral recollections and abbreviated 'histories' of major events and less well-known developments. They provide an accessible usable past for workers and others to appreciate and learn from.

Judith Ann Trolander, *Professionalism and Social Change: From the Settlement House Movement to Neighborhood Centers, 1886 to the Present* (New York: Columbia University Press 1987).

TROLANDER SURVEYS THE history of the settlement house and its transformation into the neighbourhood centre. She lays stress on the professionalism of settlement house work and the impact of race, offering a sympathetic reading of how this institution of social reform is more integral and responsive to urban problems than many other social service bodies.

Jim Schwab, *Raising Less Corn and More Hell: Midwestern Farmers Speak Out* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1988).

DOZENS OF FARMERS and their families, as well as other people from small-town mid-America, speak out about the collapse of rural life and what should be done about it.

David H. Bennett, *The Party of Fear: From Nativist Movements to the New Right in American History* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 1988).

THIS TIMELY AND synthetic treatment of political mobilizations orchestrated by fear of the 'Other' encompasses examinations of early nativist attacks on immigrants, the twentieth-century assaults on dangerous foreigners and radical aliens, and the rise of the New Right out of the disintegration of the antialien agitations of the mid-twentieth century.

Reeve Vanneman and Lynn Weber Cannon, *The American Perception of Class* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1987).

THE AUTHORS ORCHESTRATE a wide range of data to argue that the absence of class conflict should not be equated with the absence of class consciousness. They reject the current attempts, many and varied, to deny the validity of class and people's awareness of its importance and offer a series of methodological critiques of mainstream sociological interrogations of class.

Brian Harrison, *Prudent Revolutionaries: Portraits of British Feminists Between the Wars* (Oxford: Clarendon Press 1987).

FOCUSSING ON THE first generation of women to have the vote in Britain, this book is organized along the lines of personality. Each chapter explores a theme through an examination of a specific woman or set of women. The book opens, for instance, with a chapter entitled, "Two Models of Feminist Leadership: Millicent Fawcett and Emmeline Pankhurst." Class politics are explored through treatment of Margaret Bondfield, Susan Lawrence, and Ellen Wilkinson. Sylvia Pankhurst is dubbed a utopian, Nancy Astor a publicist and communicator.

Roger Southall, ed., *Trade Unions and the New Industrialization of the Third World* (London: Zed Books 1988).

THIS ECLECTIC COLLECTION brings together sociologists, political scientists, industrial relations authorities, historians, and free lancers in a wide-ranging, theoretically free-wheeling discussion of capital, labour, trade unions, and struggle in the Third World.

Doug Hindson, *Pass Controls and the Urban African Proletariat* (Johannesburg: Ravan Press 1987).

THIS REVISIONIST TREATMENT of pass controls in the urban apartheid milieu rejects the conventional wisdom that the purpose of the system was to prevent African urbanisation and perpetuate temporary migration. Instead, Hindson argues that the pass controls insured the reproduction of differentiated labour power segmenting labour markets so as to insure the separation of urban from agricultural and mining labour. This process insured specific consequences in terms of class formation and kept the apartheid-ridden working class fragmented.

Mary Kinnear, ed., *First Days, Fighting Days. Women in Manitoba History* (University of Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 1987).

*FIRST DAYS, FIGHTING DAYS* is the most recent collection of essays to focus on the women of an individual province. This youthful tradition began in 1974 with *Working Women. Ontario 1850-1930* and continued with volumes on Quebec in 1977 and British Columbia in 1980 and 1984. Like many earlier essays, those in *First Days, Fighting Days* originated in a provincial women's history conference that, organized by Dr. Mary Kinnear of the University of Manitoba, assembled professionals, amateurs and students who shared a determination to illuminate the distaff side of their heritage. Not surprisingly, as with the earlier collections, these nine articles are somewhat uneven. The majority, however, — those by Jennifer Brown on a Cree nurse to a 19th century missionary family, Susan Jackel on prairie journalists, Linda Kealey on the female minimum wage, Marilyn Barber on Manitoba's servant problem, and the two on Winnipeg garment trades by James D. Mochoruk and Donna Webber and Annalee Lepp, David Milar, and Barbara Roberts respectively — maintain a good

standard. One by Nancy Hall, "The Professionalisation of Women Workers in the Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Churches of Canada," stands out as an anomaly, having hardly anything to say about Manitoba. Others on material history and Francis Beynon tread largely familiar ground. All in all the collection is a useful contribution to an understanding of Manitoba history. It, together with *Planting the Garden. An Annotated Archival Bibliography of the History of Women in Manitoba* (1987) by Mary Kinnear and Vera Fast, help us realize how much Gerald Friesen's *The Canadian Prairies* (1984) left out.

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Jill Ker Conway, *The Road from Coorain* (New York: Knopf, 1989).

CONWAY, WHO TAUGHT at the University of Toronto in the late 1960s and early 1970s before becoming President of Smith College, helped initiate women's history in Canada. She was also an extraordinary teacher, something rather rare in contemporary universities. In this volume she offers readers a striking autobi-

ography. As a scholar of American women's history, Conway provided some of the best and most evocative biographical work on the Hull House women. Here using similar narrative techniques, reminiscent of literary memoirs of previous generations, she somehow manages to gain sufficient distance to write a provocative analysis of her own personal history. The road from Coorain in the Australian outback to Harvard, Toronto, and Smith was anything but smooth. Conway's ability to apply the tools of a social critic schooled in class and gender analysis to her own journey makes this a challenging and moving book. For those of us who studied with her there is much that is familiar in her Olympian perspective; indeed the book invokes warm memories of her pedagogy. Yet there is much more here. In a period when professional historians bemoan their inability to reach an audience beyond the academy, Conway demonstrates the ongoing power of well-written, humane social analysis. One can only hope that the critical perspective so successfully applied to Australian society will soon be brought to bear on her years in the United States and Canada.

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