

## Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

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## BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Robert Argue, Charlene Gannage, D.W. Livingstone, eds., *Working People and Hard Times: Canadian Perspectives* (Toronto: Garamond 1987).

THIS COLLECTION brings together a selection of papers presented to the Fifth Conference on Blue Collar Workers and their Communities. Held every second year, this massive gathering of scholars and activists interested in labour issues now regularly draws upwards of 500 people. The 1984 Conference (which this volume draws on) addressed the impact of the deepening economic crisis on workers, their organizations, and their communities. Divided into five parts, each prefaced by a useful introduction to the subject addressed, the book focuses on current struggles, the state, class consciousness, women, and on strategies and tactics for change. Although many will find much to argue with in particular papers, the collection probably is the most comprehensive available account of the issues associated with working-class experience in contemporary 'hard times.'

Frank Cunningham, Sue Findlay, Marlene Kadar, Alan Lennon, Ed Silva, eds., *Social Movements/Social Change: The Politics and Practice of Organizing* (Toronto: Between the Lines 1988).

THIS FOURTH VOLUME of the Socialist Studies Collective reproduces papers originally delivered at the Society for Socialist Studies sessions of the 1987 Learned Societies Conference. Devoted to the new social movements, this collection makes a strong pitch for labour and the Left to

work through coalitions, and thus bring together working-class organizations with allies in the peace, ecology, women's, disabled, and gay movements. The resulting "politics of convergence" is argued to be "more profound than the earlier search for revolutionary strategies" associated with the now-disintegrated far Left. Perhaps.

Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore Milroy, eds., *Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press 1988).

AS AN ATTEMPT to introduce gender into the interdisciplinary discussion of contemporary Canadian urban space, this volume focuses on housing, leisure, recreation, and transportation. At the centre of the analysis is the changing relationship of women to paid work and domestic labour, and the policy implications of the shift in these overlapping public and private realms.

Sandra Burt, Lorraine Code, Lindsay Dorney, eds., *Changing Patterns: Women in Canada* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart 1988).

ESSAYS IN THIS VOLUME survey the particular and the general, and the text probably will be used with profit in all kinds of classrooms. Specific chapters address women and the law, racism, medical treatment, and psychology. The family and the Canadian women's movement are the subjects of two chapters, and the book's opening chapter on feminist theory nicely surveys the history and contemporary differentiation of feminism. Historian Jane

Errington depicts women from New France to the reform and suffrage struggles of the 20th century. There is, sadly, no chapter on women and labour, either in terms of women's work or women's relationship to trade unions.

Ronald Caplan, ed., *Cape Breton Lives: A Book from Cape Breton's Magazine* (St. John's, Nfld.: Breakwater Books 1988).

THESE ORAL 'HISTORIES/STORIES' of Cape Breton lives are conversations that, in the editor's words, express ways in which life is encouraged and social relations created. They depict a Cape Breton that, like the magazine from which these transcribed 'visits' are drawn, now sixteen years old, resounds with resiliency.

Roberta Hamilton, *Feudal Society and Colonization: The Historiography of New France* (Gananoque, Ont.: Langdale Press 1988).

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED in *Canadian Papers in Rural History*, this essay reassesses the historiography and peculiarity of New France, focusing on the theoretical importance of seeing New France as the colony of a feudal society.

Donald Finlay Davis, *Conspicuous Production: Automobiles and Elites in Detroit, 1899-1933* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1988).

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DRIVE, at least according to the Madison Avenue advertising magnates and the local youth who hang out at the corner doughnut shop. As Davis shows in this award-winning book, Detroit's elite thought similarly, and this attachment to hierarchies of consumption had ramifications that stretched outward from the mass-marketing and disposable wage-income foundations of Fordism into urban and fiscal policies that registered their impact in widening state and national circles.

Marianne Debouzy, ed., *In the Shadow of the Statue of Liberty: Immigrants, Workers, and Citizens in the American Republic, 1880-1920* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes 1988).

1986 WAS THE CENTENNIAL of the Statue of Liberty. It also marked one hundred years since Haymarket, an event that bloodied America's image as the new repository of freedom. The essays in this book, drawn from a colloquium held in Paris, are organized in four sections. Part I addresses the image and representation of America as a land of freedom, especially in terms of the ways in which immigrants and Europeans internalized such mythologies; Part II exposes the ways in which immigrants actually experienced "freedom" in the new land; Part III explores the process of how America and its freedoms influenced European radicals; Part IV examines the ideological ambiguities growing out of the proclaimed vision of America and its rather different actualities, especially in terms of the promise and practice of 'republicanism.'

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, James R. Barrett, intro., (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1988).

THIS NEW EDITION of Sinclair's highly influential exposé of the Chicago meat-packing industry is introduced by an excellent essay by historian James Barrett. Barrett's meticulous accompanying notes clarify issues, and locate where Sinclair was on firm historical ground, and where he relied on conventional wisdoms and his own prejudices. One comes away from this novel with a new appreciation of Sinclair's capacity to capture "Packingtown" conditions, as well as his nativist inability to appreciate the resources of the immigrant workers and their community.

Ann Schofield, ed., *Sealskin and Shoddy: Working Women in American Labor Press Fiction, 1870-1920* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood 1988).

WITH AN INTRODUCTION that situates fiction as a useful source for labour and women's history, this collection of labour fiction will prove useful to students of women's studies, popular literature, and social/working-class history. Most of the reproduced stories are quite brief, with the notable exception of the lead document, W.H. Little's *Our Sealskin and Shoddy*. This volume can be read productively alongside Michael Denning's *Mechanic Accents*.

Donna L. Van Raaphorst, *Union Maids Not Wanted: Organizing Domestic Workers, 1870-1940* (New York: Praeger 1988).

RAAPHORST DRAWS on David Brody's history of steelworkers to orchestrate her exploration of the history of organizing domestics around the sources of stability in this area: the workers, the employers, and organized labour.

*Corruption and Racketeering in the New York City Construction Industry: Interim Report by the New York State Organized Crime Task Force* (Ithaca, NY: ILR Press 1988).

THE PRODUCT of a two-year investigation, this report details the vulnerabilities of the New York construction trades to corruption and violence. But it also makes a strong case that the most effective antidote to such thuggery is a viable and democratic union movement.

Patrick G. Coy, ed., *A Revolutionary of the Heart: Essays on the Catholic Worker* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1988).

ESSAYS IN THIS COLLECTION focus on individual workers in the Catholic Worker Movement, especially the key figures of

Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day; the politics of pacifism and spirituality; and case histories of communities — St. Louis and Chicago — where the Catholic worker was a presence to reckon with.

Margaret Randolph Higonnet, Jane Jensen, Sonya Michel, and Margaret Collins Weitz, eds., *Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars* (New Haven: Yale University Press 1987).

MANY OF THE ARTICLES in this innovative volume explore the ways in which war fostered the social construction of gender, and thus link major historical events with the making of particular human identities. Joan Scott introduces the book with a brief statement on "Rewriting History."

Margaret George, *Women in the First Capitalist Society: Experiences in Seventeenth-Century England* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1988).

SEX, SWINDLES, SECTARIANISM — all come together in this original and provocative depiction of women's role in the making of the first bourgeois society. Organized around the experiences of particular women, this text explores the tensions that swirled around male prescription of women's domestic place and the active internalization, embellishment, and exploitation of this subordination by women themselves.

Frank Neal, *Sectarian Violence: The Liverpool Experience, 1819-1914* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1988).

TAKING AS ITS CENTREPIECE one hundred years of the history of the Orange Order, this analysis of sectarian violence in Liverpool demonstrates the fragmented ethnocultural content of 19th-century working-class identity, at least in terms of one important locale.

Colin Heywood, *Childhood in nineteenth-century France: Work, health and education among the classes populaires* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1988).

AN IMPRESSIVE SYNTHESIS of child labour among the peasantry and proletariat of nineteenth-century France, this text attempts to answer why children working evoked so little concern prior to 1830, and why the French state intervened with reform legislation after this date. The author makes unprecedented analytic forays into apprenticeship, education, legislation and the host of moral questions associated with children and work.

Hiroaki Kuromiya, *Stalin's Industrial Revolution: Politics and Workers, 1928-1932* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1988).

NO ACCOMPLISHMENT of the Soviet state was more monumental than the Industrial Revolution directed from above during term of the first Five Year Plan. And few were so brutal. Kuromiya explores how Stalin was able to tap the visions and

passionate commitments of the Soviet working class at the same time as he crushed its capacity to resist oppressions by his increasingly-bureaucratized and terroristic regime. In the process, the Soviet Union took a great leap forward into the planned economy of forced industrialization even as it politically stifled the potential of that accomplishment.

Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *House and Street: The domestic world of servants and masters in nineteenth-century Rio de Janeiro* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1988).

OF INTEREST to Latin Americanists and to those interested in domestic servitude and gender, this book brings together the experience of servants and masters in a blend of the landscape of the house and the street, the private and the public, and the ways in which the reciprocities of these social strata were linked to the ideological connotations of 'service,' and to the many material constraints of worlds so obviously shared.

BDP