

## Book Notes / Références Bibliographiques

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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# BOOK NOTES/ RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

Peter Baskerville, ed., *Canadian Papers in Business History* (Victoria: Public History Group 1989).

IN THIS FIRST VOLUME of essays on business history, the University of Victoria-based Public History Group gathers together eleven articles. Most of the nineteenth-century essays deal with barriers to capitalist development and exchange, exploring such diverse factors as the legal status of women in trade, the decline of Maritime shipping, and the problems posed for a firm dependent on extraction of resources distant from metropolitan production. This theme reappears in some of the studies moving forward into the twentieth century, as institutions such as the Board of Commerce and the Quebec Caisses Populaires are examined.

E.R. Forbes, *Challenging the Regional Stereotype: Essays on the 20th Century Maritimes* (Fredericton, New Brunswick: Acadiensis Press 1989).

GATHERING TOGETHER these historical and political essays of Ernest R. Forbes, this volume presents an invaluable collection of writings that refuse the conventional wisdoms and mythologies about Maritime Canada. Forbes ranges broadly, covering ground that reaches from Halifax suffragists to prohibition to Atlantic Canada and free trade in the 1980s.

Dianne Newell, ed., *The Development of the Pacific Salmon-Canning Industry: A Grown Man's Game* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1989).

NEWELL'S EDITED text relies on the papers of Henry Doyle, general manager of British Columbia Packers Ltd., and unofficial historian of Pacific salmon canning, to take readers through a tour of the business history of this West Coast industry. The labour history of this critical component of British Columbia's political economy has yet to be thoroughly written, and Newell's volume will be an indispensable aid in that project.

Roberto Perin and Franc Sturino, ed., *Arrangiarsi: The Italian Immigration Experience in Canada* (Montreal: Guernica Editions 1989).

THIS COLLECTION of essays on the Italian-Canadian experience brings together many of the scholars working on emigration, sojourning, and contemporary Italian-Canadian culture. Of special note to readers of this journal are Bruno Ramirez's discussion of Italian immigrant labour in Montreal (1880-1930) and Gabriele Scardellato's treatment of sojourning in British Columbia.

Milan (Mike) Bosnich, *One Man's War: Reflections of a Rough Diamond* (Toronto: Lugus Productions 1989).

MIKE BOSNICH'S STORY is not told particularly well here. Apparently it was developed as told to the author of the preface, John Paul Harney, who has then chosen to present it as a history, obviously drawing on Bosnich's own words but suppressing Bosnich's actual voice save for the inclusion of passages of anecdotal, quoted speech. It is all rather unclear for there is no actual statement of how this oral reflection was constructed. Nor does it seem to contain any critical analysis or a great deal of depth. Nevertheless, Bosnich's story brings into relief the immigrant worker's experience with unions and radical politics. Bosnich, associated with the United Electrical Workers in the Welland area, joined the Communist Party in the late 1940s and left it in 1956. He remained, however, a union man.

C.E.S. Franks, ed., *Dissent and the State* (Toronto: Oxford University Press 1989).

SPONSORED BY the Security Intelligence Review Committee and the Office of the Inspector General of the Security Service, this collection of essays addresses the state's relationship to dissent. There are essays on Eastern Europe, Italy, and the United States, among other internationally focused pieces, as well as discussions of Quebec and the Canadian far right. Of special interest to readers of this journal are Elizabeth Grace's and Colin Leys's discussion of the concept of subversion and Reg Whitaker's account of left-wing dissent and the Cold War in Canada.

Keith Storey, Mark Shrimpton, Jane Lewis and David Clark, *Family Life Impacts of Offshore Oil and Gas Employment* (St. John's, Newfoundland: Institute of Social and Economic Research 1989).

THIS REPORT EXPLORES the difficulties posed for families by offshore employ-

ment. Based on over 200 answered questionnaires and lengthy interviews with 31 families, it stresses the need to recognize the existence of "an invisible workforce" onshore that provides essential support for offshore workers.

Richard J. Twomey, *Jacobins and Jeffersonians: Anglo-American Radicalism in the United States, 1790-1820* (New York: Garland 1989).

THIS LONG-AWAITED BOOK explores the Jacobin presence in early nineteenth-century America. It thus clarifies the contradictory character of early republican values, premised on a simultaneous attachment to corporate welfare and private property.

Stuart J. Kaufman and Peter J. Albert, ed., *The Samuel Gompers Papers: Volume 3 — Unrest and Depression, 1891-94* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1989).

AN EXHAUSTIVE and exhausting volume, this compilation of Samuel Gompers's letters, speeches, and other utterances takes us into the populist mobilizations, labour upheavals, and depression of the early 1890s. It will prove indispensable to a reconstruction of the pivotal years in "the taming of the craftsman" and the evolution of business unionism.

Hilda Scott Polacheck, *I Came a Stranger: The Story of a Hull-House Girl* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1989).

HILDA SCOTT POLACHECK'S recollection of Jane Addams's Hull House is the only known account by a woman from the actual neighbourhood. Having come to the West Side with her family in 1892, Polacheck linked Old World Poland to Chicago's immigrant Jewish community. She forged a marriage and a longstanding commitment to civil rights, women's suffrage, and peace in this turn-of-the-century cauldron of reform.

David M. Emmons, *The Butte Irish: Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town, 1875-1925* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1989).

CLASS AND ETHNICITY in the mining town of Butte blurred into and out of each other. Emmons tracks that process through fraternal associations, union formation, and the church to develop a unique and convincing perspective on labour conservatism, the important place of the cause of Ireland, and working-class Americanization.

Eileen Boris and Cynthia R. Daniels, ed., *Homework: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Paid Labor at Home* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1989).

THESE ESSAYS LINK the productive and reproductive realms in historically-situated accounts of homework that was paid, reminding us that the recent move to contract out clerical and other word-processing labour has been preceded by previous modes of production in which the connection between work and home was explicit.

Karevn V. Hansen and Ilene J. Philipson, ed., *Women, Class and the Feminist Imagination* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1990).

THIS THICK VOLUME collects the classic statements of socialist-feminism: Mitchell, Rubin, Eisenstein, Harmann, and others. It then presents essays on themes where socialist-feminist analysis has been both insightful and influential: family life; sexuality and pornography; women and the labour movement. It closes with four essays that deal with the future, ending with Donna Haraway's much-cited "A Manifesto for Cyborgs." In reprinting some thirty previously-published essays, this reader may well do something to revive a socialist feminism that the editors contend "receded from public visibility in the early 1980s."

Neil Betten and Michael J. Austin, ed., *The Roots of Community Organizing, 1917-1939* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1990).

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING has become a vital plank in the platform of a left dissatisfied with vanguard parties and old left politics. This collection looks at the history of this form of political mobilization. Among the essays are the editors' introductory discussion of the intellectual origins of community organizing, as well as accounts of Saul Alinsky's relationship to the CIO and the rise of the Catholic Worker Movement in the Great Depression.

John Gaventa, Barbara Ellen Smith, Alex Willingham, ed., *Communities in Economic Crisis: Appalachia and the South* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press 1990).

TWENTY-TWO ARTICLES detail the debilitating restructuring of communities by capital flight, deindustrialization, plant closings, and environmental destruction.

Harvey Swados, *On the Line* (Urbana and Illinois: University of Illinois Press 1990).

LONG OUT OF PRINT, Swados's 1957 collection of stories about life on the assembly line was a proletarian counterpart to the beat writings of Kerouac and others. Reprinted by University of Illinois Press, this edition should prove invaluable to those teaching modern labour history. It is expertly introduced by Nelson Lichtenstein and contains as an appendix Swados's influential pamphlet, "The Myth of the Happy Worker," a powerful antidote to those sociologists and historians who, in various ways, proclaimed the end of class.

Jeanie Wylie, *Poletown: Community Betrayed* (Urbana and Illinois: University of Illinois Press 1990).

THIS IS THE HARD and harsh story of the destruction of a community, razed to accommodate the building of a Detroit GM Cadillac plant. More than 4200 residents, mostly Poles and blacks, lost their homes to make way for a highly automated factory that would shut its doors periodically due to failing consumer demand for its product. As a racially-mixed coalition battled for the life of the neighbourhood, it faced the powerful opposition of a black mayor, the Catholic archdiocese, and the UAW, all of which promoted development as the way forward for job creation. The result was something of a civil war.

Douglas M. Eicher, *Occupation and Class Consciousness in America* (New York: Greenwood Press 1989).

THIS SOCIOLOGICAL treatment of work links occupation to the long-studied areas of alienation, class consciousness, and political orientation. It is useful as an indication of the current literature on these subjects and as a strong statement on the conceptual independence of class and occupation.

J. Douglas Porteous, *Planned to Death: The annihilation of a place called Howdendyke* (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1989).

PORTEOUS, WHO HIMSELF grew up in Howdendyke, details the legal destruction of an English village. This *topocide* (the deliberate killing of a place) took place so that industrial development could happen. The author structures his narrative around an innovative blend of historical reconstruction, personal involvement, and informed speculation.

Michael Newman, John Strachey (Manchester: Manchester University Press 1989).

STRACHEY'S IDEAS and political role in the period 1923-63 form the substance of this volume in "The Lives of the Left" series. At the core of Strachey's contribution was the attempt to connect the Marxist and Reformist traditions.

Steven L. Willborn, *A Secretary and a Cook: Challenging Women's Wages in the Courts of the United States and Great Britain* (Ithaca, New York: ILR Press 1989).

WILLBORN LOOKS at the legal battles of two women, Helen Castrilli and Julie Hayward, who refused to tolerate job discrimination based on gender. As an account of comparable worth struggles in the courts of the United States and Great Britain, this volume will prove invaluable to the growing numbers of people interested in the legal history of pay equity.

Suzanne Mackenzie, *Visible Histories: Women and environments in a post-war British city* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1989).

THIS STUDY OF GENDER, environment, and change in Brighton, England links often dichotomized experiences in an exploration of the transformation of daily life in the post-World War II years.

Leopold Haimson and Charles Tilly, ed., *Strikes, Wars, and Revolutions in International Perspective: Strike Waves in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1989).

THIS BOOK COVERS a lot, perhaps too much. The focus is definitely on Russia, although Italy, Great Britain, and the United States come in for their fair share of attention. Perhaps the most useful section will prove to be the essays on workers in metal-processing enterprises, most of

which focus on the world-wide upheavals in this occupational sector in the years 1870-1922.

Robin Blackburn, *The Overthrow of Colonial Slavery, 1776-1848* (London: Verso 1988).

A PANORAMIC OVERVIEW of slavery's demise, this synthetic treatment will stand for some time as a powerful interpretive statement.

Michael C. Vocino, Jr., and Lucille W. Cameron, *Labor and Industrial Relations Journals and Serials: An Analytical Guide* (New York: Greenwood Press 1989).

THIS COMPREHENSIVE annotated listing should prove invaluable to those with an interest in Industrial Relations publications.

Richard B. Freeman, *Labor Markets in Action: Essays in Empirical Economics* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1989).

THE CO-AUTHOR of *What Do Unions Do?* offers a lively set of humanistic essays on the labour market and how it functions for the educated, the poor, and the trade unionist. Essays on the labour market in comparative perspective and a concluding section on methodology end the volume. Freeman asks the question, "Does the new generation of labor economists know more than the older generation?" answering with a refreshing defence of fundamentals.

Andrew Metcalfe, *For Freedom and Dignity: Historical Agency and Class Structures in the Coalfields of NSW* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin 1988).

THIS STUDY of the coalfields of the Hunter Valley attempts to develop an understanding of class relations as a product of both human agency and structured determination. It has important chapters on proletarian dependency and the violence of class formation.

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# INTERNATIONAL LABOR AND WORKING-CLASS HISTORY

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## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

*Issue 37* (Spring 1990) explores a scholarly controversy on the topic of mass culture, with a provocative article, "The End of Mass Culture," by Michael Denning, and responses from Janice Radway, Luisa Passerini, William R. Taylor, and Adelheid von Saldern.

*Issue 38* (Fall 1990) is devoted to the topic "The Working Class in World War II," with articles by Geoffrey Field, Richard Rice, and Janet Hart, along with an insightful review essay on "Workers, Strikes, and Revolution in Late Imperial Russia" by Ziva Galili y Garcia.

*ILWCH* is edited by Ira Katznelson of the New School for Social Research and Helmut Gruber of the Polytechnic University of New York. It has been called "one of the premier journals of social and labor history published in the United States" (Sean Wilentz, Princeton University).

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