

society, but is necessary to women's feelings of self-worth. This is not to demean women's other contributions to society. It is, rather, to celebrate and recognize the importance of nurturing to the very survival of society.

While a cache of letters like those that make up *Raising a Baby the Government Way* is a rare treasure, a similar collection of Canadian letters could probably be amassed with some effort. It may not be possible to find a single store of letters as Ladd-Taylor has, but a survey of manuscript collections and government records might well reveal rich sources for the history of Canadian women's work and emotional life in the home. For example, the Government Archives Division of the National Archives of Canada holds the records of the Division of Child Welfare of the Department of Pensions and National Health, the predecessor of today's Department of National Health and Welfare. Created in 1920 and headed by Dr. Helen MacMurchy, the Division was similar in many respects to the American Children's Bureau. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Division of Child Welfare published health care pamphlets for mothers, with titles such as *Canadian Mothers' Book* and *Little Blue Books*, and participated in public health campaigns directed at mothers. Not surprisingly, a small number of letters almost identical in wording and emotion to those in Ladd-Taylor's book are found in the files of the Division of Child Welfare. There is also a good chance that even more of these letters may be found in the records of the private Canadian Council on Social Development, which are held by the Manuscript Division of the National Archives. The Division of Child Welfare worked very closely with the Canadian Council of Child Welfare (the forerunner of the CCSD), which actually took over the responsibilities of the government body for four years in the mid-1930s. Requests for Division of Child Welfare publications were channeled through the Canadian Council of Child Welfare. Since many of the letters in Ladd-Taylor's book took the form of requests for Children's Bureau pamphlets, it is possible that similar letters may be found in the correspondence files of the CCSD.

The appearance of *Raising a Baby the Government Way* is an encouraging sign that it is possible to produce a history of ordinary women without relying solely on quantitative evidence and techniques, although quantitative techniques remain a boon to the writing of social history. Archivists of both private and government records should be on the lookout for collections which document the lives of otherwise inarticulate women *and* men, and historians should be aware of the potential for the use of such evidence. Molly Ladd-Taylor states in her note to readers that she did not attempt a quantitative analysis due to logistical problems and because "the real value of the letters lies in their human quality." Let us hope that Canadian archivists and historians interested in social history do not lose sight of the "human quality" of the documents they collect, care for, and use.

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Women's Paid and Unpaid Work: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. PAULA BOURNE, ed. Toronto: New Hogtown Press and The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1985. 123 p. ISBN 0-919940-20-X \$6.00 pa.

The contributors to this compact volume underline that the nature and study of women's past and present work experience is not easily divisible. In doing so they use, for the most

part, selective secondary sources to write about the past; following this, they make the grand leap from the past to comment on present-day situations for women. Several threads of a common theme run throughout the articles: women's paid work cannot be separated from their unpaid volunteer work; the individual woman's work experience should not be studied apart from the collective work experience of all women; and domestic labour must be analyzed in the broader sociological context. Summarily, the authors maintain — both in their historical analyses and in their observations of the contemporary situation — that the personal was, and remains, political. Editor Paula Bourne of OISE has universal, far-reaching expectations for this small "collection of preliminary essays." "Ultimately," she writes, "we aim for an understanding of women's work that will inform the lives and labours of all who work with and for women and their organizations in Canada today." (p. 13)

The five contributors to this book, all well-known women's historians and feminist writers, use various sources in their analyses of Canadian women's past and present work experiences. Disappointingly, however, most of these authors draw heavily upon secondary works, Canadian, British, and American. In "The History of Women and Paid Work," for example, Ruth Pierson uses almost exclusively secondary sources to develop her argument that women are unequal in the work force because they are unequal in the homes of the nation. Pointing to a parallel between the sexual segregation of labour in the workplace and the sexual division of domestic labour at home over time, Pierson contends that sexual division of work was evident at the beginning of the century and remains evident today. The second article, by Veronica Strong-Boag, examines "The Last 150 Years of Domestic Work in Canada." Like Pierson, Strong-Boag sees an incongruity in the low status of the housewife and the necessity of her work for the maintenance of the structures of social and political power. Strong-Boag also uses mainly secondary sources when she might have unearthed valuable primary sources such as Meg Luxton does in *More Than a Labour of Love*. Strong-Boag, too, brings the reader to an analysis of the present Canadian woman's working situation in the home environment by calling for a treatment of the world of home labour with the "same seriousness and respect now being accorded to labour in public settings." (p. 55) Similarly, Gail Cuthbert Brandt's paper on "Organizations in Canada: The English Protestant Tradition" uses secondary sources in its sweeping account and concludes that women today can learn from the negative repercussions of dissent within women's organizations of the past. Brandt would like to see more attention paid to the structural inequalities of society — which continue to create problems for women — rather than an ad hoc approach to apparent inequalities. As such, she argues for greater commonality of women's goals and ideologies in the 1980s.

Margrit Eichler, the only sociologist in the group, considers the relationships between paid work and unpaid work and the question of women's equality in employment as inextricably linked. Eichler argues that until women's unpaid work within the home is viewed as economically useful to society, our explanations of social phenomena will continue to be based on the model of the patriarchal family as main economic unit, which presupposes that a woman is economically dependent on a man. Eichler uses only three sources in her extensive analysis of the contemporary situation and one of them is her own work. This paper, originally prepared for the Ontario Royal Commission of Inquiry on Equality in Employment, is laudable in its own right but, in some ways, seems a little out of place in this collection of essays.

One noteworthy article, at least in terms of sources, is Alison Prentice's superb paper on the Women Teachers' Association of Toronto (WTA). Prentice effectively analyzes the personalities, structure, growth, and difficulties of the WTA by basing her article on sources found at the Ontario Archives (censuses, Normal School Registers), the Toronto Board of Education Archives (annual reports), and the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario Archives. Because her observations of a women's group are solidly based upon primary sources, her concluding link to women's present situations in organizations and as individuals is credible: both past and present problems have their roots in the basic unchanging structure of society. Moreover, at the outset Prentice mentions various caveats of which the contemporary women's historian should be aware. For example, she lists "two of the classic stumbling blocks of women's history:" taking an historical approach which focuses on the "women worthies," always a problem when looking at a women's organization, and writing history with a skewed perspective or "with a moral" in mind. Prentice astutely manages to write a short history of the WTA by avoiding these two "classic stumbling blocks;" the other contributors, perhaps more present-minded, are a little less astute.

Most women's historians today want to chart the history of women's collective experiences and not simply the history of the pedestal woman's "significant contributions" to society. In a similar fashion, this small collection of articles aims to speak for (almost) all women's past work experiences and to speak to women's present work experiences. Like some women's history being written today, *Women's Paid and Unpaid Work* tries to do too much at once. Although the charting of women's past work experiences is often used only as a backdrop to an analysis of contemporary situations, these articles nevertheless do contribute to a reinterpretation of our past. As the well-respected historian of American women, Mary Beth Norton, has written, "Women's historians today are like Columbus and his successors, exploring a new world that not only reveals previously unknown wonders but requires a revised understanding of the old world itself." The reservations mentioned above aside, this modest, pocket-size paperback is a welcome, timely addition to a growing literature that will, undoubtedly, generate new ways of thinking about our past and also our future.

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Camp X. Canada's School for Secret Agents 1941-45. DAVID STAFFORD.
Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1986. xxiv, 327 p. illus. ISBN 0-88619-126-2 \$22.95.

Intelligence, whether military or political, is the art of determining what is happening on "the other side of the hill" — of getting into the enemy's camp and mind to discover his capabilities and intentions. In the era before all-seeing spy satellites, it was estimated that seventy per cent of military intelligence was derived from simply listening in on an enemy's radio transmissions, twenty per cent from captured prisoners and documents, nine per cent from air reconnaissance, and only one per cent from "secret agents" and all other means. It is with this last small portion that Professor Stafford is concerned, although his story flows over into the associated worlds of guerrilla warfare and radio intercept.