

Histoire de Saint-Boniface. Tome I: À l'ombre des cathédrales, des origines de la colonie jusqu'en 1870. LUC DAUPHINAIS (Société historique de Saint-Boniface). Saint-Boniface: Les Éditions du Blé, 1991. xi, 335 p. ISBN 2-921347-04-0.

Il existe une abondante littérature sur l'histoire du Manitoba notamment au sujet des grandes compagnies de traite, la construction des chemins de fer, l'entrée dans la Confédération, les rébellions de la Rivière-Rouge ou le problème des écoles. Mais jusqu'ici, nous ne disposons d'aucune synthèse consacrée à l'histoire de la présence française en terre manitobaine. Ce vide sera bientôt comblé, du moins partiellement, grâce à la publication de *l'Histoire de Saint-Boniface*, dont le premier tome vient de paraître.

L'ouvrage, qui aborde la période des origines à 1870, est divisé en six grands thèmes, faisant autant de chapitres: l'exploration, le commerce et la colonisation; la fondation de la mission de la Rivière-Rouge; l'enracinement autour des institutions religieuses; l'occupation des terres; la consolidation des institutions; et enfin, les progrès économiques et le gouvernement provisoire de Louis Riel.

L'auteur met l'accent sur l'importance de l'encadrement religieux dans la création et la survivance de la petite communauté française de Saint-Boniface. Le livre traite donc en grande partie des missionnaires, de la fondation de la paroisse puis du diocèse, des évêchés des évêques Provencher et Taché, ainsi que de la mise en place des maisons d'enseignement par diverses communautés religieuses. Malheureusement, on se penche moins longuement sur la vie économique et sociale des habitants. Cela reflète sans doute la nature des sources disponibles.

D'aucuns pourraient prétendre qu'il s'agit d'une monographie de paroisse dans le style traditionnel. Force est de constater que l'auteur a réussi à sortir du cadre strictement paroissial pour ouvrir un peu plus largement la perspective aux relations délicates qui s'établissent entre les différentes communautés pionnières du XIX^e siècle: métisse, francophone et anglophone.

Le tome premier est de fort bonne tenue: judicieusement illustré, il est écrit dans une langue claire et efficace; cela augure bien pour le second auquel la Société historique de Saint-Boniface s'affaire présentement. Il portera sur les années 1870 à 1914.

Antonio Lechasseur
Archives nationales du Canada

The Clark Blaise Papers: First Accession and Second Accession. M. CHEVREFILS, compiler; J.F. TENER and A. STEELE, editors; CATHERINE SHELDRIK ROSS, biocritical essay. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1991. xliii, 585 p. ISBN 0-919813-79-8 ISSN 0831-4497 \$33.95.

The latest in a distinguished series of literary archival inventories, **The Clark Blaise Papers** is the University of Calgary's ninth addition to its Canadian Archival Inventory Series. Earlier volumes have provided painstakingly detailed descriptions of the papers of Hugh MacLennan, W.O. Mitchell, Brian Moore, Alice Munro and Mordecai Richler, as well as other significant collections. The series has been presented with a degree

of care and professionalism that those of us who labour in the field of literary collections can only admire and, on our more despairing days, envy.

Physically **The Clarke Blaise Papers** conforms to the handsome appearance of its predecessors; sturdily bound to withstand repeated porings (and pawings), it contains a fascinating selection of illustrations which includes both photographs and reproductions of letters, notebooks, and manuscripts, and it is printed in an attractive and easily readable typeface with lavishly wide margins, even in the index section.

The preliminaries, given a generous thirty pages before the inventory proper, are exemplary. The biocritical essay by Catherine Sheldrick Ross is sensitively written — firmly situating Blaise and his wife, the author Bharati Mukherjee (some of whose papers are included in this collection) — enlightening and comprehensive enough to meet the needs of both the expert researcher and the reader less familiar with their lives and works. The archival introduction by Jean Tener and Marlys Chevrefils is a model to us all; it is part generic, in that it establishes the general principles of arrangement and description common to the entire inventory series, and part specific, in its essential details regarding the acquisition of the collection, its original order and the decisions which were made in the process of arrangement and description.

The heart of this volume, the archival inventory, is, as we have come to expect from the punctilious practitioners of our profession at Calgary, wisely conceived and carefully executed. It seems churlish to raise even a whisper of criticism in the face of such daunting achievement. However, for those who find no review to be complete without a cavil or two, one might wish that the titles of works be distinguished typographically in some way from the rest of the text; that, where both are present, incoming and outgoing correspondence be separately itemized rather than lumped together under the name of the recipient/writer; that the wonderfully informative correspondence entries (“AETNA GROUP . . . T.L.S. returning a cheque received as a result of a collision”) also include details of family connections, so that the user would not be sent scurrying back to the introduction to confirm that “Blaise, Anne” is indeed the author’s mother; and that some way be found to avoid the repetition of the author’s name and birth date above every entry in the manuscript series.

This is a distinguished addition to a distinguished series and the archival community can only hope that neither recent government funding cuts nor the announced retirement of Jean Tener will deprive us of further volumes.

Kathleen E. Garay
McMaster University

Nova Scotia Newspapers: A Directory and Union List 1752 - 1988. LYNN MURPHY, comp. and BRENDA HICKS, cataloguer, with assistance from ANJALI VOHRA. Prepared under the direction of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Preservation and Access of Nova Scotian Newspapers. Halifax: School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, 1990. 2 vols. ISBN 0-7703-9742-5 \$49.00.

A joint release of Dalhousie University’s School of Library and Information Studies and the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia, this union list of Nova Scotia newspapers