

discredited microphone-in-the-potted-palm approach. Some interviewees are relaxed while others are not, but making an extraordinary effort to hide the recorder will not have any effect. People are aware that they are being recorded, especially when confronted by the imposing boom microphone which is recommended in this manual. The purchase of much of the equipment recommended for use in the interview process is beyond the financial resources of most small aural/oral history programmes and amateurs. Suggested compromises involving less expensive equipment and advice on how to achieve good sound quality with it would have been useful. One other small distraction is the use of sexually biased pronouns (he, his, him) in reference to the interviewee. However, the main criticism of the interviewing section is its superficiality and the rigidity of the suggestions. The section can only lightly cover a few of the main issues and problems of interviewing. The essence of successful interviewing is to be well prepared, yet flexible enough to develop the full possibilities of the interview.

The section on restrictions raises many interesting points regarding copyright and literary property rights in tape recorded reminiscences. While none of these issues are finally resolved, the manual points out correctly that they cannot be resolved before a new Canadian copyright law is passed. However, there is a part of the discussion with which I cannot agree. The Sound Archives staff believes that since interviewers are the initiating party, the copyright should remain with them unless transferred. The Aural History Programme, Provincial Archives of B.C. takes the view that since the interview is the first person reminiscence of an interviewee, the interviewee has superior rights to the material. This situation would be reversed of course if the interviewee were paid.

In short, the manual is a useful addition to the limited literature on the archival handling of sound documents, although interviewers will find it to be of little use. The manual includes some good discussions of the principles to be followed by a sound archives but its brevity impairs its usefulness for advanced amateur and professional sound archivists.

Derek Reimer
Aural History Programme
Provincial Archives of
British Columbia

Primary Sources in Canadian Working Class History, 1860-1930.

RUSSELL G. HANN, GREGORY S. KEALEY, LINDA KEALEY,
PETER WARRIAN. Kitchener, Ont.: Dumont Press, 1973. Pp. 169.
\$4.00.

The publication of this book two and a half years ago marked a milestone in Canadian historiography. More than a bibliography of primary sources for

English Canadian working class history from 1860 to 1930, this book is the manifesto of an emerging school of social history in Canada, complete with a critique of established ways, an assortment of gurus and a call to action. The book's value lies as much in this latter function as in the compilation of sources.

The authors' purpose was threefold: to inspire a new kind of working class history, to show that some sources for this type of study do exist in Canadian repositories, and to stimulate further collecting and research in this vein. Their conception of workers' history is a very broadly-defined social history acknowledging the importance and interrelationship of all aspects of the lives of working people, as pioneered by the English historian, E.P. Thompson. In the opinion of the authors, traditional labour and radical political history obscure and distort the historical experience of workers by isolating, idolizing and promoting the institutionalized labour movement and political dissent. Emerging "nationalist" labour history is considered to have a comparable tendency to ignore the totality of working class culture. Family life, job experience, education, social activities, religious beliefs and all the other factors which affect individual and group behavior must be considered if working class history is to be accurate, understood and appreciated. Hann and his colleagues also emphasize the significance of local and regional factors in Canadian working class history.

In addition to establishing this conceptual framework, the twenty-page introduction explains the scope of the 3,300-entry bibliography. Manuscripts, government records, tapes and transcripts of interviews, newspapers, pamphlets, reports, proceedings, and broadsides have been included, but not books that fall outside these categories, such as monographs, memoirs and city directories. The subjects are as diverse as the authors' conception of working class history is broad, and include sources relating to public health, technical education, fraternal societies, child welfare, morality, crime and prohibition. More familiar labour, business, social reform and immigration material is also listed. The authors also explain that the 1860 to 1930 period was chosen to embrace the development of industrial capitalism in the St. Lawrence heartland through to the system's near collapse in the Great Depression, but they emphasize that regional variations in the timing of industrialization must be acknowledged. The documentation was found in sixty archives, libraries, historical societies and museums in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and the four western provinces, including a number of small institutions which have not participated in the *Union List of Manuscripts*. However, limited time and funding forced an uneven coverage. Southern Ontario, the home of the authors at the time, was most fully explored; the western provinces seem to have received the least attention.

The bibliography is divided into four main sections, titled Manuscripts, Newspapers, Pamphlets and Government Documents. However, the first category includes all unpublished documents, including government records, while the last consists of government publications. Moreover, some published items such as proceedings, reports, constitutions and Labour Day annuals were included either in the manuscript or in the pamphlets section which is confusing. Each section has a short introduction which attempts to explain the methodology of compilation and the arrangement of entries. These must be read carefully to avoid frustration in using the bibliography. For example, the titles of newspapers and government publications derive from existing bibliographies. The location of a run or scattered issues of newspapers is given when known, but fully one-quarter of the non-ethnic papers and more than half of the ethnic papers appear to have vanished. International union newspapers which circulated among Canadian members are not included, apparently because they were not listed in any of the supporting bibliographies. No locations are given for federal and provincial government publications and the authors can provide no assurance that there are copies extant of all of them. For the manuscripts and the government records, Hann and his colleagues relied generally on descriptions provided by the repositories, which they recapitulate in the entries. The quality of these summaries varies in inverse proportion to the size of the unit, a common problem in archival practice. In choosing the sources, the authors seem to have adopted a rule similar to that old archival crutch: "When in doubt, keep it". Consequently, while some of the entries may be extraneous, users may take comfort in the knowledge that the selection is inclined toward comprehensiveness.

The entries in each section are arranged differently: the unpublished documents are listed in alphabetical order by repository; the newspapers by place of publication; the pamphlets in chronological order by date of publication; and the government publications in chronological order by government. With the exception of the pamphlets, the sources are presented by region. The incompleteness of some of the citations is irritating. Bibliographic details such as the publisher and pagination are omitted, and the extent of the archival documents is not given. While limited, a subject and nominal index has been provided giving a reasonably useful *entrée* to the bibliography.

Working class documentation has been neglected in Canada. Little has been collected, and what has found its way into repositories is often dismissed as being of minor importance. This bibliography highlights many of these forgotten and obscure sources, and suggests ways in which they may be used to comprehend the historical experience of working class Canadians. Despite problems in the organization and format of entries, this work is an extremely useful tool for archivists and librarians as well as

researchers. Its message about traditional collecting policies should not be missed. Regrettably, once again acquisitions must trail historiographical trends, and once again our failure to make our holdings known and appreciated, at a reasonable cost to the public, has forced historians to tackle the task.

Nancy Stunden
Labour Archives Coordinator
Public Archives of Canada

Steveston Recollected: A Japanese-Canadian History. Edited by DAPHNE MARLATT. Victoria: Aural History, Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1975. Pp. 104. illus. \$6.95.

Oral history is nothing new. The spoken sagas of antiquity long predate written records of the past. In fact, virtually all human cultures have handed their histories down from one generation to the next by means of oral traditions. Over the past decade, however, the term oral history (or aural history as some devotees would have it) has taken on added meaning in North America. With the rise of protest and dissent during the later 1960s came a democratic impulse which emphasized the innate worth of the history of the common man. In Europe such concerns were far from new to social historians. But in Canada, as well as in the United States, historians have traditionally taken as their subject the governors, not the governed. It is this elitist approach to the past that progressives and radicals have largely rejected. For them the urgent task has been to rewrite history "from the bottom up".

Yet, once accepted, this challenge raised an extremely awkward problem. The common man is by and large mute, at least as far as historians are concerned, for most men leave few records behind them and records are the very stuff of written history. This silence greatly complicates the task of writing the new peoples' history. Oral history offers a solution to this problem, one which a growing number of historians have recently seized. Moreover, oral history has its own special appeal, for the anti-elitism of recent North American protest has lent an air of integrity and authenticity to the tales of men who recount their own experiences. Those who speak from the grassroots, it seems, really "tell it like it was". Thus, according to the school of Terkel and Broadfoot, memory is the only archive, every man his own historian.

Steveston Recollected is a little book very much in this tradition. Organized topically, it contains transcripts of interviews with ten Steveston residents, all of them reminiscing about the history of their district. Interpolated among these accounts are descriptions of several of the interviews, written by the book's editor, presumably intended to convey