

book, but a picture book for whom? Children and general readers were no doubt considered as potential users, but here Mrs. Marsh's very summary, though interesting Introduction lets them down. Despite the maxim that a picture is worth a thousand words, these pictures need more detailed verbal support in order to be intelligible to the general public, just as Webber's plates would have been completely incomprehensible to an eighteenth-century reader without the sharp anthropological reporting of Cook and his associates. Perhaps one solution would have been a collaboration with a professional ethnologist, who could have supplied a detailed description for each picture. Or Mrs. Marsh could have been encouraged to supplement her reminiscences with short paragraphs to accompany each plate in a running verbal-pictorial dialogue, such as William Kurelek has perfected in his illustrated books.

At the same time, the publishers offer their book as "an archive of a world that has since disappeared"—an archive apparently of documentation fit for the professional student of the Eskimo. In this respect, the presentation could have been greatly improved. With the exception of the studies of ornamented dress that are described as having been painted at Eskimo Point in 1933 and 1934, no other pictures in the book are dated, although the reader with good eyes can detect dates from 1937 to 1942 following the artist's signature on many watercolours. From an archival point of view, one would very much have appreciated a full catalogue entry for each painting, giving a complete description of the medium, dimensions, date and place of execution, inscriptions and signature. Only with such documentation could a picture book like this begin to function effectively as a tool for serious research.

One also wonders if these pictures represent the complete oeuvre of Mrs. Marsh, or is this small volume only a sampling from a larger visual archive? One might believe the latter, since the author refers in her Introduction to a painting entitled "A Northern Igloo," which is not to be found in the plates that follow.

After the publication of this book, most of these watercolours were apparently purchased by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire for presentation to a museum in the Northwest Territories in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. Perhaps it is appropriate that these works will now return to the North, although Mrs. Marsh specifically states that they were created to share her experiences with those less privileged than she "who were unlikely ever to see the beauty and the hardness of life as lived by the Padlimiut." Ironically, it is the Padlimiut themselves who now need these reminders of their past; this pictorial archive must form an historical mirror for their future generations. Meanwhile, the rest of us are left with this picture book. One can only regret that Oxford University Press took the easy way out and produced neither a satisfactory introduction to Eskimo life for children or the general reader, nor a very well documented source book for the professional.

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Indian-White Relations: A Persistent Paradox. Edited by JANE F. SMITH and ROBERT M. KVASNICKA. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1976. xx, 278 p. illus. (National Archives conferences, v. 10) ISBN 0 88258 055 8 \$15.00.

What does an archives do when its holdings expand from being merely "large" to "gigantic?" Now containing more than one million cubic feet of textual records alone, the National Archives in Washington is confronted with the problem of how to guide scholars through such an enormous collection of research materials.

Since 1967, one answer has been to sponsor a series of semi-annual conferences for the exchange of ideas and information between archivists and researchers. This volume contains

the proceedings of the 1972 Conference on the History of Indian-White Relations. Jane F. Smith and Robert M. Kvasnicka, the two federal archivists who served as the directors of the two-day conference, have ably edited the papers and the commentaries.

The editors have divided the volume into six sections, each containing several essays. Archivists will find the first, "Major Resources of The National Archives and Records Service for Indian Historical Research," of particular interest. In the first essay Oliver W. Holmes, a retired federal archivist and past president of the Society of American Archivists, recalls his cataloguing in 1938 of the old records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. A third of a century later he still remembers vividly the "many dirty but happy weeks in the basement of the old or North Interior Building in Washington preparing 'identification inventories' of the old records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. . . ." The second essay, by federal archivist Carmelita Ryan, outlines the standards used in records appraisal. Both texts provide researchers with an excellent guide to the National Archives' holdings on the Indian.

In section three, "Indian Collections Outside the National Archives and Records Service," the discussion is extended beyond the National Archives. The historian, Angie Debo, reviews the major Indian record collections in Oklahoma. John Ewers, Senior Ethnologist of the Smithsonian Institution, discusses the use of artifacts and pictures as documentation. He argues that Indian artifacts are "silent memorials," which, as the early American anthropologist, Lewis Henry Morgan, wrote in 1850, "unlock the social history of the past; and although silent, they speak more eloquently than all human description." Too many "word-minded historians," Ewers concludes, have neglected artifacts and pictures. Finally Gregory Crampton explains the Duke Project for recording the testimony of Indian elders throughout the United States. Conducted between 1966 and 1972, the overall objective "was to record on tape what the Indians know of their own past and of their relations with whites and other Indians and to assemble their views on American history in general." Crampton's emphasis on the need for oral history and Ewers' on the value of artifacts and pictures suggest new avenues of research for historians.

The remaining four sections of the volume contain historical research papers. Section Two is devoted to the general question of nineteenth-century Indian administration. Herman Viola examines the policies of Thomas L. McKenney as Head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1824 to 1830, while Henry Fritz jumps half a century to review the programme of the Board of Indian Commissioners from 1878 to 1893. Robert Utley bridges the time gap between the two papers in his well-written essay on the "Frontier Army" in Section Four. He defends the United States Army against the charge that it was "the barbaric band of butchers, eternally waging unjust war against unoffending Indians, that is depicted in the humanitarian literature of the nineteenth century and the atonement literature of the twentieth."

In Sections Five and Six, various historians comment upon federal Indian policy in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. William Hogan's opinion of the success of the system is revealed in the title of his article, "The Reservation Policy: Too Little and Too Late." Of considerable interest as well are the two essays on John Collier, the innovative Commissioner of Indian Affairs under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was Collier who reversed the American government's assimilationist policy and helped Indians acquire a new self-awareness and pride in being Indian. Kenneth Philp reviews Collier's legislative programme in his essay, "John Collier and the Controversy over the Wheeler-Howard Bill." In a stimulating paper, "John Collier and the Indian New Deal: An Assessment," Lawrence Kelly clearly underlines the accomplishments and failures of a man whose "sympathy for the Indian way of life was considerably in advance of most of his contemporaries."

In summary, the collection of essays is useful, and the editors deserve to be warmly congratulated for seeing the proceedings to press. But all this being said, might I sound one discordant note. In their introduction the editors state that "virtually all" of the participants

“had made extensive use of the holdings of the National Archives.” Ironically this constitutes the weakness of their contributions—the papers all reflect the bias of the voluminous documentation generated by whites. In each of the historical essays the “great white man” dominates; the Indian remains a peripheral figure in what is really not “Indian” but “white man’s” history.

In his introductory essay to the volume, “Doing Indian History,” Francis Prucha notes that the “correction of existing historical writing comes from discovery of new sources, from application of new techniques, and from more sophisticated probing of the records with new questions.” Quite true. As historians we must begin to supplement the documentary record, for, as Oliver W. Holmes states in his essay, “over 95 percent of all documentation originated with whites.” Both Crampton and Ewers point the way. We must begin to use native oral testimony for our treatment of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In order to come closer to the heart and the mind of the Indian we must also learn the historical value of artifacts and pictures. Then with new questions we should go back to the archives.

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The Tetramachus Collection. PHILIPPE VAN RJNDT. Toronto: Lester and Orpen, c1976. 287 p. ISBN 0 919630 58 8 \$8.95.

Tired of the drab, dusty image of archives? Weary of new acquaintances, or even old friends, expressing surprise that you do not more closely resemble a mediaeval scribe? Despite your best efforts at self-liberation and ego-building, do you still feel uncomfortably like Clark Kent beside the Historian-Superman? Have you never dreamed of reading a novel in which an archives was at the origin of international intrigue involving sex, scandal and assassination? You may be tempted then, on first impulse, to refer your snide tormentors and Superman to *The Tetramachus Collection*. Read the book; but resist the impulse.

The subject of all the intrigue is a bound volume of documents relating to Vatican-Nazi relations in Poland during World War II, and utterly devastating for the reputation of the Iron Cardinal and heir apparent to the papacy, Rozdentsy Cardinal Meyerzczuk of Poland. The theft of the collection from the depths of the Secret Archives by Father Martin Belobraditz touches off world-wide speculation about its contents as well as a flurry of recovery operations by several secret service operations including ISIS, a semi-private organization operated by the CIA and the KGB, and engaged, in this instance, by the Vatican. While many archivists will regret the theft of manuscript material from an archival repository, the leftward leaners may find themselves in sympathy with Father Martin, the simple Polish priest with the suffering social conscience and the desire to expose corruption and power politicking in the highest echelons of government, albeit in the ecclesiastical sphere. What indignation must the genuine archivist feel, however, when Father Martin’s simplicity leads him to rip a page from the Collection to send to the Vatican as proof of possession—and worse still, to entrust it to the Italian post office!

The so-called Secret Archives of the Vatican possesses holdings dating back to the thirteenth century. Despite its very complex arrangement, which simply grewed like Topsey, and which is rendered only slightly more comprehensible by hundreds of *indices*, the vast majority of the papers it holds have been open to researchers since 1881. In 1967, they were opened down to and including 1878. Thus the name Secret Archives, while a novelist’s delight, has no logical significance. The title originated in the eighteenth century when an archivist gave it to his inventory of a series of regular office documents; the name stuck as a division of the Vatican Archives. When Philippe van Rjndt acknowledges that his story deals with a very small fraction of the holdings of the Secret Archives, he never makes it clear that the bulk of them have long been exploited. ISIS found it had an