

to the recipes and their accompanying commentary, and could almost stand on their own as brief historical treatises.

Recipes are divided into two categories: those for reading and those for eating. The first category describes methods of cooking and eating preferences which, while of interest, are not suitable for the modern family. Pioneer cookbooks called for lengthy cooking of all vegetables. Carrots were cooked for two to three hours in rapidly boiling water. Cooks were warned of the dangers of potato water. Carefully drained cooked potatoes were only added to stews just before serving. Before 1850 there was no sugar refinery in Ontario, although there were many breweries and distilleries. Flour was poorly milled and there was no baking powder. People lived for months on salt pork, with an occasional aged fowl for variety and of course recipes of the period reflect this situation. The recipes for eating, however, are appetizing and attractive. There are fewer of them than of the 'reading recipes', but they are clearly marked and are well worth a trial. 'Dr. Chase's Apple Custard Pie—the Nicest Pie Ever Eaten' is a treat.

All of the recipes were tested in the kitchen of Montgomery's Inn. Christina Bates describes the work as hot, heavy and disagreeable for a cook using a hearth, or even an early stove. She ensures that the modern cook will experience something of the pioneer cook's difficulties. The recipes are given in the somewhat vague terms in which they were originally recorded, with no temperature or timing instructions. However, she has included a conversion table for measurements giving quantities by weight, volume and metric measurements, and has occasionally included enough information to enable the modern cook to avoid culinary disaster. All of the recipes are expressed in bold type, which gives the book considerable visual appeal. It is handsomely done, with well-chosen illustrations and facsimilies, but the reproduction of the illustrations is poor, and the book does not open well—something of a draw-back in a cookbook. Nevertheless, Christina Bates has a light hand as a historian and as a cook, and *Out of Old Ontario Kitchens* is fun to read and use.

Everyday a Feast, is a cookbook, first and foremost, although the author does include some undocumented historical tidbits drawn mainly from unidentified newspaper sources. The recipes are simple, economical and good though this quarto-sized cookbook, which opens well, recalls the big family kitchens of the nineteenth century and is difficult to use in a modern, duodecimo-sized apartment kitchen.

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Subject-Matter Index of Patents for Inventions issued by the United States Patent Office from 1790-1873 inclusive. Compiled by M.D. Legett. Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Bureau 1874. 1951 p. Reprinted in New York: Arno Press, 1976. 3v. (America in Two Centuries: An Inventory series) ISBN 0 405 07737 8 \$118.00.

In 1960, Nathan Reingold the Science Bibliographer at the Library of Congress' Science and Technology Division observed that "the records of the United States Patent Office remain largely unexplored by historians . . . despite the fact that they represent a tremendous body of original source material for the years 1790 to the present". Regrettably, the passage of nearly two decades has done very little to change this state of affairs though likely revision will be necessary in another twenty years if the growing interest in historical technology continues. The reprinting of Legett's classic work is a step in the right direction. How much more useful it could have been with an introduction such as Reingold provides in his notes on Patent Office records as research sources in the journal *Technology and Culture* (1, no. 2, 1960: 156-67).

Published in Washington by the Government Printing Office in 1874 under the

supervision of Leggett as Commissioner of Patents, the *Index* is still the fundamental guide to American Patents between 1790 and 1873. Unfortunately it is so scarce and so little known that it is frequently not known even by historians dabbling in patent records as research documents. Presumably its greater accessibility will encourage more researchers to make greater use of patent records. The first 1729 pages are an alphabetical subject listing of patents of invention. Each entry gives the subject matter of the invention, not the formal title, the name of the inventor or inventors, place of residence, date and number of issue. There are approximately 85 to 90 entries per page. Unfortunately there is no alphabetical listing of patentees as there is for early British patents but in many instances this difficulty can be overcome. As long as one variable in the equation is known, be it name, date or place, the patent listing can usually be found. The key is an imaginative approach to subject entries. Cross-referencing is minimal and some subject headings, though logical, are still surprising. This is quite often the case with indices of this age and scope. For example, an original early twentieth century manuscript index to the John Davis Barnett Engineering Collection (now at the Public Archives of Canada) is typical of this genre.

The various indices in Leggett's *Index* serve as an excellent guide to one of the main bodies of literature revealing the nature of an old and most prolific love affair with technology. If given the chance, Leggett's work will provide good service to historians, social scientists and others interested in areas such as fine and decorative arts, popular culture, material history, labour history and social history as well as the more obvious fields of industrial archeology and history of technology. It is unfortunate that so much recent historical literature in these fields is still characterized by basic errors and omissions which could be corrected easily by reference to patent records. In many cases, one need not even look at the patent document itself, merely the extent and dates of issue which reflect a start or a sudden increase in one area or another. In this way patent records serve as an important social or cultural barometer, useful to far more than the historians of hard technology.

The growing interest in areas such as environmental history and the history of technology has caught many archives and archivists quite unprepared. First, many archives tend to reflect, understandably, the major concerns of only one type of historian and have been most assiduous in their pursuit and care of political and other non-technical material. Second, because of this emphasis amid a traditional system of rewards and social dynamics, archives with rare exception have become staffed primarily by people who know little or nothing about science, technology and engineering. What then can be done to meet some of the needs of a new generation of research interests? It is obviously unreasonable to expect a mass movement towards the placing of science and engineering specialists in archival systems. Existing collections often contain varying amounts of highly specialized material much needed by historians of technology. Again, many archivists do not know the needs of these researchers and do not draw attention to material through the finding aids and indices which they prepare. Thus, archives, which may be ill-prepared to begin with, provide even less service than they might. Trade catalogues are an excellent example of a category of material greatly sought after by many historians of technology but frequently missed because they are in the unlikeliest places; more often than not they are found serendipitously. Archivists could do much to signpost the routes.

In short, Arno Press have enabled researchers to get a little closer to this "extraordinary catalog of our material civilisation" (Reingold, p. 157) by giving a wider, if expensive, exposure to the Leggett *Index*. Archivists in North America would be wise to lean on it heavily in their various capacities for it unwittingly points to some disturbing weaknesses in the training of our staff and development of research services.

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