

When Morris deals with the active participation of government in film making through that very Canadian device, the motion picture bureau, he is able to draw upon primary sources in the public records. Elsewhere, he has to rely heavily on film journals and similar literature, but this is understandable given the dearth of record which survives from the private sector.

*Embattled Shadows* is a well constructed work which is, in a way, “a book of the film.” Readers should, where possible, try to see *Dreamland* a compilation film on the early history of Canadian cinema for which much of the research was originally undertaken. Each complements the other though each is, of course, complete in itself. The illustrations are very acceptable and there are two appendixes “A Chronology of Film in Canada 1894-1913” and “A Select List of Canadian Productions 1913-1939.” A title index and general index is also included. Early Canadian films are documents of the first importance and this is an excellent account of how they came to be made; it should be required reading for the “total” archivist.

Hugh A. Taylor  
Public Archives of Nova Scotia

**A Catalogue of some Labour Records in Scotland and some Scots records outside Scotland.** Compiled and edited by IAN MacDOUGALL. Edinburgh: Scottish Labour History Society, 1978. xxvi, 598 p. £10.50. (Available, plus £1 postage extra, from SLHS, 4 Preson St., Edinburgh EH8 9QA)

Few authors are so modest that they “undertitle” their publications, but Ian MacDougall certainly chose an unassuming—and somewhat misleading—name for this impressive bibliography of Scottish working class history. In keeping with the new historiographical trends in Great Britain and North America, this catalogue brings together information on surviving records of a host of workers’ movements and activities in one of the birthplaces of industrial capitalism. Complementing traditional sources from trade unions and labour’s political parties are documents, publications and even some artifacts created by friendly societies, cooperatives, educational and research organizations, associations concerned about public health and housing, recreational and cultural groups, and women’s organizations. It is a breath-taking array of documentation which clearly portrays the richness and diversity of working class culture in Scotland. However, this publication represents but one achievement of the eighteen-year old Scottish Labour History Society. As its honorary secretary, Ian MacDougall, described in a short article in *Archivaria* (Summer 1977), virtually no records of this type had been collected by Scottish repositories until the Society set out in 1964 to locate and ensure the preservation of such material. With the moral *and* financial support of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society and the University of Strathclyde (which established a Research Fellowship enabling Ian MacDougall to devote himself to the project on a full-time basis for three years), the Society was able to arrange for the deposit of about three hundred and fifty collections in public repositories. All of this material, plus a substantial quantity which remains in public hands, is listed in this extensive catalogue.

The criteria for inclusion in the bibliography were extremely broad. All working class records located in Scotland, including those relating to other parts of the United Kingdom and to international movements, were included. Some attempt also was made to note material pertaining to Scotland in the custody of major foreign repositories. In addition to the common documentary media such as manuscripts, publications, photographs, film and tape-recordings, more unusual forms including paintings, drawings, statues, posters, postcards, banners and even some three-dimensional objects were listed. To make the

catalogue a comprehensive research tool, secondary sources of both the scholarly and popular variety were added. Using both origin and subject matter, the entries are arranged in seven sections: friendly societies, cooperatives, political movements, trade unionism, miscellaneous, newspapers and periodicals not listed in other sections, and individuals. Access to the material is relatively easy because the table of contents indicates the many sub-divisions within each section and the index is quite complete. The introduction is informative, both about the arrangement of the entries and also the project as a whole. Bibliographical data is presented for published sources and location references are given for each entry—including library and archival call numbers. Short biographical notes on the organizations and individuals are provided. Considerable thought and effort was put into the preparation of the bibliography; undoubtedly it will become the bible of researchers interested in the history of working people in Scotland.

The largest section, that on trade unionism, extends to two hundred pages. According to MacDougall's introduction, it is a fairly complete listing of all extant union records with the exception of those at the local branch level. Some two thousand organizations are represented, ranging from early associations of handloom weavers to recent public service and white collar unions. Labour federations, organizations for the unemployed and rank and file movements also are included. Nearly all surviving records of cooperatives have been listed: more than sixty of the one hundred existing societies were visited personally by members of the Society and most of the remainder provided information on their holdings. Local political organizations were not as responsive to the inventory project, sometimes because they had few records or for other reasons. However, the central organizations of several left-wing parties, notably the Labour and Communist Parties and their predecessors, are included, as well as the Fabian Society, various land reform organizations, educational associations (such as the National Council of Labour Colleges and the Socialist Sunday Schools), publishing houses, and even several subject categories relating, for example, to the Spanish Civil War and the Soviet Union. The relatively poor response from local political groups led to a decision to include material relating to the reform movements of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, notably documents in a series of Home Office Records. These government records are an anomaly: except in this instance, the bibliography is restricted to sources created by working class organizations and people. The section on individuals includes works by and about three hundred people associated in some way with working class movements in Scotland: major figures such as Tom Paine, Robert Owen, Ramsay MacDonald, Robert Blatchford, David Proudfoot and Tom Mann; lesser figures from all fields covered in the bibliography; and some rank and file members whose letters, reminiscences, or even indentures have survived the years.

In content and presentation, *Labour Records in Scotland* resembles a library catalogue more than an inventory of archival holdings. By far the majority of entries are books, pamphlets, and other publications such as constitutions, rule books, reports, circulars, and union agreements. Bibliographical information on these printed sources, including, in many cases, the listing of several locations and their call numbers, takes up much of the volume. For example, eighteen locations are given for various reports of British Labour Party Conferences from 1900 to the present. On the other hand, the quality of description of the manuscripts varies from detailed information on individual documents (such as the calendar of items relating to "reform, radicals, riots and conspiracies between 1792 and 1835" in the Home Office Records, which extends to twenty-four full pages) to very short notes wherein even the extent of the material is not provided (for example, the entry for the Earl Grey Papers at the University of Durham: "Material concerning Scottish reform movement of the 1790's"). Specific items found in the collection of an organization or individual, but relating to another group or person, are listed under that other title. This may be extremely useful for some researchers, but it may also obscure some important

historical connections. In any case, this level of indexing is a very exacting and time-consuming method of description, a luxury in which few archivists can indulge in this era of the information explosion. Scarce archival resources can be best applied to the careful study of the history of the creating organization or individual, and the preparation of critical analyses of the contents of their collections in the context of that history.

Working class immigrants from Scotland have played an important role in Canadian history. Think, for example, of the employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, the displaced weavers who settled Lanark Township in Ontario, the industrial workers from the Clydeside who came to Western Canada in the early years of this century, and Joe Davidson. This bibliography will be of great value to those historians who are beginning to examine the ideas and attitudes that these Scots carried to their new country and the influences of their cultural baggage on Canadian society.

Nancy Stunden  
Public Archives of Canada

**Workshop of the British Empire; engineering and shipbuilding in the west of Scotland.** MICHAEL S. MOSS and JOHN R. HUME. Edinburgh: Heinemann, ©1977. xvi, 192 p. ill. ISBN 0 435 32590 6 \$31.25. (Available from the Book Society of Canada, Box 200, Agincourt, Ont., M1S 3B6)

The "Scottish Connection" in the Canadian experience has long been recognized in our domestic historiography, yet this group has rarely been studied in particular to isolate its impact on the development of a pluralistic society in the senior Dominion. On the other hand, people of Scottish descent and attachment have been unavoidably examined in the process of writing about Canada's history. As Stanford Reid has observed in a recent study of *The Scottish Tradition in Canada*: "the history of Canada is to a certain extent the history of the Scots in Canada." Put another way, though stretching the point a little, Canada was as much a Scottish colony as an English and French. Unfortunately, *Workshop of the British Empire* is not going to counter the balance in favour of the study of the Scottish Connection, despite what a Canadian might anticipate from the title.

Notwithstanding numerous references to firms (Yarrow's, Carron, Canadian Pacific Line), to individuals (Cunard, Allan, Telford), to products (stoves, ships, locomotives), and to events and circumstances (the effect on shipbuilding of the emigration cycle to Canada, the impact of Canadian competition for the South African locomotive market, the movement of technological expertise and skilled workers) of obvious Canadian interest, none of these components are examined fully enough to satisfy former members of the British empire. In fact, the authors concentrate on various sectors in the West of Scotland economy occupied by shipbuilding, locomotive works, certain types of heavy machinery such as sugar crushers, and ironworks and their products—from architectural elements to sanitary appliances. The place of such industries in the empire certainly provides a strong claim for the book's title to be applied to the Clyde Valley during parts of the nineteenth century, but this theme is never really explored in any depth in the work. The provision of this imperial context as "a tangible expression of the imperial idea"—to use the authors' words—would have strengthened the work immeasurably, and not just for readers who do not now live in Scotland. To be scrupulously fair, however, perhaps this additional dimension would have made for too large and complex a publication; furthermore, it may be asking others to undertake studies not central enough to their direct experience to be a compelling area for research and publication.

*Workshop of the British Empire* is extensively illustrated and is technically very ap-