

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.

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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-

pealing. Typeface, pictures, and captions integrate well with the text for the most part. The layout is especially well done and the many problems entailed by using a single column format have been avoided by recourse to an ingenious placing of the column off centre, leaving enough room to insert captions in the broad gutter margin. There are some errors in referring from text to illustrations (for example, a reference on page 28 to figure 7.6, is probably to figure 7.4, and the reference on page 31 is to 8.8 not 8.12). However, such flaws are few and do not substantially detract from the quality of the book, particularly when the complexity of the inherent problems in creating a volume such as this are appreciated. Images appear to have been well reproduced and the many instances of bled photographs seem appropriate and in harmony with the overall production. Cropping seems to have been exercised very judiciously.

One peculiarity which is very striking is the paucity of human figures in so many of the pictures. In one sense, this captures nicely the sense of depersonalization attributed to the growth of modern industrial systems. In another, the lack of human form removes a reference point from which to establish the scale or size of the objects being displayed in the images. Nevertheless, there are enough evocative images presented which do include human beings that I am certain those who might look for documentation on workers would be richly rewarded by studying these sources preserved by various firms, archives, and the work of the National Register of Archives (Scotland) in the Western Survey. Aside from the many remarkable depictions of ships, shipyards, locomotives, technical drawings, advertisements, and so forth, those which do include people embrace one picture which must surely stand out from all the rest: two young women working at jobs undoubtedly vacated by men taken to the front during World War I. They are testing condenser tubes for warships by applying hydraulic pressure to the pipes and hitting them with mallets to reveal defects. Presumably, a defect would show through a sudden and perhaps nerve-wracking release of pressure, probably accounting for the look of apprehension on the women's faces. The authors' perceptively draw attention to a picture on a raw brick wall behind the "girls" showing the "boys" in the trenches; alongside this image within an image is a chalked notice reading "When the boys come [back] we are not going to keep you any longer girls".

In considerable measure, this book is the product of discoveries from the survey of records of historical interest undertaken by the National Register, a branch of the Scottish Record Office (SRO). Anyone familiar with the holdings and vigour of the SRO and the invaluable work of the National Register of Archives (Scotland) will quickly appreciate the page and a half devoted to acknowledgements at the beginning of the book which clearly underline the cooperative nature of documentary preservation in Scotland. Confronted with increasing pressures for a regional approach to archives in Canada and the growing realization that the identification and care of local documentary evidence is reaching a critical juncture, Canadian archivists will quite properly seize upon the last chapter of the book "The Techniques of the Western Survey of the National Register of Archives (Scotland)". Here is outlined a process—obviously concentrating upon business records because of the book's focus—leading from the selection of which companies to approach first, to a tantalizing brief comment upon the connections between such archival work and the preservation of other non-textual and three-dimensional artifacts of the past. This short chapter touches on oral history, photography, industrial archaeology, *inter alia*, and clearly isolates—though probably unconsciously—a central impediment to archivists understanding and accepting their role in the process of preserving and interpreting the recorded and physical evidence of the past. In fact, the book as a whole exhibits a related structural difficulty as it weaves back and forth between an academic approach, straight narration, and the presentation of images of great popular appeal. Perhaps this somewhat curious movement in the work, which exposes an ambivalent attitude to a strictly academic analysis, reflects the interdisciplinary approach to surveying in Scotland.

Workshop of the British Empire seems to be a rather experimental examination of the past, and is not entirely successful from a number of points of view. Yet it suggests so many opportunities for further study and reveals so much value from collections being brought to some form of archival sanctuary that it stands as an important publication by the very nature of its conception. I wish it were written with a more vigorous style, that so many figures and firms mentioned in the text did not slip by without at least some attempt at characterization, that we were told more about the "careers" and properties of many of the Clyde Valley products, and that a more substantial context for the title of the volume were provided. All the same, it is a book of many virtues and leaves one with the hope that the authors will pursue this genre of publication, perhaps by taking some of the directions indicated in *Workshop* Michael Moss (Archivist of the University of Glasgow) and John Hume (Department of History, University of Glasgow) make a good team as this and other books which they have co-authored prove. May their next two books look at Scotsmen in the workplace and at home, and at Scotsmen as a pool of emigrants to the plantations, colonies and Dominions.

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Canada's Refugee Policy: Indifference or Opportunism? GERALD DIRKS. Montreal: McGill-Queen's, 1978. xi, 316 p. ISBN 0 7735 0296 3 \$18.95.

White Canada Forever: Popular Attitudes and Public Policy towards Orientals in British Columbia. W. PETER WARD. Montreal: McGill-Queen's, 1978. xi, 204 p. ill. ISBN 0 7735 0318 8 bd \$15.00 ISBN 0 7735 0319 6 pa. \$6.50.

For the most part both these books make sad reading. Taken together they are very depressing indeed and they confirm in a very thorough way the fact that the tolerant, multicultural Canada, which we are proud of today, is an achievement of the last thirty years at most. Gerald Dirks, a political scientist from Brock University, has described and analyzed Canada's policies and attitudes towards refugees in this century—a tale, in the main, of indifference, procrastination and even hostility until the period after World War II. Peter Ward, an historian from the University of British Columbia has recorded the implacable opposition and antipathy of the citizens of British Columbia towards all Asian immigrants from the mid-nineteenth century until very recent times.

Both these works provide a mass of valuable and detailed information on their respective topics and are clearly the result of very thorough research. They illuminate important aspects of Canadian development since Confederation of which we should be fully aware. Both, however, share a common fault, namely a failure to put these events in their international and historical context in a sufficiently detailed way; and to provide enough background information about Canada itself at this period, so that we can understand more about the origin of these attitudes and fears. Indifference to the needs of refugees, as well as racial discrimination and ethnocentrism are international phenomena and no region of the world has been or is without them. The period about which both authors are writing has been notable for its racial hatreds, class and ethnic discrimination and strong national drives for homogeneity and exclusiveness. East and West have been equally involved. In the nineteenth and for a good part of the twentieth Century, Canada's behaviour towards non-white immigrants and later towards refugees has been sadly characteristic of the times.

Gerald Dirks begins his study with chapters on the refugee phenomenon itself and on Canada's earlier experience of refugee and quasi-refugee movements including the United Empire Loyalists; the refugee slaves from the United States; Jewish refugees escaping the pogroms of Czarist Russia and Eastern Europe before World War I; Mormons in small