

authors. Complementary biographies or autobiographies like J. Wesley Bready's *Dr. Barnardo* (1930) and Lillian Birt's *The Children's Home-Finder* (1913) were written to advertise or justify the use of such dramatic relief measures. *Emigration from the British Isles* (1929) by W.A. Carrothers and *Education for Empire Settlement: A Study of Juvenile Emigration* (1932) were clinical, academic investigations of the problems encountered by the agencies and governments involved. More recent British works by individuals such as Wagner and Ivy Pinchbeck, *Children in English Society* (1969), employ a wide variety of sources and reflect the influences of social history. Canadian scholars have recently begun to examine the question of child immigration in order to discover more about the fabric of their own society. Neil Sutherland in his *Children in English Canadian Society* (1976) examines the treatment given to juvenile immigrants and compares this to the experiences of native Canadian children. These juvenile immigrants are used to demonstrate nineteenth century attitudes to the influence of heredity and environment on child rearing. Sutherland and other Canadian authors tend to adopt a sociological approach in dealing with the Homes Children question. Themes such as the role of the family and societal attitudes towards children are frequently addressed. Questions such as the impact of juvenile immigration on Canada's economy, the distribution system used to transport children from Britain to Canada and more importantly the overall benefits of child immigration still await conclusive answers.

Private and public archival repositories in Britain and Canada contain sources which will supply many of the answers to these and other questions. Government records, manuscript collections of agents, officials, churches and other participants retain valuable information. Some have not been discovered yet, while others have restrictions which will eventually be removed. Authors such as Phyllis Harrison have demonstrated that there is much to be learned from interviews and correspondence with individuals who were former child immigrants. Gillian Wagner demonstrates that diligent research can reward the author with untapped sources that reveal new details about the subject. It is hoped that others will attempt to locate and analyse this new material.

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A Rare Book Saga. The Autobiography of H.P. Kraus. H.P. Kraus. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1978. 386 p. ill. ISBN 399 12064 5 \$20.50.

At the beginning of the Epilogue to his *Autobiography* H.P. Kraus remarks: "Readers may understandably get the impression that I am interested only in making money." He then goes on to explain that he really only considers the accumulation of wealth as a means whereby he is allowed to possess the great manuscripts and rare printed books which have established his reputation as a dealer and, as he is at pains to point out at considerable length, a collector of the first rank. This attempt to disarm the reader late in the book does not, however, entirely remove the impression that has developed through Kraus's long recounting of personal triumphs, each one seemingly more profitable than the last.

H.P. Kraus considers himself to be in the direct line of succession as the foremost rare book dealer in the world, inheriting the mantle once worn by Bernard Quaritch and A.S.W. Rosenbach. Although there are a few of his colleagues who would vigorously dispute the general claim, it is true that like his predecessors Kraus has established an international reputation for paying the highest prices for the greatest books and manuscripts at the most significant auctions of the last twenty-five years. The saga of the three Dyson Perrins sales, held from 1958 to 1960, is recounted with gusto by Kraus, who bought the three best medieval illuminated manuscripts from the splendid collection

formed with the proceeds from the sale of Worcestershire sauce. These three manuscripts: the *Helmarshausen Gospels* at £39,000; the remarkable *St. Albans Apocalypse*, a thirteenth century English manuscript with 82 miniature paintings for which Kraus paid £65,000 (then the record auction price for a book); and the *St. Blasien Psalter* at £62,000 gained for Kraus a blaze of international publicity (as he would phrase it) and a lot of business. The prices, which seemed staggering to many collectors then and seem quite modest to us only twenty years later, also had the effect of raising the general value of early manuscripts and thus allowed Kraus to create his own market, to a considerable extent, for this kind of material. The technique, common in the international art market, of establishing the economic values for which one can supply the objects emerges from this book as one of Kraus's most significant contributions to the trade.

For any reader who has been directly involved in the international rare book or manuscript market, whether as dealer or collector, Kraus's "saga" will provide a number of new versions of stories already familiar and, possibly, a few new tales. How widely known, for instance, was the University of Texas offer to purchase the whole Martin Bodmer library for \$60,000,000 in 1969? Of particular interest to some Canadians will be a story Kraus relates in a chapter called "Joint Ventures". When the widow of James C. McCoy (who himself died in 1934) decided to sell the famous collection of Jesuit Relations in 1951 Kraus, Arthur Rau (who had catalogued the Jesuit Relations), and Roland Tree together purchased the books and sold all the "Relations" to James F. Bell of Minneapolis, where they continue to reside. Even more tantalizing is a story of the Latin Americana collection of a Canadian called G.R.G. Conway, the President of Mexican Light & Power. His books and manuscripts, which were kept in Canada, consisted of an enormous assemblage of the foundation documents of the history of Middle America and was valued at \$160,000 in 1949. Kraus sold the whole lot to Thomas Gilcrease and it is now part of the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

H.P. Kraus also relates the narrative of his life before his emigration to the United States as a political refugee in 1939. He had been a successful European salesman of both new and used books and had survived incarceration in both Dachau and Buchenwald concentration camps. His first big sale in America was to Lessing Rosenwald, whose great collection of illustrated books and prints has been left to the Library of Congress and the National Gallery, and whose death has only just occurred. H.P. went on to handle the so-called *Constance Missal* (which he still seems to think pre-dates the *Gutenberg Bible*), the *Gutenberg Bible* itself, both the 1457 and 1459 *Psalms* and a host of the most beautiful medieval manuscripts. He also made a fortune from periodical reprints (this aspect of the business seems to have been handled by his wife) but the reprint business does not, apparently, produce very good book stories. Kraus undeniably leaves the impression that an "American Dream" has been fulfilled and, in the enterprising spirit that typifies the U.S. businessman, it has.

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Pasts and Futures or What is History for? JEAN CHESNEAUX. London : Thames and Hudson, 1978. x, 150 p. ISBN 0 500 25062 6 \$17.50.

Jean Chesneaux's *Pasts and Futures or What is history for?* is a Marxist polemic against the "historical establishment" whose traditional function, in his view, has been the defence of the status quo. All those who do not accept the author's mystical belief in the legitimacy of the history of the "mass struggle" are thus condemned as lackeys of bourgeois capitalism. Notwithstanding his abundant rhetoric of the New Left, Chesneaux is in fact a