

interest in the issues he confronted. The younger Dr. Endicott is not only to be congratulated for filling an important gap in our knowledge of the history of social protest in this century, but also, given his proximity to the subject, for doing the job so professionally.

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A Date With History: Memoirs of a Canadian Historian. C.P. STACEY. Ottawa: Deneau Publishers, 1983. 293 p. ISBN 0-88879-086-4 \$24.95.

C.P. Stacey is one of Canada's foremost historians. From his days as a junior professor at Princeton through nineteen years as official historian with the Canadian army and a subsequent teaching career at the University of Toronto, he has produced a steady stream of books and articles on Canadian military, diplomatic, and political history. Now approaching eighty, Stacey is entitled to reflect on his long and distinguished career and, exercising the privilege of the old, instruct the young.

In the preface, Stacey explains that *A Date With History* is not intended to be a full autobiography. He does not intend to dwell on aspects of his life which have personal significance only, but offers "an account of my life as an historian, and particularly as an official war historian." Although Stacey discussed his experiences as an historian in the employ of the federal government in a well-known article in the *Canadian Historical Review* in 1971, they deserve the extended treatment accorded here. They are the most interesting part of his memoirs. Drawing on what seems to be a fairly detailed war diary, he devotes almost three chapters to the creation of the publication programme for the official army history. The problems he faced were immense. He had to convince the army to finance the project and permit the research to go forward without interference. Persuading the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister that an official history was feasible and necessary was an even more difficult task. He recounts in some detail the obstacles overcome in order to obtain access to cabinet documents and to insulate the work from political interference. The independence he won for the official history remains a model for historical scholarship in the public service. That achievement has become all the more important because there has been little discussion to date of the policies on the writing of official history in what has recently become the largest single employer of Canadian historians — the federal government. As a Canadian pioneer in what is now fashionably referred to as "public history," Stacey provides valuable commentary on problems encountered by the professional historian in writing government-sponsored history. Archivists, however, will look in vain for discussion of Stacey's well-known interest in the disposition of federal public records and the place of the Public Archives in historical scholarship in Canada.

One wishes Stacey had concentrated more on the problems faced by scholars in the public service. Instead, he digresses into less interesting facets of his life. His student days at Oxford, for example, do not merit as much attention as they receive. Stacey also relies far too heavily on lengthy quotations from his diaries and correspondence. And, although the memoirs abound in opinion — he has things to

say about Dieppe, Generals McNaughton, Crerar and Simonds, Donald Creighton, and Mackenzie King — his comments are usually brief and contain little that is fresh. Lack of sustained commentary weakens the book. Unfortunately, these flaws take away from the book's strengths and will disappoint admirers of Stacey's earlier and better work.

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Voyage into the Unknown: The Search for and Recovery of Cosmos 954. C.A. MORRISON. Stittsville, Ontario: Canada's Wings, 1982. 154 p. ISBN 0-920002-20. \$17.95

This is the story of Operation Morning Light, the search and recovery of the debris from the Soviet satellite Cosmos 954 which ploughed into Canada's Northwest Territories in the early hours of 24 January 1978. The author was well suited to undertake this task as he was an active participant in the operation as well as being assigned to the researching and writing of the episode for the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence. The book, despite its unimaginative title, is an intricate tale of a very recent event and the problems attendant upon a search which had, to that date, no precedent in terms of the dangerous cargo of radioactive materials that were scattered after impact. Complications arose from a number of sources: the vastness of snow-covered wilderness terrain, the logistics of mounting and co-ordinating the effort, the uncooperativeness of the Soviets. There were never any serious problems with American authorities who gave full-hearted support and technical expertise; the situation summoned forth the best in Canada-United States relations and cooperation. As well, it brought forth the best in the pilots and ground personnel who hazarded their lives in arctic conditions, and those individuals in a number of government agencies in more southerly climes who gave their all during the crisis. The pat on the back is well deserved.

This being said, there are some difficulties with the book. Originally, the manuscript was intended as an official in-house history of Operation Morning Light, an occasional paper for the Directorate of History, DNDHQ, containing politically sensitive material and critical comments. Colin Morrison has drawn upon the actual operational diaries of those involved, official logs, squadron flight records, the minutes of interdepartmental meetings, and so forth. The author has noted that he did succeed in having much material declassified in order that the study reach a wider audience. But, given the nature and tone of the final product, a substantial amount of rewriting would have resulted in better reading without sacrificing content and story line. This is still a technical report for the lay reader who would certainly succumb to the myriad of acronyms that appear page after page in the first chapters: RORSAT, SDC, DGMPO, NAST, NEST, NEVOO, and so on. And some of the minute details involving time zones and the intricacies of command might leave, one must assume, the readers of "Canada's Wings," the series in which this title appears, as cold as the country befouled by Cosmos 954. For the professional researcher who may wish to use some of the declassified material quoted, there is a problem — no footnotes, an omission which may have been instigated by the express wishes of the military, or the editors of the series.