

social reform groups gained more support, the early feminist leaders, who saw the vote as only one step in the fight for full equality, were outnumbered and overpowered by those who saw it as a method of extending women's distinctly domestic role in society. Bacchi accepts Carl Degler's view that maternal feminism's domestic priorities weakened the move toward full equality for women. Although women eventually won the vote, the transformation of the suffrage movement actually impeded the advancement of women because it only won for them a peripheral, inferior status in society.

In light of more recent research and the availability of more documentation, this harsh view of the suffragists is no longer valid. They too believed in equality for women but thought, as did most people at the time, that women had a different and not inferior domestic role which when expanded beyond the home would allow them to participate fully in Canadian society. Public acceptance of their view enabled these women to win the vote when the radical feminist view had failed.

Liberation Deferred makes it clear that archivists must preserve records documenting the history of women's organizations. When Bacchi did her research in the early 1970s, there was little documentation available in archives on women's organizations or on individual suffragists. She had to rely on the papers of the National Council of Women, prime ministerial correspondence, and various published sources. Since that time, considerable interest in the history of women and social reform in Canada has prompted archives to make concerted efforts to collect the papers of women's associations. The Public Archives of Canada, for example, now has the still largely unexploited records of the International Council of Women, Young Women's Christian Association, Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, Federated Women's Institutes, Canadian Girls in Training, and Canadian Women's Press Club, and the personal papers of such individuals as John Joseph Kelso who were much involved in reformist and women's movements. These collections make possible a more wide-ranging study of women at the turn of the century. Of course, the records of the Canadian government in the custody of the Federal Archives Division of the PAC also greatly increase the number of sources available for the study of women's history.

Unfortunately, these sources contain very little correspondence which reflects the private lives and thoughts of women. They remain a valuable resource which must be supplemented by acquisition programmes designed to narrow the gaps in the archival record. Archives must, for example, seek out and obtain records of local branches of these associations and locate more of the personal papers of their members as well as those of women who were not involved in them.

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La littérature intime du Québec. FRANÇOISE VAN ROEY-ROUX. Montréal: Boréal Express, 1983. 254 p. ISBN 2-89052-072-2 \$12.95 pa.

La littérature intime du Québec is an excellent book on personal literature, a topic which, archivists will probably agree, has not been studied enough. While researching her thesis, Françoise Van Roey-Roux devoted her time and talents to

gathering material on all forms of personal writings *published* in Quebec from 1760 to recent years. This book is an early attempt at making an inventory of personal writings in Québécois literature by grouping them by genre and summarizing their contents and themes.

In her introduction, Van Roey-Roux traces the origins of such writings in French literature to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Confessions*, pointing out along the way that Marcel Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* affords a highly valuable analysis of the functioning of memory. She investigates why people, whether famous or not, write a memoir or autobiography; the main reasons are to explain or to justify their actions or to leave a personal mark in the pages of cultural history for future generations to consider. The author also reminds us of memory's capricious side, of how it selects and emphasizes some past events at the expense of others. For example, down through the years war, rebellion, spiritual aspiration, and imprisonment have been the favourite themes of those who write about themselves.

The book is divided into five chapters, each one devoted to an examination of different genres of personal literature: diaries, memoirs, autobiographies, recollections, and correspondence. At the beginning of each chapter, Van Roey-Roux analyses the elements of the genre and differentiates it from other types of personal writings which may be closely related, as in the case of memoirs and autobiographies. A discussion of 400 titles emanating from the pens of 250 authors is then compressed into these five chapters. There is no formal conclusion — only a closing sentence. Although surprising in a scholarly book, this can perhaps be explained by the fact that the lengthy introduction provides the reader with unifying themes which act as a firm framework as one moves through. The virtually exhaustive bibliography will be of great service to scholars in the field and a fine index of the authors studied makes this book easy to consult.

Van Roey-Roux does not hesitate to exercise her critical bent when necessary. Although it would be unfair of an author who has chosen to examine works in which personality is forever before the reader to denounce too severely the inflated egos of some of her subjects, Van Roey-Roux does allow herself a judicious comment or two on some of the worst offenders. Likewise, she focuses attention on the time-worn clichés to be found in these writings: the "good old days," for example, when fathers were honest, intrepid, and hard working, mothers were gentle and loving, and children obedient and docile. The author's good sense shines through, and the precision and clarity of her writing are in no small measure responsible. Nor is her sharp wit to be regretted!

What Van Roey-Roux has done, she has done very well indeed. As is mentioned in her introduction, she limited her study to published works and neglected the great number of unpublished manuscripts which would have involved a task beyond her means. The researcher will understand and sympathize; the archivist will express regret. In any case, as the author herself suggests, this pioneer work should be followed by others, some of which ought to be aimed at unpublished material. Comparisons could be done of published versions of autobiographies, diaries, and memoirs with the original manuscripts. What parts of the manuscript have been expurgated and why? by whom? the author? the publisher? Moreover, it must not be forgotten that it is usually the manuscripts of the famous that reach the public in book form. Unpublished manuscripts of simpler folk, if submitted to the light of critical analysis, may also have some very interesting things to reveal.

La littérature intime du Québec ought to be a popular book. The topic arouses curiosity because it discusses many well-known people, such as Gabrielle Roy, Solange Chapat-Rolland, Guy Frégault, and André Laurendeau. Van Roey-Roux's treatment of them is sound and professional. Non-specialists should not be deterred, and the more specialized reader will find the work a valuable reference tool.

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Willie: A Romance. HEATHER ROBERTSON. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 1983. 359 p. ISBN 0-88862-671-1 \$19.95.

Over the last eight years, Canadians have developed an increasing fascination with the private life of William Lyon Mackenzie King. It began in 1976 when C.P. Stacey's *A Very Double Life* revealed Mackenzie King's personal, sexual, and spiritualist peculiarities. The public's interest grew each year thereafter with the annual release of King's diaries by the Public Archives of Canada. They led in turn to a variety of books, plays, television and radio programmes, and newspaper articles on King and his private life. Heather Robertson's *Willie: A Romance* is the latest addition to these writings.

Willie: A Romance is the story of Lilly Coolican, an Ottawa Valley girl who escapes Renfrew County for pre-World War I Ottawa. The book is in fact Lilly's life as recorded in her diary, begun at twelve when she got her first camera. Because her deceased father used to be a "Booth man," Lilly gets her first job as a secretary to lumber baron, J.R. Booth. She is carried forth by Ottawa's patronage system, thus launching the reader on a dazzling *rendez-vous* with history and historical figures as Lilly eventually becomes a secretary to the Duchess of Connaught, the Governor-General's wife. We meet the Duke and Duchess, their daughter Princess Patricia, R.B. Bennett, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his wife Zoe, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., among others. As the first of three intended volumes concludes, Lilly is establishing herself as an Ottawa photographer.

Through Lilly's diary, Robertson presents interesting vignettes of pre-World War I Canada. There is the fascinating trip to Alberta by the Governor General, his wife, and daughter as the upper class British duke strives to fulfil his vice-regal duties. Equally intriguing is the story of the home front in Ottawa as women organized and struggled to support the war effort. The struggle was not always united, and the book recounts the religious divisions which usually marred fund-raising activities. When Lilly Coolican is describing the atmosphere of Ottawa and the characters thus recede into the background, *Willie: A Romance* works best.

Lilly's diary entry for 15 August 1914 records a frightening encounter with a strange man while walking near the Rideau River at night. It is Lilly's first meeting with William Lyon Mackenzie King. From this first encounter, Lilly and Willie develop a lasting friendship which leads to their secret wedding in November 1917. The reader is left dangling at the volume's end as to whether he will announce or renounce their marriage. It is in Robertson's treatment of King that *Willie: A Romance* falters. Certainly she presents interesting and vivid descriptions of King's work for Rockefeller in Colorado. She also captures the sad and tragic relationship