

vicariate apostolic and eventually a full bishopric in Quebec, and attempts to provide for the Canadian Church after the British conquest. More than half of the documents included in the inventory have already been reproduced or used in published works. Others are merely copies, summaries, or translations of items which appear elsewhere in the collection. Furthermore, Propaganda documents are often formal and repetitive, and they shed very little light on everyday missionary affairs. The exception to this rule is the series *Congressi*, which, ironically, contains the documents which Propaganda officials deemed less important. Yet in the period covered by the inventory, even these letters and reports seldom yield the rich detail that one finds, for example, in the correspondence between missionaries and the Bishop of Quebec. Both the size and the value of the *Congressi* series increase sharply in the nineteenth century.

Still, the inventory differs from previous research in the Propaganda Archives in that it comprises a systematic and comprehensive review of sources over a substantial period of time. By bringing large quantities of material together in this way, it fills many gaps and makes it possible to place familiar events in a broader context. The very policy of Propaganda towards North America is one of the most important themes to emerge, as Professor Codignola has shown in his own work on Simon Stock (*Terre d'America e Burocrazia Romana: Simon Stock, Propaganda Fide e la Colonia di Lord Baltimore a Terranova, 1621-1649*, [Venezia, 1982]). Likewise, there is little doubt that the inventory paves the way for a more satisfactory study of topics such as the Capuchin mission in Acadia. We are now able to see the story in relation to the wider development of Capuchin missions and to the bitter controversies that divided the order in France. Perhaps the wisest choice Codignola made was his decision to use broad criteria of inclusion. By casting his net so wide, he has given us a perspective that we previously lacked. The advantages will be greater still if the project is carried forward to the nineteenth century and if it is expanded to include the Vatican Archives and the collections of the various religious houses in Rome.

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Vancouver's Fair. An Administrative and Political History of the Pacific National Exhibition. DAVID BREEN and KENNETH COATES. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1982. vii, 192 p. ISBN 0 7748 0161 1 \$24.00.

The Pacific National Exhibition: An Illustrated History. DAVID BREEN and KENNETH COATES. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1982. vi, 121 p. ISBN 0 7748 0160 3 \$10.95 pa.

Successful exhibitions are well-balanced affairs: they are edifying on the one hand, amusing on the other; they are conventional in some respects and innovative in others. Such are the lessons that emerge from two recent books on the Pacific National Exhibition. Like their subjects, these books are both instructive and entertaining. They are also innovative, inasmuch as they highlight the social and political forces which lay beneath the colour and hoopla of Canada's second largest exhibition.

In *Vancouver's Fair*, historians David Breen and Kenneth Coates provide a detailed account of the growth and development of the PNE, a West Coast institution since 1910. They explain how Vancouver, the last major city in the West to stage a fair, came to have one of the most prestigious exhibitions in North America. The fair's success was attributable not only to the rapid development of Vancouver itself, but to the close relationship which existed between the city council and exhibit promoters during the PNE's formative years. Both groups wished to promote local agriculture and industry; both groups hoped to provide wholesome entertainment to city residents. Most of all, both were infected by "boosterism," that effusive spirit which was so much a part of the Western Canadian *mentalité* during the early years of the century. Civic officials, eager to build a city that would rival Winnipeg and Toronto, saw the Vancouver Exhibition Association (parent of the PNE) as an unequalled source of publicity. Their enthusiasm was shared by VEA officials, most of whom were realtors. Together, they put on an annual show which not only "boosted" the city, but which also "boomed" property values in areas surrounding the exhibition grounds. Thus, the early history of the PNE is in many ways a history of early Vancouver.

Based largely on the records of the exhibition's directors, *Vancouver's Fair* was commissioned by the PNE to mark its diamond jubilee. The book is not, however, simply a panegyric to the fair and its founders. On the contrary, before commencing the book the authors insisted on unrestricted access to VEA files and a free hand to produce an objective, critical study. The directors agreed, the result being a scholarly, unquestionably honest portrait of a complex and sometimes controversial enterprise. In this respect, the book should serve as a model for other corporate histories, particularly those which depend on goodwill of corporate executives and the records of corporate archives.

As its subtitle suggests, *Vancouver's Fair* is primarily an administrative history, containing relatively few references to the fair-goers, entertainers, and exhibitors which gave the PNE vitality. Had the authors included more discussion of the social dimensions of the fair their book would undoubtedly appeal to more readers. Still, they have endeavoured to compensate for the absence of social history with a companion volume, *The Pacific National Exhibition*. This illustrated history is attractively produced and, through extended captions and commentaries, the authors do manage to convey the "flavour" of the fair. But possibly of more interest to readers of this journal is the story behind the photographs which make up the book.

The illustrations were selected from more than nine thousand photographs (negatives and prints) which the authors discovered while researching their administrative history. The photographs were tucked away in odd places, such as the cow barns, on the PNE fair grounds. Fortunately, the photographs (including many nitrate-based negatives) were in good condition; fortunately, too, most of the pictures had been taken by professional photographers, so that the quality of the images was exceptionally good. While the discovery of such a cache would gratify most archivists, the ultimate disposition of the photos is more gratifying still. On being apprised of the significance of the collection, the PNE directors agreed to pay for the costs of copying the prints and nitrate negatives to archival standards. The whole collection was then turned over to the Vancouver City Archives.

The PNE photographs illustrate all facets of the fair: grandiose exhibition halls, penny arcades and midways, medicine shows and modern home displays, bonny baby contests and beauty pageants, horse races and livestock exhibits, auto shows and demolition derbies are all here. But the pictures provide more than an entertaining look at the fair. Photographs of annual prizewinners in the PNE's livestock competitions, for example, provide graphic evidence of change in various breeds of cattle since 1910. Similarly, the boxy, black automobiles displayed in the PNE's "motor exhibits" of 1919 contrast greatly with the gleaming, finned machines pictured in the "auto-rama" of 1959. A comparison of the ideal kitchens of 1922 and 1962 also says much about tastes and technology in Canadian homes, while changing feminine figures and fashions are evident from pictures of VEA bathing beauties and PNE princesses over the years. In short, the photographs which comprise the PNE collection constitute a valuable record of the evolution of styles and standards over a sixty-year period.

Altogether, then, these two books are satisfying on several levels. From them, administrative historians will learn much about the operations of a large, multi-interest complex; urban historians will learn much about the self-image of Canada's Pacific metropolis. Those engaged in writing corporate histories will find a model in the first book, while archivists and social historians will be heartened by circumstances surrounding the second. Indeed, both books are heartening in that they show the felicitous results which may be obtained from a triangular relationship between the business, academic, and archival communities.

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