

Rome, Viking forays into coastal areas of Western and Mediterranean Europe, the Spanish conquest of Mexico and Peru, the Thirty Years' War, and, more recently, exploitation of East Asia by European powers. All these upheavals resulted in vast migrations of cultural property. No doubt Chamberlin is aware of these phenomena, but the sheer magnitude of them probably prevented their treatment in the book.

Archivists all over the world who are aware of and deplore the displacement of national collections from the regions where they were created will applaud Russell Chamberlin's message. Archivists understand and appreciate the importance of archival heritage in the development and sustenance of national identity. More than any other cultural property, the archives are the *collective memory of the nation*. Without this memory, a nation loses its identity and becomes but a place on the map, a Kingdom of Ashanti, to use Chamberlin's example, with no recorded past — in short, in the words of Lord Montague, a people with no soul.

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Canadian Women on the Move, 1867-1920. BETH LIGHT and JOY PARR, eds. Toronto: New Hogtown Press and The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 1983. 300 p. ISBN 0-919940-18-8.

Canadian Women on the Move, 1867-1920 attempts to examine the life cycle of women from childhood through old age. The volume is a compilation of historical documents which have been selected to reflect the burdens and social expectations of women as defined by the prescriptions of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Canada. Editors Beth Light and Joy Parr have uncovered a substantial amount of rich, enlightening, and often obscure archival material in diaries, memoirs, letters, and unpublished essays. Their exhaustive supply of primary sources has been painstakingly gleaned from the records of various archives across Canada. Great care has been taken to include historical material that reflects a large cross-section of the female experience from all regions of the country.

The editors present the raw material to challenge the traditionally accepted account of women's experience. The selected excerpts point to the need of a more realistic and long overdue reconstruction of the past. Indeed, it is not difficult to understand the shift toward reclaiming a past which has for so long been neglected. Current interest in the actual experiences of women leads historians to look more to the letters, diaries, autobiographies, and oral testimony created by women themselves than to sources about women created by men. Chronicles of actual experiences are the mainstay of this volume. This approach challenges the conventional framework for interpreting the history of women that ignores the economic status and role of women both inside and outside the home. Unfortunately, the framework of the life cycle as put forth in this book does not go far enough in addressing the economic realities which

were major determinants shaping different histories. Although the editors are sensitive enough to include examples of women from varying socio-economic backgrounds in each of the chapters, there is no attempt to discuss the effects or implications of different class positions in their historical context. These accounts warrant much more interpretation if women's experience as part of the historical and social fabric is to be more fully understood.

Each chapter in the book represents a period in women's lives and records the diversity of their experiences. Chapter two, for example, entitled "Neither Child Nor Wife," explores the various ways in which young women spent the transition period between childhood and marriage. Examples include an urban domestic, rural school teacher, Maritime missionary, Quebec factory worker, prairie homesteader, and industrial labourer. While the chapters are prefaced with general historical narratives which provide a context for the subsequent selections, the life cycle framework is not sufficiently substantial for analysis of the impact on women of larger processes of change such as immigration, urbanization, and industrialization. Regional and class differences are evident from the documents but they are given little explanation and consequently offer insight which is of limited value.

The wealth of information gathered in this book is a valuable and welcome contribution to the history of Canadian women. However, a compendium of documents does not constitute history. Historical scholarship requires contextual analysis to provide meaning. While this book provides observations, and challenges certain assumptions, further elaboration and interpretation would have enhanced its contribution to women's history.

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Dictionary of Canadian Biography, V: 1801 to 1820. FRANCES G. HALPENNY and JEAN HAMELIN, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press; Québec: Les Presses de l'université Laval, 1983. 1044 p. ISBN 0-8020-3398-9 (regular edition).

Volume V is the eighth volume of the *DCB* to be published; four volumes are still to come. The selection and editing of the 502 biographies (death dates between 1801 and 1820) must have been the most challenging task yet faced by the *DCB* editors and staff. Tumultuous change and insecurity governed the lives of the chosen entries. The Seven Years' War, the American Revolution, the twenty-year war with revolutionary France, and the War of 1812 brought in their wakes traumatic change. Out of this turmoil of war, British North America emerged as a recognizable political and economic entity. Although its destiny as a northern transcontinental state was still in the future, explorers such as Alexander Mackenzie and Peter Pond had penetrated to the Arctic and Pacific Oceans by 1820. The initiative for western and northern expansion came from fur trade barons such as Simon McTavish and James McGill. Their entrepreneurial skill and energy gave shape to the economic development of the fledgling colonies along the St. Lawrence and shores of the Great Lakes; and on the