

history of an interior human activity such as the practice of religion. In their absence, it has been necessary to concentrate on the recorded externals of religious observance and morals, derived from such sources as parish registers, official correspondence, reports, census and court records, wills and inventories, maps and archaeological discoveries. There is some strain and some frustration in the method, but one is happy to see the importance of religion recognized, in addition to that of warfare, business, and other social concerns of the settlement. Moreover, the title of the book has been chosen with care so as to give an accurate idea of its contents and not raise unfounded hopes. The result is a comprehensive and helpful examination of a limited subject, clearly and pleasantly written.

The background of this study is well presented in the introduction and illustrated with relevant maps, drawings, and photographs of reconstructions and artifacts, so that even a reader's lack of knowledge of the highly specialized subject should not greatly impair his understanding of the work. The first chapter provides the general religious context and the next three chapters deal respectively with the three religious orders that served the settlement of Louisbourg: the Récollets of Brittany, who ministered as curés and chaplains; the Brothers of Charity of Saint John of God, who staffed the King's Hospital; and the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame, who strove to provide education for the Louisbourg girls. Three corresponding appendices provide the names and all available information on the various members of these orders known to have been stationed in Louisbourg at any time. The final chapter deals with faith, morals, and popular customs regarding birth and baptism; confession, communion, and confirmation; sex and marriage; death and burial.

The dry bones of names, dates, and statistics are, wherever possible, fleshed out with accounts of personalities, both among the religious and the lay population, and of the courageous persistence of the three orders in spite of inadequate numbers, rivalries, conflicts with the secular authorities, and the remarkable lack of financial generosity exhibited by the "Louisbourgeois," who refused to pay a compulsory tithing or to support the building of a parish church. This last is tentatively attributed by the author to the fact that all Louisbourg's most significant buildings — the fortifications, barracks, official residences, hospital, and lighthouse — were erected at royal expense, so that the inhabitants may have anticipated a twentieth-century version of dependence on "the government" to supply all their communal needs. It is the occasional interpretive gem of this sort that makes this study of an untypical and isolated community rewarding even for the non-specialist.

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Rendezvous: Selected Papers of the Fourth North American Fur Trade Conference, 1981. THOMAS C. BUCKLEY, ed. St. Paul: North American Fur Trade Conference, 1984. (Available from the North American Fur Trade Conference, 240 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55102.) ISBN 0-9613451-0-1.

Cold print is incapable of capturing the essence of the Fourth North American Fur Trade Conference held in October 1981 in Grand Portage, Minnesota and Thunder Bay,

Ontario. The papers presented were vital, but in themselves they give an inadequate picture of the far from exclusively academic proceedings. Stripped of the international setting, the bus trip between the two sites through fall foliage, the taste of wild rice, the sound of Indian drums, and the jostling on the Montreal canoe rides, this volume presents a cerebral view of an exuberant gathering which united scholars and canoeists, curators, archivists, and researchers around a common interest.

The Fur Trade Conference tradition is still in the formative stage. The first conference was held in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1965; it was followed by two in Winnipeg in 1970 and 1978. The Fifth North American Fur Trade Conference took place from 29 May to 1 June 1985 in Montreal. Each has gathered together an interdisciplinary group of scholars, amateurs, and enthusiasts interested in various aspects of fur trade history. Virtually all of the papers presented which could be adapted to print were included in the resulting publications: *Aspects of the Fur Trade* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1967); *People and Pelts* (Winnipeg: Peguis Publishers, 1972); and *Old Trails and New Directions* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980). The realities of escalating publication costs have led to a soft cover edition of the 1981 papers, but only four predominantly visual presentations have been excluded.

The twenty-one papers reproduced in this volume are grouped under the headings: "The French and the Fur Trade," "The Fur Trade Companies," "Indians and the Fur Trade," "Fur Trade Sites," and "Fur Trade in the Great Lakes Region." The juggling and regrouping from the original programme have generally resulted in fewer, more rational divisions. Timothy F. Ball's talk on climate, however, has little to reveal about the Hudson's Bay Company as a "fur trading company," and Patricia A. McCormack's paper "Becoming Trappers: The Transformation to a Fur Trade Mode of Production at Fort Chipewyan" is not primarily concerned with the post as a "fur trade site." Probably the section with the least cohesion is "Fur Trade in the Great Lakes Region." Bruce M. White in " 'Give Us a Little Milk': The Social and Cultural Significance of Gift Giving in the Lake Superior Fur Trade" studies gift exchange from the Ojibway Indian's point of view. Sylvia Van Kirk and Jennifer S.H. Brown describe different aspects of George Nelson's life and career as a North West Company clerk; and Julius F. Wolff Jr. exposes the illicit fur trade in the early twentieth century in "Hot Fur." Such are the challenges of imposing structure on diversity.

LaVerendrye's arrival in Grand Portage in 1731 provided the location and year for the conference, but only the banquet speech by W.J. Eccles discussed this early development of the fur trade towards "La Mer de L'Ouest." The trade around the Great Lakes was dealt with in about half the papers and provided an appropriate theme, but the geographic coverage was by no means limited by this emphasis. Regions as far apart as South America, Fort Chipewyan, and Neah Bay Washington were represented. Approaches ranged as widely as location. Contributions from archaeologists and architectural experts, anthropologists and geographers, historians and sociologists combined to provide a many faceted picture of the fur trade and its impact. In fact, Donald Bibeau's impassioned critique of the fur trade literature, which I remember as particularly spellbinding and which is impressive even without the emphatic presentation, was based on his perceptions as a member of an Indian tribe rather than any formal education.

The publication is not without its difficulties. While the brown print on buff paper is attractive, I found it trying to read, especially in its double-columned format. The colour scheme is particularly inappropriate for maps and illustrations, of which there are too

few. Too often typographical errors interrupt the flow of ideas. After mentally correcting the spelling of Anthony Henday's name for the twenty-seventh time in two pages, my confidence failed and only checking the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* reassured me that his name was not "Hendry."

In spite of these technical quibbles, the volume is successful in making available a wide range of recent research in the field, albeit over three years after the fact. Like other successful conferences I have attended, the North American Fur Trade Conference brings together people who share a common interest but who approach the same topic from widely divergent directions. As archivists, we have often benefited from the varied background of our researchers, but only at a gathering of this kind can we meet some of the other workers in the field who use tools other than documentary sources.

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Free Trade and Sailors' Rights: A Bibliography of the War of 1812. JOHN C. FREDRIKSEN. Bibliographies and Indexes in American History. Number 2. Westport Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1985. 399 p. ISBN 0313243131.

In his preface John Fredriksen deplores the absence of comprehensive reference materials on the War of 1812. It appears that he has found inadequate his own *Resource Guide for the War of 1812*, published in 1979, for his answer has been the compilation of this vastly expanded edition under a new title.

Free Trade and Sailors' Rights is organized in the same manner as the author's earlier work. Primarily concerned with the military events and political background to the conflict, it reflects the literature of the war, particularly the older literature. The organization of the bibliography is chiefly geographical, divided into eight regional chapters, subdivided by American states and colonial provinces. There are sections within each for military actions occurring in that area, arranged chronologically, and biographical sections on persons identified with the war in that region. Naval affairs are incorporated into these chapters and are also grouped into chapters on "Lake Erie" and "The War at Sea." Other chapters are the inevitable "General Texts," "Tactical," a lengthy "Politics and Peace," and an equally inevitable "Miscellaneous." Manuscript sources are grouped in a separate chapter arranged by repositories in Canada and the United States, listing the major holdings at each. There is no textual introduction to the literature in any chapter. There are useful appendices on contemporary newspapers and the services of American, British, and colonial regiments in the war. A single subject index aids in directing the user to the correct section.

While this organization is generally successful, it has drawbacks, especially for the Canadian student. Much of the material of Canadian interest is concentrated in only a few chapters. One, "The West and Northwest," is of immense scope, taking in everything from the Battle of the Thames to the capture of Astoria in the Oregon country. British and Canadian accounts are well represented (although some important works have been missed), but they are sometimes hidden within the American bias of the organization. For instance, while there is a special section devoted to Francis Scott Key, there are none for works by or about two Upper Canadian *literati* who chronicled and participated in the