

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

war — James Richardson and “Tiger” Dunlop. Nor was this reader able to find their works in more general sections: indeed, it is difficult to locate a specific entry in this work given the multiplicity of sections and lack of an author index.

Fredriksen says in his preface that his method of gathering material was to request libraries and other repositories to photocopy catalogue cards of their holdings. By careful editing he has avoided the worst pitfall of accepting this sort of information — inclusion of items masquerading as books which are really manuscripts, detached periodical articles, or ephemera. Books, articles, and dissertations are clearly distinguishable here and presented in uniform bibliographic formats which will satisfy the most demanding librarian. He does, however, have some problems with multiple editions, often citing neither a first nor latest edition, and nowhere making clear why he prefers the one he has included. Each item is cited only once, with cross-referencing included for those of interest in two different sections. Unfortunately, there are no annotations to guide the reader in assessing the relative value of different items.

Fredriksen clearly differentiates between official records and manuscripts and includes only the latter. This leads to valuable material being overlooked. For instance, his entry on the Public Archives of Canada includes only material from the Manuscript Division and does not even mention Record Group 8 containing the operational records of the British Army in North America during the War of 1812. Corresponding American official records are not included either.

The pages of this work have been made up from typed, camera-ready copy reduced to book size. Although this is just as adequate for the bibliographic entries themselves, some form of typesetting to produce readable text is necessary at least for the preface, index, and headings within chapters.

John Fredriksen has made a valuable contribution with this book. It must immediately become the point of departure for all research into the War of 1812 as well as much of the American early national period. It will be a vital reference text in all academic libraries.

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The History of Prairie Theatre: The Development of Theatre in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 1833-1982. E. ROSS STUART. Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1984. 292 p. \$24.95.

In the last ten years theatre history has become a going concern in Canada. Heather McCallum's valuable guide to theatre archives, *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries. II: Special Studies. Theatre Resources in Canadian Collections*, was published in 1973. In 1976 the Association for Canadian Theatre History was founded and began publishing a newsletter. The association held its first annual conference at the meetings of the Learned Societies in 1977. In the spring of 1980, the journal *Theatre History* began publication as the official organ of the association. E. Ross Stuart has further strengthened this trend in theatre studies by producing a very thorough reference work dealing with the last 150 years of Western Canadian theatre.