

As far as layout and graphics are concerned, this work is quite pleasing. It contains over two hundred superb photographs and illustrations of inmates, officials, and penitentiary buildings chosen from six institutions mentioned in the preface. Unfortunately, they are not properly credited, nor are the negative numbers indicated. This omission represents a great obstacle for researchers. For the most part, the photographs and illustrations have been carefully selected to go along with the text and, probably, for that reason the captions on them are unduly brief. Except for the "Colour Photo Essay" (pp. 140-47), they are done in sepia which gives them a certain historical appearance. Examples abound of the authors' reliance on essentially the same photographs twice. In so doing, two photographs of John A. Macdonald are identical except that one of them is the reverse of the other. In addition, the same apparatuses for smoking appear in two different photographs but in a slightly different order. The lack of an index, footnotes, and bibliography is also regrettable. Readers who intend to check newspapers, government publications, original penitentiary records, and other sources mentioned in the text will, no doubt, have a difficult time locating many of them. One should note that a large and important collection of letter books, Wardens' journals, medical registers, Inspectors' minute books, and other original records of Kingston Penitentiary, some dating back to 1835, is in a penal museum located in the former Warden's residence in Kingston. The Federal Archives Division of the Public Archives of Canada is attempting to acquire these valuable documents, many of which the authors used extensively in this work.

Overall, this account of Kingston Penitentiary is interesting but superficial. Even the authors admit that it provides only a brief look into some of the main issues. Beyond tracing the history of the penitentiary, this work covers the establishment of a prison for women and an institution for the criminally insane. Also included is the relationship and importance of the penitentiary to the City of Kingston. The main theme, however, is the importance of the penitentiary as a monument to punishment and reform. The cruelty and strict discipline that the prisoners were subjected to, especially in the early years, are clearly in evidence. The authors demonstrate how the penitentiary gradually changed from a place of repression to one of reform. They seem somewhat reluctant to explain the success or failure of the penitentiary's rehabilitative programmes, but they do admit that "well over half the inmates of Kingston Penitentiary throughout the years of its existence, have been repeat offenders." It would seem, therefore, that the rate of rehabilitation has been less than satisfactory.

Although conditions for inmates are more humane today than they were in the past, one wonders whether the expenditure on keeping so many offenders in the penitentiary is justified. The authors point out that "the perfect solution to criminality continues to evade even the most civilized and sophisticated of human societies. There are only a range of imperfect solutions, of which the penitentiary is one." It is hoped that this work will stimulate us into thinking about other more positive ones.

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Gunboat Frontier: British Maritime Authority and Northwest Coast Indians, 1846-1890 BARRY M. GOUGH. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1984. xvi, 287 p. illus. maps. ISBN 0-7748-0175-1 \$27.95.

The third of Professor Gough's volumes dealing with the maritime history of British Columbia looks closely at relations between the advancing white man and the indigenous

Indians. In doing so, he provides us with a valuable insight into the realities and even the dynamics of “gunboat diplomacy,” that much misunderstood (because never clearly examined) manifestation of the spread of European influence.

Professor Gough makes it evident that in this particular case — and let us remember that every example differed — there was no alternative method of maintaining law and order in potentially unruly frontier conditions. There were no police, no local militia, nothing. The resources of the Royal Navy therefore controlled to some extent the areas of settlement. Furthermore, and in contrast to the accepted view, the Royal Navy exercised its power, “the customary authority” in the words of one official, with moderation and often with benefit to both sides. Naval officers realised the potential dangers and were rarely keen to embark upon violent action.

The book has several maps, although not all places mentioned can be found therein. It has reproductions of many interesting photographs, a good index and is well referenced. The author has used a wide variety of sources. Some of these are obvious enough, but he has taken the trouble to consult not only the Admirals’ letters to the Admiralty, but also the station records of the Pacific squadron, that lower level of correspondence giving detail sometimes unobtainable otherwise. Owing to “weeding,” we must recall that Admiralty records have to be supplemented by almost any source available for the period 1840 to 1860, and so Professor Gough has drawn upon Colonial Office and provincial records too.

While Professor Gough’s period involves no great events, he has provided us with much food for thought in this useful volume.

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Personal Letters of a Public Man: The Family Letters of John G. Diefenbaker. THAD McILROY, ed. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1985. 255 p. illus. ISBN 0-385-25005-3 \$24.95.

This book contains two hundred and fifty letters from the more than 65,000 documents found in the Family Series of the John G. Diefenbaker Papers. Given the immense proportions of this series one would expect an historical legacy unsurpassed in the archives of other Canadian prime ministers. While it is true that the quantity of these records outranks all others, the substance of the Family Series and, therefore, of this book, falls short of one’s expectations. Though we are able to plot the changes in Diefenbaker’s career through his relationship with his family over a sixty-year period, it is more difficult to uncover the inner nature and motivations of this quixotic figure. Diefenbaker confided in his two wives, his parents, and his brother about some of his fears, doubts, and ambitions, but it requires careful reading of these letters coupled with a thorough knowledge of the man and his times to glean any insights into the private side of his character. All too frequently the letters contain little if any information. As John admitted in 1946 to Elmer in a rare candid statement, “Edna says that I write the same kind of letter to her as I do to mother and to you. It is without any information. However, if I only write when I can think of something to write about, there would never be a letter.”