

We do learn a good deal more about the people around Diefenbaker, including the important role played by Edna in assisting her husband during the early years of his fledgling political career. Her letters also paint a disturbing portrait of her struggle with depression, a series of physical illnesses, and eventually the leukemia which took her life. Diefenbaker's courtship of Olive Palmer is revealed through their exchange of affectionate letters. *Personal Letters* offers an image of a loving family led by parents quick to advise and full of the homespun philosophy that characterized the Diefenbaker *persona*. Elmer, John's younger brother, was criticized by some for his simple manner and unassuming nature, yet these letters demonstrate that Diefenbaker admired his brother most for those very qualities. No family is devoid of internal strife, and the Diefenbakers experienced some disputes. Occasionally Diefenbaker's political career interfered with his family duties. In 1944, election campaign commitments prevented him from seeing his parents on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. His gift could not temper the pain expressed by his mother in this memorable reply: "Fifty roses when all I wanted was sons. I never was so disappointed in all my life."

John Diefenbaker possessed an amazing knowledge of history and an extraordinary dedication to the preservation of archival records which portray his own place in history. These traits, however, were not coupled with much objectivity. This was made plain by his several attempts to shape the record to suit his own view of reality. As seen through his memoir, *One Canada*, he frequently took great liberties with historical facts and reformulated them to support his interpretations. The same is true in at least one case with his archival collection. The Family Series is augmented by the private papers of all his immediate family as they all predeceased him. He destroyed most of the correspondence of his first wife, Edna, and reduced to a bare minimum or deleted any mention of her in his biographical notes and in the autobiography. No doubt Diefenbaker was aware of the powerful tool that history could be. This had some effect on the manner in which his papers were preserved but, more importantly, it influenced the information he committed to paper. In *Personal Letters of a Public Man*, the selected family letters reinforce the sense that while our knowledge of the man has been broadened, very few of even his most private communications deepen our knowledge of the inner man. It is revealing that he left no private diary, perhaps another example of his literary inhibition.

The introduction and chapter notes, written by J.L. Granatstein, provide an incisive synopsis of Diefenbaker's career and family relations. The letters themselves extend to those readers fascinated by the life of John Diefenbaker an opportunity to explore areas not revealed in *One Canada*. For those who wish for more penetrating insights into the man and his motivation, however, this overly expensive peep into the personal mail of the Diefenbaker family is a disappointment.

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Seeking a Balance: The University of Saskatchewan, 1907-1982. MICHAEL HAYDEN. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983. xix, 379 p. illus. ISBN 0-7748-0194-8.

Anyone interested in the history of educational institutions will greet this book eagerly since it sums up the history of the University of Saskatchewan in a way that one can use for comparison and reference. It speaks with an authority based on the author's use of a

wide variety of sources. On the whole, the book is to be recommended and Michael Hayden to be commended. It is not, however, without its faults. The University of Saskatchewan developed a rather unique character under the guidance of one strong, opinionated individual, President Walter Murray, who guided its formation and development from 1908 to his retirement in 1937. As the Archivist for the University of Regina, the “other” university, I could not help but bristle each time Hayden said Murray’s goal of “one university for the whole province,” was marred by the emergence of the second university. Statements of this kind surface with almost nauseating repetitiveness. For much of the book it seems that Regina College became a university simply because “some Reginans refused to give up their desire to have their own university.” (p. 169) It is only towards the end of the history that the reader learns of other reasons for the existence of two universities: the greater physical pressure on the University of Saskatchewan’s Saskatoon Campus to meet the demands of a vastly increased student population, the inability of the Saskatoon Campus to run a successful fund-raising campaign without the Regina Campus, and the constant jealousy and rivalry between the two campuses that would have made it difficult for them to work in complete harmony.

Quite understandably Hayden explains in his introduction that he does not intend to treat the University of Regina and its antecedent bodies in any detail, since the institution was a separate entity. An additional reason is contained in one of his final statements: “There is a constraint related to the time period covered and the nature of the sources used.” (p. xix) Having used the emergence and growth of Regina College as the reason why one of Murray’s ideals went unrealized, an integral theme of the history, Hayden ought to have explored more carefully the reasons for the creation of the University of Regina. He might have done so had he employed the university’s archives. I checked his sources on the University of Regina. He used minutes of the Academic Faculty, Regina College housed by the Saskatchewan Archives Board; he notes that “Regina College records for this period are not very informative.” (p. 342) It seems Hayden did not consult any records in the University of Regina Archives. Hayden ignored records that may have altered his recounting of the relationship of Regina College to the University of Saskatchewan. Had he done so, he may have created a better balanced book and a more incisive account of Murray and his goals.

As the archivist for the University of Regina I am at once aware, having read this history, of the enormous gap in the university’s early records. Fortunately, the most important papers, minutes of the board, senate, and councils, and some of the key correspondence, have survived and are available for research use in the university archives. A tremendous amount, however, unless it lies in some secret cache, has been lost. A good portion also lies in other repositories; a large amount of the correspondence of the president before 1934 exists in the main archives of the United Church, many of the records from the period 1934 to 1974, when Regina College and Regina Campus were inextricably bound with the University of Saskatchewan, lie in the archives at the University of Saskatchewan, and records documenting the relationship of the University of Regina and the government are held at the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

All in all, though balance was lacking, Hayden’s book was very worthwhile to read. It is especially valuable for archivists employed in a university archives.

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