

contexts have been important to his discussion, he now attributes the changes in legislation and attitudes to changes in means of communication, an interpretation not developed earlier. Hence, the logic of this conclusion is not evident.

A good social history of the Yukon Territory since the Klondike gold rush is long overdue. It should be based on an informed and careful blending of published materials, archival documents, and oral traditions. McCandless's book is a big step toward this goal, though there are some major gaps in the literature he cites. He omits, for instance, Julie Cruikshank's and Kenneth Coates's work on the impact of the Alaska Highway and Hugh Brody's masterful study of native trappers in northeastern British Columbia. It is important to note that he brings the perspective of a Yukoner to this work. This is a strength of the book, in that his writing reflects a sensitivity to time and place which "outsiders" often lack. It joins a growing literature which is gradually replacing the conventional wisdom about the Yukon with studies containing great insight and respect for the distinctiveness of the territory.

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A Fur Trader's Photographs: A.A. Chesterfield in the District of Ungava, 1901-4. WILLIAM C. JAMES. Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1985. 113 p. illus. ISBN 0-7735-0593-8 \$24.95.

In *Archivaria* 12, William James, a professor of religion at Queen's University, published a short article entitled " 'Inuit in Church': Clearing Photographic Misattribution," in which he showed how a photograph widely attributed to Robert Flaherty had in fact been taken several years before Flaherty ever travelled in the north. He also showed how a supposed "political statement" made by Flaherty in the photograph was based on the erroneous assumption that the image was complete. In fact, the Flaherty photograph represented a cropped version of the original image. This article and a short follow-up notice, which were the result of a great deal of research in out-of-the-way places, promised an interesting study of the photography of fur trader Albert Chesterfield, who actually took the shot misattributed to Flaherty. Unfortunately, the outcome, as represented in the present book, has not completely fulfilled the promise.

Albert Alexander Chesterfield (1877-1959) was born in England and, when orphaned at the age of fifteen, was sent to stay with an uncle and aunt at Sweetsburg, Quebec. There he finished his schooling and, despite a chance to become an architect, joined the Hudson's Bay Company, working at Rigolet in Labrador. In late 1900 he left the service, but in 1901 rejoined and was sent first to Moose Factory and then, in 1902, to Great Whale River on Hudson Bay. There he stayed until 1904 when he appears to have definitively left the company's service. About 1910, he became a professional photographer in Montreal, later worked as a journalist, and then retired to a small town near Kingston, Ontario. According to the author, the main remaining records of Chesterfield's photographic career are the images he took while at Great Whale River. They are the basis of *A Fur Trader's Photographs*.

Over three hundred photographs by Chesterfield are available in the Queen's University Archives and the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. However, it is not clear how many of these are from his fur trading period, nor how many are duplicates of the

same image, in the form of negatives, prints, and lantern slides. The book contains 123 captioned photographs, practically all by Chesterfield; five of these appear twice in the book, evidently for design reasons. Design reasons probably also explain the printing of cropped photographs. Although it is not indicated, at least one photograph has been cropped and there is mention in the captions of additional enlarging and cropping. Both the photographer and the author have been done a disservice by the poor quality of the reproductions: they are muddy, flat, and often lose fine detail.

Inuit and Cree are shown in posed individual and group portraits, in informal shots showing them using tools and implements, and in views of their tents and transportation equipment such as sleds and canoes. The photos also show the buildings at Great Whale River and the terrain around the post. But as the author says, “there are many features of Inuit life not found in these photographs.... What is portrayed is Inuit life as seen from the post.” (p. 33) This is a good point, for too often it is assumed that the photograph is neutral, whereas the photographer himself had a point of view which is reflected in these photographs.

Dr. James provides extended captions for many of the photographs, explaining what appears in the photos, identifying implements, or giving historical and anthropological information about the people, places, and events. He has travelled in the region and sought information on the photos from contemporary residents. This research is reflected in the captions and in the way in which he shows how the photographs can — with other sources of information — be used as documentation rather than as mere illustration.

When it comes to the biographical material, however, the author’s sources are thinner, and he resorts to speculation. It is interesting that, in a book devoted to the photographs of a fur trader-photographer, virtually no attention is given to the documentary value of the photographs as artifacts. For example, because of a lack of written documentation, the author piles “likely” on “what seems” or “apparently” in order to arrive at “a reasonable supposition” about the beginnings of Chesterfield’s photography. Looking at the images for information ought to have been supplemented by using the physical character of the photographs to determine, for example, if the early photos in the collection (taken at Rigolet, when James assumes Chesterfield began his photography) had been taken by one or several cameras, and therefore possibly come from more than one source.

Likewise, the photos taken at Great Whale River are treated strictly as images and not as artifacts. If they were to be treated as artifacts — if their dimensions were given, if the type of photo (negative, print, or lantern slide) were indicated, and if the nature of the support were given (glass or celluloid negatives; different kinds of prints — albumen, bromide, chloride, and so on) — they could be analyzed and conclusions drawn. What the author did in his *Archivaria* articles ought to have been extended to the collection as a whole, for he could have given informed guesses as to what Chesterfield intended in creating his photos. For example, the existence of lantern slides might mean that the photos were meant to be used in public lectures; it is conceivable that even at the time they were made Chesterfield saw the photos as potentially far more than simple souvenirs. Indeed, the photographs were evidently used by a number of authors to illustrate their books, and Chesterfield used them in articles of his own. The Flaherty collection apparently contains a number of Chesterfield images. It would have been useful both historically and archivally if an appendix of these uses and duplicates had been prepared.

As well, some of the author's remarks about the portraits miss some obvious points. Why, for example, are so many photos of Inuit taken indoors while apparently none were of the Cree? Who took the photographs of Chesterfield, especially those such as No. 116, which would have been very difficult for him to have made by himself? Nevertheless, William James has gone considerably beyond the realm of the usual coffee-table photographic book. While the photographs show that Chesterfield had a feeling for the people as individuals, James's captions provide an entrée into the wonderful technology which both Inuit and Cree had developed. The discussion of canoe and kayak construction, for example, shows how amazingly adapted these vessels were to the various conditions in which they operated. It is a pity that the author did not provide further detail on the Chesterfield collection, just as it is a pity that so much of Chesterfield's career could not be clarified. But, in the end, the author's goal, "to elucidate the subjects and activities portrayed," has been met.

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Money and Exchange in Canada to 1900. A.B. McCULLOUGH. Toronto and Charlottetown: Dundurn Press in cooperation with the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Ottawa, 1985. 323 p. ISBN 0-919670-86-5 \$29.95.

Money and Exchange in Canada may contain more than you ever wanted to know about the subject but A.B. McCullough's highly detailed treatise will convince the reader that a less than complete explanation is totally inadequate. The topic is not an easy one to digest and although McCullough summarized some of his findings in "Currency Conversion in British North America, 1760-1900" (*Archivaria* 16, pp. 83-94), this volume provides necessary background and further explanation which makes a murky topic somewhat clearer.

The period from 1600-1900 was one of major change in monetary systems in North America. Incompatible valuations between colonies, fluctuating rates and changing methods of exchange, and a bewildering array of coinage and paper currency added a complexity to mercantile transactions which is little understood today. The chief clerk in many colonial businesses would have easily understood arithmetic calculations required, say, to convert into army sterling, a sight third bill of exchange drawn in Halifax currency on a Quebec merchant and discounted at the current rate. Although I can recall being taught about bills of exchange in sterling in grade nine arithmetic (the twentieth century came late to Prince Edward Island) such knowledge as I may have possessed has fled. McCullough has patiently provided a chapter of introduction and definitions before examining money and exchange in New France, Upper and Lower Canada, each of the Atlantic colonies, and Western Canada. Common threads are examined in a final chapter. Several appendices provide explanation and tabular information on commercial exchange rates, silver currency valuations, and monetary weights. The most useful of these appendices is a currency conversion table (also found in the *Archivaria* article) giving exchange factors for dollars, sterling, army sterling, Halifax, Quebec, and York currency and livres.