

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.

The Spanish dollar was, for most of the period covered, the most common coin in the colonies. However, when McCullough uses the term "dollar," it is not always clear, especially in the nineteenth century, whether it is the Spanish dollar, the American dollar, or the Canadian dollar that is being discussed. For those using the volume as a handbook it might have been useful to have had slightly more discussion of exchange rates between the British North American colonies and the United States, and a table of exchange for the American dollar such as that provided for sterling (table 40). McCullough has not done so because of the problem of locating adequate sources and while this is no doubt true for the early period it seems strange that the information could not be found for the mid- to late nineteenth century.

McCullough's study originated as a Parks Canada research report and is available in Parks Canada's microfiche report series. Dundurn Press is to be congratulated for its participation in the co-publishing programme. It has produced a volume which is appealing to both an academic audience and the general reader. The text is supported by extensive endnotes and the bibliography provides a useful listing of both manuscript and published sources, the latter indicating that numismatic research in Canada is more extensive and useful than many realize. There are some annoying typesetting errors: overprinting of part of a table (p. 203); \$5.00 rather than \$500 (p. 275); and run-on bibliographic references (p. 318); but these are obviously publisher's errors.

Besides its general value to researchers, this volume provides archivists with new understanding of the research potential of financial records. What is now needed is a volume of similar scope on colonial accounting methods and financial records keeping.

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**Guide to the Holdings of the Archives of Ontario.** BARBARA L. CRAIG and RICHARD W. RAMSAY, eds. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 1985. 2 vols. 698 p. and an index of 95 p. ISBN 0-7729-0925-3 \$9.00. (Available to the public from the Archives of Ontario only in microfiche edition.)

Though the appointment of a provincial archivist dates to 1903, the Archives of Ontario has only now published a most welcome guide to the eighty-five thousand cubic feet of government records and ten thousand cubic feet of private papers which it holds. Offprint in a two-volume spiral-bound hard copy for institutional use and in a microfiche edition for public sale, it provides a simpler entrée to these records than existing sources, notably the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories*. As such, it will undoubtedly become a valuable aid to those wishing basic information on the archives' holdings.

The guide begins with a short introduction describing the development of the institution, its current organization, and the way in which the guide itself is set up. The collections are described in individual entries which follow, first for the holdings of government bodies (394 collections, including 210 sets of municipal records), and then for the archives' remarkably diverse assemblage of private papers. To make the guide more useful, the editors have adopted a standardized format: each holding is given a numbered entry which includes, at a minimum, the name of the collection, its extent, and a short description of the content of the records. Where applicable, the editors include