

narrative of the emigration from Wales to New Brunswick, describing in detail both the voyage and the emigrants. Documents such as “*Cân Sef*” which describe events from the people’s point of view are both rare and important. Despite their humble appearance, they deserve to be collected by the principal archives of all countries shaped by migration in recent centuries.

*Strangers from a Secret Land* powerfully emphasizes the importance of history, and of the memories and documents which enable us to know the past. Thomas encountered reluctance among a few members of the Welsh community to share their knowledge with him; knowledge of the past is not easily obtained nor is it simply a piece of paper to be pinned on the wall. Historians have no monopoly on their subject so it is appropriate that a professor of literature, himself an emigrant, should in this book so effectively illustrate that history is our “inner territory, the soul of the tribe.”

**Marianne McLean**  
National Archives of Canada

**Cape Breton At 200: Historical Essays in Honour of the Island’s Bicentennial.**  
KENNETH DONOVAN, ed. Sydney, Nova Scotia: University College of Cape Breton Press, 1985. 261 p. ISBN 0-920336-34-5

This collection of ten essays on various aspects of Cape Breton’s social and economic development commemorates the bicentennial of the creation of Cape Breton as a separate crown colony in 1785. The fourth collection of historical essays on Cape Breton to appear in the last two decades, this is by far the most ambitious. Unlike earlier collections, none of the essays have been published previously and only a few of the contributors have written elsewhere on similar topics. Furthermore, the extensive use of contemporary photographs, maps, plans, and sketches, including several by well known historical illustrator Lewis Parker, is a notable improvement over previous collections.

Editor Ken Donovan opens the collection with his article “Tattered Clothes and Powdered Wigs: Case Studies of the Poor and Well-to-Do in Eighteenth Century Louisbourg.” Using principally probate and court records Donovan, a historian at Louisbourg, documents the disparities in wealth and social status in this garrison town which were “the norm not the exception.” This is followed by an essay by Terry MacLean, a former member of the research team at Louisbourg, presently on faculty at the University College of Cape Breton, explaining the research and development process which led to the construction and interpretation of “the nation’s most ambitious outdoor museum and historic site.” “Historical Research at Louisbourg: A Case Study in Museum Research and Development” provides details about the research questions posed by historians and others working on the Louisbourg project, the procedures adopted for reporting on research, and the extensive primary and secondary sources amassed. MacLean provides a list of the most significant material collected and indicates how this has refined our understanding of eighteenth century Louisbourg.

Two essays focus exclusively on the nineteenth century. Robert Morgan, Director of the Beaton Institute at the University College of Cape Breton, outlines the efforts of Sydney’s élite to mount a separatist movement following Cape Breton’s annexation to

Nova Scotia in 1820. But as Morgan's research indicates, the farmers and fishermen in the outlying areas who comprised the vast majority of the island's population, were largely indifferent to the legal-constitutional tangle which ensued in spite of the efforts of Sydney's "ruling class" to "sell their cause." In "Alternative Opportunities: The Development of Shipping at Sydney Harbour, 1842-89," Ph.D. student Rosemarie Langhout uses the techniques of the Maritime History Group of Memorial University of Newfoundland to analyze investment patterns in shipping during a period when the industry was being transformed by Sydney's burgeoning coal trade. Langhout argues that with Reciprocity, the abrogation of the General Mining Association's monopoly over coal reserves, and Confederation and its national policies, local investment capital was diverted away from shipping, with inimical consequences for Sydney's small, locally owned fleet.

Four authors deal with the period between the last decade of the nineteenth century and 1945. St. Francis Xavier University historian A.A. MacKenzie concentrates on the Cape Bretoners who travelled west between 1890 and 1928 to provide muscle power for the grain harvest in the days before the widespread adoption of the mechanical combine harvester. MacKenzie weaves oral testimony, newspaper reports, and other documentary evidence into a very entertaining account of the subsidized journeys westward which fostered stories and legends about "the wild Cape Bretoners raising hell across the country, then buckling down to work like slaves in the heat of the Prairies." A.J.B. Johnston, another Louisbourg historian, chronicles the life of John Stewart McLennan and his mansion at Westmount overlooking Sydney harbour, in "A Vanished Era: The Petersfield Estate of J.S. McLennan." McLennan, a Montreal entrepreneur who came to Cape Breton as mine manager and owner in the 1880s, and who later worked with the management of Dominion Coal and Dominion Steel before being appointed to the Senate, was perhaps best known for his research on Louisbourg which resulted in *Louisbourg From Its Foundation to Its Fall* (1918). "Petersfield" was McLennan's principal residence between 1901 and 1911 and his summer home between 1921 and 1939.

Mary K. MacLeod of the Beaton Institute outlines Guglielmo Marconi's efforts to establish wireless communication stations in Cape Breton. "Whisper in the Air: Marconi, The Cape Breton Years, 1901-1945" describes Marconi's political dealings and technological achievements before ending on a preservationist note, commenting upon the rundown and dilapidated condition of the few remaining buildings at Port Morien, the site of the principal Cape Breton station in Marconi's trans-Atlantic communication network. In "Tradition and Culture in the Cape Breton Mining Community in the Early Twentieth Century," David Frank of the University of New Brunswick explores the relationships between what are termed "residual traditions" and "dominant" and "emergent" cultures within the mining towns surrounding Sydney harbour. Frank examines how aspects of ethnicity and religion and the oral traditions of songs and stories were redefined or transformed, especially during the troubled 1920s, to either maintain the "dominant culture" of corporate mining society or champion the "emergent" working class culture.

Only two essays attempt the broad temporal sweep. "From Fortress Louisbourg to Fortress Sydney: Artillery and Gunners on Cape Breton, 1743-1980," by University of British Columbia historian Peter Moogk, provides details about the numerous artillery batteries which defended Louisbourg and Sydney harbours throughout Cape Breton's history. Although at times overwhelming in detail, this article explains landscape features which are familiar to most residents of Sydney and vicinity. Geographer Hugh Millward's

"Mine Locations and the Sequence of Coal Exploitation on the Sydney Coalfield, 1720-1980," also chronicles the history of familiar landscape features in northeastern Cape Breton. Using Department of Mines reports and Geological Survey maps, Millward catalogues and maps the numerous mines established to the north and south of Sydney harbour and offers a model of coalfield exploitation based upon the accessibility of available resources and existing technology. This is an especially useful article both for its details about mine locations and its wider connotations for the history of resource development.

Each of these ten essays represents an important contribution to the historiography of Cape Breton Island. Collectively, they display the rich and varied source material now being used by a new generation of historians, archivists, and geographers to interpret the history of Cape Breton. Thus, the book will appeal to anyone interested in regional history. Regrettably, there is little acknowledgement of the role of Cape Breton's rural areas in the island's development over the two hundred years examined. Given the fact that a large portion of Cape Breton remained predominantly rural until 1951 this seems to be a remarkable oversight. *Cape Breton at 200* concentrates on either Louisbourg or the urban, industrial communities which emerged in the vicinity of Sydney harbour. Hopefully further studies will tell us about the experiences of farmers, fishermen, and other rural workers who comprised the largest segment of the island's workforce until well into the twentieth century.

**Robert MacKinnon**  
University of British Columbia

**Eyes of a City, Early Vancouver Photographers, 1868-1900.** DAVID MATTISON. Vancouver: Vancouver City Archives, 1986. Occasional Paper No. 3. 75 p. ISBN 0-9691637-1-1 \$12.95.

*Eyes of a City* is more than just a book of historical photographs of Vancouver. Such books are easily compiled and usually do not analyse the relationship between photographs and the context in which they are produced. David Mattison, archivist and writer, has carefully assembled a visual history of Vancouver, complemented by a well written, readable, and informative text which does just that. Quite correctly the author states in his introduction that "It must be remembered that photographs are the conscious products of subjective people who make images in a specific way for a specific purpose. Knowing who took photographs, how they were taken and why is as important as the subject of the photograph."

The book demonstrates the quality and range of the photographic activity which flourished in the Vancouver area as early as the 1860s. In significant detail Mattison describes the role of photography in the development of the city and the many different impressions of a changing city, as seen through the eyes of several accomplished pioneer photographers. Among these are J.A. Brock and Company, one of the earliest commercial photographic firms in Vancouver, the Bailey Brothers, Trueman and Caple, and S.J. Thompson, all of whom achieved a high degree of prominence in their field.

Mattison also explores the origins of commercial, landscape photography in creating an appealing and saleable image of a young and growing city. For the most part, the photographs show the photographers' concern with and interest in commercial