

establishments, prominent buildings, streetscapes, and key events, all of which were readily marketable to both patrons and the buying public. Completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885 had a significant impact on the development of landscape photography in Vancouver. It provided the impetus for the increased use of photographs for promotional purposes. Once Vancouver became accessible to the rest of Canada, it was necessary to "boost" and promote the city's image, thereby attracting a larger population. Moreover, the CPR strongly facilitated the growth of a photography industry "through its issuance of railway passes to selected photographers from both eastern and western Canada. The Company also purchased or was given numerous examples of the photographs they either commissioned or fostered. No other company offered as many tangible benefits to Vancouver photographers as the CPR." This commissioned work resulted in the creation of tailored images which were used to advertise the city. In addition, Mattison explains that commercial photographers tended to seek "as much economic return as possible from the same image or sequence of images." Consequently select vantage points around the city were used to produce an image depicting the most attractive view. The intention to portray the city in such a deliberate manner meant that photographs, generated for whatever commercial reasons, were largely contrived. The author raises questions about the assumptions made about photographic evidence and provides examples of how photographs were altered or manipulated, sometimes distorting their meaning.

The photographic reproductions in the book are of good quality and demonstrate a technical richness and clarity. The range of subject matter is diverse, illustrating a variety of perspectives of the cityscape. Most impressive are the footnotes which augment the photographs. These extensive notations are insightful and provocative, reflecting the author's exhaustive research and painstaking attention to detail.

The usefulness of the book might well have been enhanced by adding an appendix of biographical notes describing in more detail the careers of some of the lesser known photographers whose works were included in the book. An addition of this nature would have given a more complete picture of the early photographers and increased the research potential of the book. Less important but worthy of consideration is the horizontal format of the book. Although this format obviously accommodates the large full frame reproductions, panoramic views, and the juxtaposition of text, it is nevertheless an awkward format for handling. Despite these minor points, the book is visually and textually stimulating and provides the reader with an excellent introduction to the use of photographic documentation and archives in understanding Vancouver's historical development.

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Bernard Amtmann, 1907-1979: A Personal Memoir. JOHN MAPPIN and JOHN ARCHER. Toronto: Amtmann Circle Publications for 1986, 1987. 73 p. \$50.00 cl. \$25.00 pa. Copies are available from the Amtmann Circle, Canadian History Department, Metropolitan Toronto Library, 789 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont. M4W 2G8.

In the autobiographies of famous men such as H.P. Kraus and A.S.W. Rosenbach, the life of the antiquarian bookseller and manuscript dealer has often been represented in almost

superhuman dimensions. Discovering rare editions and historical manuscripts, buying and selling at auction, and negotiating with a demanding *clientèle* are a constant thrill and challenge. The Gutenberg Bible, letters of Shelley, manuscripts of Dickens, original drawings by Blake — these are but a few examples of treasures that have passed from the hands of dealers to private collectors or institutions. Sometimes, dealers such as Kenneth Rendall are also able to pronounce on the authenticity of documents, such as the forged Hitler diaries, with the perspicacity of Sherlock Holmes. For most dealers, however, the romance of the antiquarian trade is tempered by the day-to-day business of making a living: long hours, high overhead, keen competition, scarce resources, and the shrinking budgets of archives and libraries. With the exception of Dora Hood's *The Side Door: Twenty-Six Years in My Book Room* (1958), little has been written from a Canadian perspective on the life of the bookseller or manuscript dealer.

Bernard Amtmann, who is the subject of this short biography, thought of himself as a Canadian Rosenbach. Born in Vienna, Amtmann fled to France in 1938 and was a member of the French underground during World War Two. He emigrated to Canada with two suitcases of books in 1947, and within a few months of his arrival was issuing catalogues. At the National Archives of Canada and the Library of Parliament he immersed himself in the study of Canadian history. He spent thirty-two years as an antiquarian bookseller and issued about four hundred catalogues and lists. His greatest ambition was to receive recognition as the official compiler of a national bibliography. Although this ambition was never realized, Amtmann accomplished much during his life. He founded and was first president of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of Canada. In 1967 he established the Montreal Book Auctions, which continued until his death and then was sold, relocated in Toronto, and renamed the Canada Book Auctions. He published nineteen volumes as an author, publisher, and compiler, including *Contributions to a Short-Title Catalogue of Canadiana* (4 vols., 1971-73), *Early Children's Books, 1763-1840* (1976), and *Canadian Notes & Queries* (1969-74). Largely self-educated, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1970 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1974. The Amtmann Circle, which was established in his memory and has sponsored the publication of this memoir, promotes the ideals that he cherished.

The authors of this biography are John Mappin, a Montreal bookseller, and John Archer, an historian, archivist, librarian, and retired President of the University of Regina. Both were close friends of Amtmann. Their book consists of an introduction, six chapters, an epilogue, and three appendices. (Chapters 2-4 have recently been reprinted in *AB Bookman* 80 (October 19, 1987), pp. 1478-87.) The appendices contain a chronology of Amtmann's life, a list of his publications, and a capsule history of his auction house. Mappin and Archer readily acknowledge that their personal memoir is not a work of scholarship. In sketching Amtmann's character and career, they want to remember him as a friend and public crusader, to portray the depth of his passions and convictions, and to convey his *joie de vivre*. Amtmann was generous, charming, flamboyant, and dedicated, the authors maintain, but they also point out that at times he was egotistical, cantankerous, stubborn, and arrogant. In short, he was a colourful and paradoxical man who, in spite of his failings, contributed greatly to our understanding of Canadian historical resources.

Amtmann had little respect for archivists. He referred to them as undertakers of culture. In the early 1970s he contended that Canadian archival institutions had knowingly allowed foreign collectors and institutions to purchase papers of national

interest. This charge prompted a swift and angry denial from the Dominion Archivist, Wilfred I. Smith. In 1973 in *The Canadian Archivist*, Amtmann returned to the attack once again, stating that he was diametrically opposed to archivists and librarians on matters of principle and philosophy. Citing many instances in which Canadian archives were unwilling to pay the going price for important papers, he argued dogmatically that archivists and librarians are custodians of books and documents, historians decide on their historical merits, and experts (i.e. antiquarian dealers) determine their financial value. His last public brawl occurred in 1977 when he issued a pamphlet entitled *A Conspiracy Against the Canadian Identity*, reprinted in *Archivaria* 5 (Winter 1977-78). In his auction catalogues (nos. 99-101), Amtmann had offered for sale the papers of Sir James Robert Gowan at \$250,000. Gowan's papers contained some 2,500 letters, including eighty-one from Sir John A. Macdonald. Only one bid had been forthcoming from a Canadian archives (the Archives of Ontario) and at one tenth of the suggested price. The case of the Gowan papers incensed him to the point where he called for a new philosophy of the Canadian heritage. His arguments were unconvincing to archivists such as R.S. Gordon, Peter Moran, and Ian E. Wilson, however, whose commentaries appeared in *Archivaria* 6 (Summer 1978).

Distrustful of bureaucracies and decision by committee, Amtmann did not appreciate that archives have budgetary constraints on acquisitions. He thought that money could always be found somewhere for important material. He mistakenly believed that a refusal to purchase indicated ignorance or indifference. If anything, Amtmann was a gadfly who took upon himself the role of defender of Canadian culture. He spawned a new generation of dealers who were inspired by his sincerity, imagination, and hard work. He was quite aware that often he was unfair, but he preferred to shake people out of their complacency. In this context Mappin and Archer conclude: "If Amtmann argued wrongly that the custodians [archivists and librarians] should always agree with the dealer, his criticisms were incisive and often valid. If some of his shafts went into the clouds, some went into the bull's-eye, and occasionally one went into an overstuffed *derrière*. He woke up a lot of people along the way." (p. 39) Avoiding the dangers of sentimental hagiography, Mappin and Archer have written an honest and poignant account of a colleague who distinguished himself as the most dynamic Canadian bookseller and antiquarian dealer of the period.

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A Man and an Institution: Sir Maurice Hankey, the Cabinet Secretariat and the Custody of Cabinet Secrecy. JOHN NAYLOR. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984. xi, 419 p. ISBN 0-521-25583-X

In 1925 Arnold Heeney, a Canadian student at Oxford, wrote in his diary that he had attended a meeting of the Raleigh Club to hear the Secretary to the British Cabinet, Sir Maurice Hankey, speak on "Cabinet Procedure." The talk, he added, was "extraordinarily good." This rather cryptic diary entry contains an inkling of significant later changes in the structure of the Canadian government. In 1938 Heeney became Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Mackenzie King who had informed Heeney that he wanted him to be "a Canadian Hankey." John Naylor's study of Hankey's central role in the