

shortcomings of the people she has chosen to study. *The Science of Social Redemption* grew out of Shore's doctoral dissertation and the book continues to bear the stamp of a Ph.D. thesis; like many theses, it is marred by an overattention to detail and a dearth of analysis. It may be that too many Ph.D. theses are being turned into books too quickly. While the drive to publish is understandable, the result, all too often, is that an impressive thesis published too soon makes for only an average book. Still, *The Science of Social Redemption* remains a formidable piece of scholarship which will probably become a reference work for those intending to study Canadian intellectual history after the First World War.

Sheila Powell

National Archives of Canada

Lost Islands: The Story of Islands that have Vanished from Nautical Charts. HENRY STOMMEL, with a foreword by REAR-ADMIRAL G.S. RITCHIE, R.N. (Ret.). Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1984. xxi, 146 p. ill. 2 charts in pocket. ISBN 0-7748-0210-3 \$37.50

Water has always held a special attraction for human beings well beyond its uses in sustaining life and providing routes for transportation. As for islands — whether they be sandbars in a river or islands in the ocean — who does not yearn for a fantasy, a treasure, a lost island, a kingdom all their own? The purpose of a nautical chart is to enable a ship to sail safely from place to place. To do this, the navigator must know where all the islands and rocks, and any other navigational hazards are. Sometimes, however, charts show islands which are not really there. Nineteenth century nautical charts and atlases have some two hundred islands now known not to exist, but some of those islands are still shown on modern globes, commercial atlases, and official sailing directions.

Henry M. Stommel, oceanographer and senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts, has written at least four other books in addition to the one presently being reviewed: *The Gulf Stream: A Physical and Dynamical Description* (1958); *Kuroshio: Physical Aspects of the Japan Current* (1972); *Oceanographic Atlases: A guide to Their Coverage and Contents* (1978); and *Volcano Weather: The Year Without a Summer* (1983). In 1981, he was honoured with a festschrift, *Evolution of Physical Oceanography: Scientific Surveys*. Stommel became interested in lost islands when he noted Ganges Island, shown as being east of Japan and in a favourable position for oceanographic monitoring of the Kuroshio Current, the great current system of the North Pacific, then discovered that the island did not exist. Alerted and looking further, he discovered more non-existent islands. Stommel uses Admiralty charts, an American list of doubtful islands compiled by Jeremiah N. Reynolds for the U.S. House Committee on Naval Affairs in 1828, and the International Hydrographic Bureau list to tell his story. He considers only nineteenth and twentieth century charts, omitting legendary and fantastic islands unless they appear on the Admiralty charts. "Choosing these charts assures that hard-headed practical mariners had authorized and edited them and that accurate chronometric navigation was in widespread use."

Stommel has divided his story into twenty-two chapters, most of which are six pages or less in length. The chapters are arranged chronologically and geographically. Specific islands are discussed, including the history of their appearance, an explanation of the

error, and their banishment from (or persistence on) the charts. There are twenty-five maps, seven of which are facsimiles, including Admiralty charts of the Indian Ocean (No. 748A, 1817), and of the Pacific Ocean (first issue of No. 2683, September 1859) which are in a pocket at the back of the book. The other maps show the location of islands discussed in each chapter. In addition, there are eleven other illustrations including a page from the *Book of O'Brasil*, and portraits of Captains Benjamin Morell and John De Greaves, discoverers of non-existent islands. Jeremiah Reynolds' 1828 list of doubtful islands and dangers to navigation is reprinted in the first appendix (twelve pages). The second appendix is a bibliography of nineteen items, followed by a five-page index. The page of acknowledgements includes sources for the facsimiles and photographs.

In addition to telling the stories of how non-existent islands have been put on the charts, Stommel has a chapter on "real islands that go up and down" including the creation of new volcanic islands such as Surtsey south of Iceland. He describes how scientists from Woods Hole, including Stommel himself, discovered their own "lost island" which was seen both visually and on radar in 1980 but not closely examined, and which could not be found again nine months later. In another chapter, he answers the question, "Do satellites settle the hash?" A reef in the Indian Ocean and an island off Labrador were found on Landsat images in 1976, but very small islands and pinnacles of rock can escape detection unless they are very carefully sought for, and the analysis required is slow and very expensive. Since 1893, few genuine islands have been discovered and "the main task has been one of extinguishing, one by one, little points of land, some of which, we cannot help thinking, ought to have existed."

This is a very readable book, with many interesting anecdotes. It is also very informative, and can be used as a reference work. It is a good example of the use of records, ancient and modern, to explain the events of history and to make history entertaining. It provides a good account of the development of nautical charts from the earliest efforts to the use of the latest technology. This book should be popular in most libraries, both academic and public, as well as map collections, appealing to anyone with a sense of adventure.

Frances M. Woodward
University of British Columbia Library

In the Shadow of the Herdsman: A Masque in Our Time. MICHAEL SCHREIER. Gloucester, Ontario: Schreier Publishing, 1986. 83 p. ISBN 0-9692105-0-7 \$50.00.

In June 1984, Michael Schreier photographed the Liberal Party Leadership Convention in Ottawa. In his preface to *In the Shadow of the Herdsman: A Masque in Our Time*, the book that resulted from this project, he describes his purpose as follows:

I would photograph the preparation of the Hall
the introduction of the players...
the transfer of the rose,
...this masque in our time.
I would focus on the non-event,
to understand its importance,
to acknowledge that most crucial of all rituals,
the search and crowning of a leader.