

isons of matched industries, as well as attempts through oral history to determine how clerks, both female and male, responded to their situations. However, this is a seminal study, which suggests many paths for future research. With a caution that it occasionally seems repetitive and circuitous in presentation, this book is highly recommended.

Nancy Stunden
Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Working in Steel: The Early Years in Canada, 1883-1935. CRAIG HERON. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1988, 223 p. ISBN 0-7710-4086-5 \$14.95.

Craig Heron's recent contribution to the Canadian Social History series, *Working in Steel: The Early Years: Canada, 1883-1935*, is a valuable survey of a seminal aspect of Canadian industrial development. Earlier contributors to this series have explored the role played by women, immigrants, and the working class in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Canada, as well as a wide variety of other themes. Heron's focus is on the steel industry in a period of transformation, a time of radical change from small-scale craft-dominated methods to a new era of mass production.

The book contains four main sections: "Corporations," "Machines," "Labour Power," and "Resistance," of which the first, at least for the non-specialist, is the least readable. Heron's heart, unlike that of Peter C. Newman, is patently not in Canada's corporate boardrooms, and both the author's and the reader's spirits flag in the navigation of the densely-written chapter which traces the establishment and early development of Canada's four major steel plants in Sydney, New Glasgow/Trenton, Sault Ste. Marie, and Hamilton.

The pace picks up noticeably in "Machines," a clearly-written and sure-footed survey of the technological processes of iron and steel production and the ways in which those methods were modernized during the "Second Industrial Revolution" at the beginning of this century. But it is in his examination of the men who made the steel that Heron shines: the supervisors, often setting impossible production targets or demanding bribes in return for "favours;" the skilled men, struggling to maintain their privileged positions as the new technology threatened to render their talents obsolete; and, most sharply realized of all, the labourers, often immigrants desperate for a steady job no matter how demanding, hazardous or poorly paid. Heron proceeds, in "Resistance," to trace the roots of collective action in the form of industrial unionism, and it is in "Labour Power" and "Resistance," that his pro-labour sympathies are most clearly revealed.

If it cannot always be called objective and dispassionate, this book is nonetheless a scholarly and useful study. Because it is so well-written and so carefully researched, its few flaws stand out all the more starkly. Heron's archival net, widely cast, encompasses repositories from Cape Breton to Hamilton, but this reviewer must be forgiven some parochial disappointment at not finding a single reference to McMaster University's impressive labour holdings, although photographs from McMaster's Labour Studies collection (not part of the Archives) do appear. This neglect of a primary Hamilton source is the more surprising when one considers the

title of the author's doctoral thesis, "Working-Class Hamilton, 1895-1930" (Dalhousie, 1981).

Other minor faults can be found: the taped recollections from the Algoma University College Archives which add depth to Heron's portrayal of the men who toiled are surely inadequately cited. While the names of those interviewed have been withheld at the request, one surmises, of the repository, some identification in addition to the bare acronym A.U.C.A.I. (Algoma University College Archives, Interviews) is essential for anyone who might wish to follow up Heron's work on this material (see, for example, note 69, p. 199; note 95, p. 201). Another potential impediment to further scholarship is Heron's ruthless abbreviation of all end note citations after the first full reference. This is an accepted practice, to be sure, but as done here, without any bibliography or any index references to secondary sources, it forces the reader to search interminably through very fine print to locate the bibliographic information. Those tempted to abandon the effort and locate material from the truncated references are destined to fail: William Kilbourn's *The Elements Combined: A History of the Steel Company of Canada* (Toronto, 1960) appears only once cited in full (note 4, p. 179), buried among eleven other citations; in subsequent references it becomes, inexplicably, Kilbourn, *A History of the Steel Company of Canada* (for example, note 24, p. 215).

A final criticism which might be made applies equally to all the works so far published in this series, that of unimpressive physical appearance. The volumes are, in general, poorly designed, and in Heron's book one of the darkly unimpressive photographs, positioned vertically, has a horizontal caption (p. 62). The paper used throughout the series is yellow-tinged, acidic (5.5 pH), and of no more than out-house quality. For shame, McClelland and Stewart; this significant series deserves better!

K.E. Garay
McMaster University

Women's Work, Markets, and Economic Development in Nineteenth-Century Ontario. MARJORIE GRIFFIN COHEN. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988. 258 p. ISBN 0-8020-2651-6 cl. \$35.00 ISBN 0-8020-6677-1 pa. \$14.95.

In a recent article, Dr. Helen Caldicott noted that "women are 53 per cent of the earth's population, [yet] do two-thirds of the world's work, and [own] 1 per cent of the property. ..." Facts like these continue to challenge scholars to probe more deeply into the experiences of women in Canada's history. Moving beyond merely unearthing women's experiences from archival sources in order to fill in the gaps in the more traditional histories, today's feminist scholars are reweaving Canada's history and prompting Canadians to rethink the ways they have come to view themselves. One such way is to examine the interrelationships between women and men regarding work: women's work, although not always remunerative, can no longer be ignored, for it has significantly contributed to the development of the economy over time.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen, a sociologist at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, is one of these scholars. In *Women's Work, Markets, and Economic*