

chapter. Another excellent feature is a glossary. The book is packed with useful information. It is well organized, interesting, and highly recommended.

Joyce M. Banks

Rare Books & Conservation Librarian
National Library of Canada

Historical Atlas of Canada, Volume 1: From the Beginning to 1800. R. COLE HARRIS and GEOFFREY J. MATTHEWS, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, [1987]. xviii, 198 p. maps, illus., notes. ISBN 0-8020-2495-5 \$95.00.

Cartographic archivists are very much aware of how rarely maps are used by historians. Of course there are exceptions, but for the most part researchers into Canada's history still do not consider maps as primary source records or as analytical tools. Maps presented in historical studies generally provide the reader with locational information. No attempt is made to offer a spatial dimension to the phenomenon or problem being investigated. The *Historical Atlas of Canada* reverses this trend. It combines cartographic analyses with other non-textual material to trace Canada's history through time and space "from the beginning to 1800."

The atlas is the first of a three-volume set and is the most ambitious in terms of its temporal coverage. It focusses on the first ten thousand years of Canada's human geography. The product of an eight-year, multidisciplinary collaboration, the atlas includes the work of more than sixty academics from such diverse disciplines as archaeology, anthropology, botany, geology, economics, and, of course, history and geography. It synthesizes much of the present knowledge and presents considerable new research. The volume is conceptually organized under three major themes: the peopling of Canada by its indigenous population and their adaptation to the country's varied ecological zones; the process of European exploration, colonization, and resource development; and, to a lesser extent, native and Euro-Canadian socio-economic interrelationships. The second volume, which is scheduled for publication in 1992, will cover the nineteenth century and the third volume, which is due out this year, will span the twentieth century to 1961.

Each of the seventy colour plates that comprise the first volume is a two-page spread or "vignette" on some aspect of Canada's history. The presentation is divided into six sections. "Prehistory," the largest section with nineteen plates, opens the atlas by providing an introduction to the major cultural sequences and a discussion of the indigenous cultural groups within Canada's major ecological regions. The following four sections focus on the historic period and, in approximately twelve plates each, present regionally based studies under the following headings: "The Atlantic Realm," "Inland Expansion," "The St. Lawrence Settlements," and "The Northwest." The final section has two plates on Canada in 1800; one presents an analysis of eastern Canada's population and economy and the other summarizes the distribution of the major linguistic groups within Canada's native population.

Aesthetically, the atlas has no parallel. The plates skilfully combine the cartographic image with illustrations, text, and graphs to produce a visual narrative. For example, the plate on the Norse traces their North Atlantic voyages in three maps, while other illustrations correlate the voyages to climatic changes and show the dis-

tribution of Norse settlements in Greenland. A plan of the Norse village of L'Anse aux Meadows in northern Newfoundland provides an even closer, more detailed look at one of the settlements. Its simplicity suggests that the Norse foothold on this continent was very tenuous at best. A graph showing the radiocarbon dates from the archaeological excavations of the site clearly underlines this suggestion. It indicates that the Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows was just a single phase in the long-term human history of the site.

The atlas is a masterpiece of design that provides its readers with a unique spatial dimension to Canadian history. Despite the proliferation of atlases over the last decade, both in Canada and elsewhere, there has been nothing like it produced anywhere in the world. From an artistic point of view, it is difficult to imagine how the volume might be improved. Even in terms of its coverage of Canada's history, it would be hard to find alternative topics or themes or even to find ones that may have been overlooked.

However, there is admittedly some disappointment with the citations. Both the primary and secondary sources for each plate are listed separately at the end of the atlas. In some cases, a short bibliographic essay explains some of the sources consulted. However, the essays and citations focus on key references and are not very comprehensive. This restriction is unfortunate since it limits the usefulness of the atlas as a reference tool. For example, Plate 62, on the trading posts of northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, offers a detailed and thought-provoking account of the fur trade from 1774 to 1821. The references to primary sources for this plate merely mention "miscellaneous letters, accounts, survey books" in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, and "published journals and accounts by Montréal traders." No doubt the plate will stimulate other investigations into the spatial distribution of trading posts, but because there is no indication of the exact sources used to compile the map, other researchers will find it extremely difficult to reconstruct the data base or use the atlas as a reference source in their own research.

Such criticisms pale in light of the atlas' potential for teaching the history of Canada. But perhaps its greatest contribution will be the more subtle changes it will effect on the discipline of history itself. No doubt the history students of today, after being raised on such nontextual teaching aids, will turn to similar analytical tools in the research of tomorrow. Clearly, the *Historical Atlas of Canada* is a magnificent achievement that will have a profound influence on the interpretation of Canada's history for years to come.

Jeffrey S. Murray
National Archives of Canada

Map Librarianship: An Introduction. 2nd edition. MARY LYNETTE LARSGAARD. Littleton, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited, 1987. xxvii, 382 p. ISBN 0-287-537-7, LC 86-21381 \$43.50 (US).

The best basic reference book for map librarians and archivists just became better. Since the publication of *Map Librarianship* in 1978, Mary Larsgaard has obviously been doing her homework, and the result is the second edition of her magnum opus.