

are bound into the volume in two separate locations — immediately after chapter seventeen and after the appendix.

Despite the book's shortcomings, it is unquestionably a worthwhile acquisition for those who serve the general public. *Explorations* brings to the attention of the general reader some of the excellent research on the history of the mapping of Canada which has for too long remained inaccessible within the pages of the *ACML Bulletin* and *Proceedings*.

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The Northward Expansion of Canada, 1914-1967. MORRIS ZASLOW. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1988. 421 p. ISBN 0-7710-9071-4.

Before one can properly review *The Northward Expansion of Canada, 1914-1967*, it is necessary to place the book in context as one of the nineteen-volume *Canadian Centenary Series*. The stated goal of the series editors was to explore the history of the peoples and lands which form the Canadian nation, through "volumes sufficiently large to permit adequate treatment of all the phases of the theme in light of modern knowledge" (p. ix). Each volume followed the prescribed format of general narrative, giving a balanced treatment to economic, social, and political history. The editors were fully aware of the difficulties which such constraints would impose on the individual authors, but they were confident that the rewards were worth the risks. With the spirit of Canada's centennial providing the impetus and the burgeoning supply of new archival sources furnishing the raw materials, W.L. Morton and Donald Creighton felt "justified" in publishing a new "cooperative" history of Canada. Motives and approach firmly established, it remained to select the subjects as well as the appropriate authors.

Of the regional histories included in the nineteen volumes, only one, the North, receives substantial treatment in four separate works. Some historians criticized this arrangement, but Morton was quick to defend the decision. His own views are well documented. In 1960, his article "The North in Canadian History" explained the feature that most distinguished Canada from other nations, and in particular the United States. "The difference is the North, the fact that Canada is a northern country with a northern economy, a northern way of life and a northern destiny. I believe it is terribly important that we Canadians should recognize this fact, both in order to keep our own notion of ourselves clear and distinct, and also in order to understand our own destiny." Morton selected Morris Zaslow, an historian who shared a similar view, as the author of the two volumes that deal directly with the North. No other contributor wrote more than one volume in the series. Zaslow was the exception.

The choice of author was, in some respects, a foregone conclusion. No other historian has accumulated as much knowledge about northern studies as Professor Zaslow over his forty-two years of research and teaching. His academic interest began in 1948 with the completion of his M.A. and Ph.D. theses, both based on studies of the Mackenzie Basin, the former from 1870 to 1921, and the latter from 1920 to 1940. That same year he also published an article in the *Canadian Historical Review* entitled "The Frontier Hypothesis in Recent Historiography."

Since that time, his contributions of two volumes to the Centenary Series (1971 and 1988) and his epic history of the Geological Survey of Canada, *Reading the Rocks* (1975), have brought the study of the North into mainstream Canadian historiography.

The Northward Expansion of Canada must first be measured against the goals established by the series editors and against the works of previous contributors. Zaslow reaches and surpasses the requirements. He readily admits, however, that his work can only begin to fill in our lack of knowledge about the region. He likens the book to preparing a first map of a little-known land, "on a scale small enough to depict and identify only the largest, most significant features." (p. xiii) By his own admission, each word of the text represents "more than half a century's history of a twenty square mile segment of Canada's northland." Fully aware of these limitations, he resolves to distill "the experiences of the innumerable individuals, agencies, and institutions" and leave it for others to explore the details in future specialized studies.

The Opening of the Canadian North, 1870-1914, Zaslow's first contribution to the series, took up the challenge that Morton had issued in his writings. Throughout his examination of the North, Zaslow presented evidence to challenge the prevailing view that Canada's development consisted of horizontal growth along the Canadian-American border. He documented the steady movement of our frontier northward as well as westward. He dispelled the myths associated with the frontier, demonstrating that Canadian political and cultural life were not affected to the same degree as was the case in the United States. Canada's northern frontier, characterized by its harsh climate, narrow resource base, and small population, our North bereft of political autonomy or effective federal representation, developed in a way far different from the Canadian and American West. Many of these same themes described in his first book were carried over to the second volume. One such thesis found that, regardless of the era, external forces held a much greater influence over northern affairs than any force the northern frontier exerted over its metropolitan sponsors.

The Northward Expansion of Canada took a considerable time to produce. Much of the material so carefully gathered by Zaslow through his meticulous research was, by necessity, excised from the already lengthy text. Herein lies the book's major shortcoming. The author, restricted by the series format of a wide-ranging narrative written for a general audience, and fully aware of the impossibility of dealing with the modern North in one volume, becomes historian-explorer. He sketches his rudimentary chart of notable landmarks — his themes — while trying to fill in the remaining gaps by supplying as much information as possible in the remaining space. Unfortunately, the distillation process too often results in a reduction of exciting, vibrant events and personalities to a freeze-dried form of history. The introduction to a general reader of the thousands of new facts about the North, notwithstanding the fact that they are presented in a clear, clean style, results in a 'cruise-missile' like flight over the northern historical landscape. This flight is interspersed with 'satellite' overviews which plot the development of the book's major themes. What is missing, regrettably, is the opportunity to stop, land, and look in detail at specific local issues or personalities. On a rare occasion we do have this opportunity, as in the case of Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Zaslow offers a carefully constructed portrait of this enigmatic figure. Other notable characters receive only the briefest entry. These criticisms are, in large part, a result of the constraints of the series, and were anticipated by the editors and authors alike. General histories are popular and useful

vehicles; however, in this volume the author has compressed so much information into his narrative, without sufficient background, that it does detract from the effectiveness of the work. The analysis is often lost in the encyclopedic approach.

There is much to praise about the book. The exploration of northern history has never before received such thorough attention. Zaslow focuses on three main areas: the sweep of the industrial frontier across subarctic Canada; the changing situation of native populations and wildlife industries; and the economic, social, and political maturation of the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Those forces which drive or inhibit northern development, and the subsequent effects they have on all aspects of northern life, are set out in a coherent fashion. The role which technology played in expanding our northern frontier receives particular attention. Transportation, along with the mining and forestry industries, received great benefits from these rapid developments, while fur trapping and traditional native lifestyles were threatened by the advancement of the same technologies. Zaslow offers insights into these events and other features of the North. He documents the contributions made by the North to Canada's general wellbeing, citing, as an example, 1938-39 statistics which showed that seven of the top ten Canadian exports were extracted from the northern industrial frontier. These facts were offset by the fragile nature of the economy, one so reliant upon government, volatile world markets, and absentee owners and investors. Zaslow also pays close attention to the rise of the environmentalist and conservationist movements that became increasingly important in shaping northern growth patterns. Pro- and anti-development groups fought prolonged battles on the northern frontier.

One of the strengths of any of Zaslow's books is the precise and extensive bibliographical note. The results of his meticulous research are shared with the reader in a generous, pedagogical fashion. *Northward Expansion* is no exception. The quantity of the historical source material he consulted is impressive. Yet it is significant to note that, by his own admission, he relied more on government publications, newspapers, and specialized studies than upon original archival material. He was careful to weight the limitations and biases of the former, but found them to be an unrivalled source for the eyewitness accounts of many historical events. Another research technique he utilized was to keep a clipping file of the newspapers and magazines to which he subscribed, noting that the thousands of articles about the North "outline the topics treated in this volume in somewhat the way iron filings delineate the shape of a magnet and its force field" (p. 390). His close attention to the role of government and the special way it governed the North offers the interested reader an excellent source of data for administrative history. His commentary on the availability of source material also conveys useful suggestions to archivists about the ways we can improve the deficiencies of our holdings or re-examine existing archival material to accommodate new research demands. Zaslow has blazed the trail for other historians to fill those blank areas on the historical map of the North, but he also calls for new approaches, particularly to overcome the biases which have marked the majority of the writing on native history within the region.

The intent of *Northward Expansion*, as with *Opening the Canadian North*, is to offer Canadians a solid, general history of the twentieth-century North. In the process, Zaslow attempts to arouse interest, provoke, and encourage further study. He corrects misconceptions about the manner in which the frontier expanded. He

looks at the major players and metes out both praise and criticism, decrying government's paternalistic intervention into the lives of native people as well as its confusing policies regarding the region's natural resources. He praises the same government system for its stabilizing effect on development, allowing orderly penetration of the frontier. In the final analysis, Zaslow provides a realistic view of the problems with which the North has wrestled in the past and which it continues to face. Many of these are termed insoluble, but he also recognizes that great achievements have been made and Canadians are now determined to develop their northern frontier in a manner that deals more justly with the people and land of the North.

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Northern Voices: Inuit Writing in English. PENNY PETRONE, ed. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1988. xv, 314 p. ISBN 0-8020-5772-1 \$27.50.

Two of the Inuit writings gathered here by Penny Petrone share a common theme — the “snow goose” and the “mosquito.” Southern readers may be displeased to find this allegory explained: the graceful and substantial snow goose stands for the Inuit people of the North, while the buzzing and annoying mosquito represents the white southerner. The imagery is appropriately political, for this is a political book. Petrone seems convinced that northern voices are both essential and sufficient for explaining the complex situation of northern peoples today. In defence of this conviction, her book assembles in rough chronological order several dozen texts in English, all attributed to Inuit speakers or writers of various times and regions.

Petrone, a professor of education at Lakehead University, already has to her credit a collection of Indian speeches and writings published in 1983 under the title *First People, First Voices*. Material for this Inuit volume proved harder to find: Inuit have never been as numerous as Indians, and their thoughts, speeches, and stories were almost never written down until well into the nineteenth century.

An eccentric editorial choice governs the makeup of this collection. All the material printed in *Northern Voices* is found in quotation marks or in some other fashion directly attributed to an Eskimo. Not until page 202 does the book present material that was literally written in English by Inuit. Worse, when Inuit wrote or spoke in English in the nineteenth century the effect cannot be what Petrone intended; the struggle with an unfamiliar tongue and conscious mimicry of Victorian piety or propriety will grate on most readers. The authenticity of some transcriptions is dubious too; consider Chimoackjo's report of the theft of some baleen (77): “Me bone gone Bone Capt Spicer bone... Other white men took a large quantity without permission.” The broken quality of one sentence and pomposity of the other cast doubt on the source and the method. Most of the texts were originally spoken in Inuktitut and have passed through German, Danish, French, and even Italian on their way to an English version. The reader cannot know how faithfully any of the early texts reproduces what the Inuit actually said or meant.

The proofreading of the English text is imperfect, and a few more specialist advisors should have been called in to save the author some embarrassing lapses and to help