

Friends of the Chief Justice: The Osgoode Correspondence in the Archives of the Law Society of Upper Canada. DOUGLAS HAY and RUTH PALEY, eds. Toronto: The Law Society of Upper Canada, 1990. xvi, 323 p. ISBN 0-88759-975-3.

Making archival documents widely available through publication was an important scholarly endeavour before the age of micrographic and computer technologies. Such publications are rarely undertaken these days — perhaps as much from the advancement and use of technology as the shift in scholarly interest from traditional research emphasizing great men and thus the papers of great men, to a broader interpretation of historical enquiry. And yet, here is the recent publication by the Law Society of Upper Canada of the correspondence of William Osgoode, the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada.

In their excellent introduction to Osgoode's correspondence, the editors explain, ". . . if to know a man's friends is to know the man, these letters . . . help us to know the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada" (p. xiii). And we do begin to know him. The letters begin just prior to his leaving Oxford University in 1772 and end a few months before his death in 1824.

An unremarkable man, Osgoode received his first colonial posting as Chief Justice for Upper Canada at the age of thirty-eight; as a lawyer his practice is described as that of an equity draftsman. These letters are personal, containing news of friends and preferments as well as comments on horses, wine, women, politics, and war with France. They date from before and after Osgoode's period in Canada, and are primarily letters written to Osgoode by his friends rather than Osgoode's own letters. There is no correspondence for the period that Osgoode was either in Upper Canada (1792-1795), or later, as Chief Justice for Lower Canada (1795-1801). Osgoode's activities as the pre-eminent judicial authority in the Canadas are documented elsewhere.

The value of these letters as published is to put the man in context with his place and time. As the editors explain, this correspondence ". . . reflects much of Osgoode's tastes, his politics, and the lawyers from the imperial metropolis from which he came to Canada, and to which he returned" (p. iv). The correspondence is extensively footnoted providing essential information about names of personal friends needing identification for the reader, or names that were infamous or scandalous during Osgoode's time but have since become unfamiliar to anyone but specialists in that period of English history. The letters from Joseph Jekyll to Osgoode are especially interesting for someone unfamiliar with other accounts of an English lawyer pursuing a living on the assize court circuit. The letters from another friend, the unlucky Meyer Schomberg, are perhaps the most human from a personal point of view — a man plagued by debts, possibly the dupe of perhaps not a few unscrupulous women, who finally turned soldier in the hopes of relieving his financial difficulties only to die of fever in Central America in his mid-twenties. It was Schomberg who in 1773 advised Osgoode against taking up a career at the bar: ". . . although your abilities are a great deal above the common level, yet they are not sufficient to keep you from sinking without a very strenuous exertion — and your industry, is, or at least, has been almost as nothing" (p. 218). Osgoode's exertions for nine years in the colonies resulted in a pension that added comfortably to his inheritance as the son of a wealthy tradesman, and, on his return to England, allowed him to pursue the life of a leisured gentleman for the remainder of his life.

The editors provide an archival perspective on the published correspondence: their introduction contains a valuable section on the provenance of the correspondence

placing it in context with other collections of Osgoode correspondence. These letters were presumably all part of one larger collection later dispersed by sale, eventually becoming gifts to the three archives that now hold Osgoode correspondence — the National Archives of Canada, the Archives of Ontario, and the Law Society of Upper Canada Archives. Publication of these letters renders them more accessible for reference purposes as researchers use the larger collections at these archives.

The major portion of this correspondence was bound into volumes organized alphabetically by correspondent; the letters are published in that order. This arrangement, although initially disconcerting to the chronologically minded reader, makes good sense within the context of referring these letters to the other collections of Osgoode correspondence. The addition of a chronological index at the end of the correspondence helps to establish signposts as needed for the reader.

Some final comments worth noting about this publication include the following: the correspondence is published on acid-free paper in accordance with ACA guidelines on archival publications; the method of citing the Osgoode correspondence at the Archives of Ontario is a warning to my institution to prepare a standard citation guide for researchers; and, finally, thank you for the ‘elegant renderings’ of curious French verse discovered by young Oxford graduates on tour and recorded now for posterity in published form.

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Archives of Ontario

Timothy Eaton and the Rise of His Department Store. JOY L. SANTINK. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990. xii, 319 p. ISBN 0-8020-2720-2 \$35.00.

The time is ripe for a new and scholarly history of Eaton's. With the exception of Eileen Sufrin's *The Eaton Drive* (1982) which deals specifically with the attempt to unionize Eaton's in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the last comprehensive history of "Canada's Department Store" was written over twenty years ago, a story frustrating to read with neither footnotes nor index. William Stephenson's *The Store That Timothy Built* was produced for the company's centennial celebrations in 1969 more as a catalogue of anecdotes and great accomplishments than as an erudite study of the company's operations. Several other biographies of Timothy Eaton and historical sketches of the company were published before mid-century, but again these were written from a whiggish perspective showing the inevitable progress of the store.

Joy Santink's book examines the early years of the department store beginning with Timothy Eaton's emigration from Ireland to Ontario. The youngest child in a family of nine, Timothy was apprenticed to a shopkeeper in Ballymena, County Antrim, before emigrating in 1854 first to Glen Williams northwest of Toronto, and then to Kirkton, a tiny hamlet about ten miles west of St. Marys in rural Perth County. It was in Kirkton that he established his first dry goods business in partnership with his brother, James. After four years there, he moved on to St. Marys where another brother, Robert, had already established a dry goods business several years earlier. By 1869 Timothy's growing ambition carried him off to Toronto, then a burgeoning metropolis of nearly 70,000 people, where he founded his famous store on Yonge Street. Santink traces the development of the store through its early years from a small operation selling about a