

in figures 1 through 5, published in the first volume, show the individual sheet names and grid reference numbers, but for the most part these cannot be read. Of course, part of the problem stems from complications inherent in publishing a large document in the reduced format required by a monograph. Perhaps an alternative would be to redraft the index maps rather than use reproductions of originals. Dubreuil redrafted the index map in figure 6 and the entire image is completely legible. Hopefully, future volumes in the series will make readable illustrations a higher priority.

Bibliographic reference tools that help map librarians and archivists organize their collections are few and far between. The first two volumes in the ACMLA's occasional paper series are a major contribution to a widely neglected area of cartographic research.

Jeffrey S. Murray

National Archives of Canada

From the Land of Shadows: The Making of Grey Owl. DONALD B. SMITH. Saskatoon: Western Prairie Producer Books, 1990. ix, 320 p. ISBN 0-88833-309-9 \$24.95.

At the end of a good mystery, the reader often wonders how the perpetrator duped so many observers to get away with the crime, or, more self-critically, inquires of him or herself, "Why didn't I figure that out? Did I miss some of the clues?"

Donald Smith's meticulous biography of Grey Owl might well have been written in mystery mode with the revelations of identity emerging in the final pages. That, as many will know or remember, was how they emerged in real life shortly after the death in 1938 of the figure of whom it has recently been written: "No man was more important to Canadian environmental consciousness, or to the environmental consciousness of the entire British Commonwealth." Mercifully for readers who may be unaware of the Grey Owl story, Smith keeps the secret for only half a dozen pages before linking "one of the most effective champions of the Canadian wilderness in this century" to his English origins.

In 1888 Grey Owl began life in Hastings, England, as Archibald Stansfeld Belaney. Smith emphasizes Archie's childhood years in England and especially the influence of his aunts Ada and Carrie Belaney as "the key to his creativity and his genius." They supported his interest in wildlife and encouraged the early evidence of his talents as a storyteller. They could not, however, console or reconcile their nephew who saw himself as having been abandoned by his parents — an alcoholic father and a mother thought to be too young at the time of his birth to assume responsibility for Archie's upbringing.

Archie was almost eighteen years old when, in 1906, he journeyed to Canada. Here, in the frontier northern Ontario communities of Temagami and Biscotasing, Archie Belaney began a "retreat from reality" and acquired the skills, the knowledge of the land, and a closeness to several native communities that later formed the basis of his "Indian" identity as Grey Owl, author and conservationist. "Scotch and Indian, born in Mexico" became his standard autobiographical line.

Grey Owl's commitment to conservation and to the protection of the beaver in particular was the outcome of his relationship with Gertrude Bernard, known through his writings, and later her own, as Anahareo. She, more than any other, came close to

being a companion to whom he could reveal the full extent of the fictional identity he had developed over the years. He told her of his childhood, and of three previous marriages, but he stopped short of acknowledging that he was not part-Indian.

In 1926, Grey Owl and Anahareo married. They were together for much of the following decade during the period in which most of Grey Owl's writing was completed. They lived and travelled in various parts of eastern Canada and later at Riding Mountain National Park and in Prince Albert where Grey Owl promoted wildlife conservation for the Parks Branch of Canada's Department of the Interior.

The Men of the Last Frontier, Pilgrims of the Wild, The Adventures of Sajo and her Beaver People, and Tales of an Empty Cabin were published between 1931 and 1936, along with dozens of essays which appeared in *Canadian Forest and Outdoors*. Speaking tours of England, the United States, and Canada provided a forum for Grey Owl the "Red Indian" to become the unsurpassed popularizer of Canada's forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife in the 1930s.

The travel, the hectic performance schedule, alcohol, and the stress of maintaining the false identity that had become so important to the success of the conservation campaign soon took its toll. In April 1938, upon learning of the death of Grey Owl in a Prince Albert hospital, the *North Bay Nugget* which had protected Grey Owl's identity for three years began the exposé with the revelations of Archie Belaney's first wife, Mrs. Angèle Belaney of Temagami: "No matter what they say, Grey Owl was my husband and the father of my daughter, Agnes."

From the Land of Shadows is a magnificent telling of Grey Owl's remarkable story. Notes, acknowledgements, bibliographical references, and photographs indicate that Donald Smith's fascination with his subject has endured through more than two decades of diligent investigation across Canada, England, and the United States. Smith is a biographer to admire and this is a biography to celebrate.

Do not expect any more clues to the mystery of Grey Owl.

Jamie Benidickson
University of Ottawa

On the Brink: Endangered Species in Canada. J.A. BURNETT, C.T. DAUPHINE JR., S.H. MCCRINDLE, and T. MOSQUIN. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1989. viii, 192 p. ISBN 0-88833-298-X \$29.95.

The review in *Archivaria* of a book containing no archival citations may seem strange to some readers. Nonetheless, there are aspects of this work that should interest archivists concerned with the wider implications of the archival record and its influence on the heritage framework.

On the Brink is a publication of Environment Canada consisting of the "first comprehensive attempt to inform an increasingly concerned public about the impending loss of wildlife species." Divided into chapters reflecting the various "life zones" of the country, the book provides detailed descriptions of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and plants currently endangered, threatened, rare, vulnerable, or extirpated. The entries are illustrated with quality photographs or illustrations, as well as a small map showing the geographical habitat of the species in question.