

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.

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**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.

This book is comparable with archival literature in that it is concerned with heritage. Although solely focusing on our natural heritage, the authors raise issues that are analogous to many of the issues faced by the archival profession. For instance, they stress the need for an ecological approach to the environment; Hugh Taylor made the same arguments in *Archivaria* 18 when he called for a “non-aggressive stewardship, a sensitive interplay, and an ongoing enrichment of resources” (p. 25). Other archivists have recently shared this vision. As the Alberta pamphlet, “Archives: Information Ecology,” demonstrates, “ecology” is a term that applies just as well to archives as to nature. Furthermore, some provincial governments’ forays into heritage tourism have assumed that archives are part of a greater cultural ecosystem. Fortunately, the belief that the archival document can only support the evidence provided by artifacts and the like is decreasing and being replaced with appreciation for the intrinsic value of the document.

At another level, the book makes good, but insufficient, use of historical information. Even though the entries are comprehensive, use of archival information would have enhanced their contents. In the entries for the various species of whales, for instance, the publication of one of the many visual documents demonstrating how human practices led to the decline of that species would have communicated the atrocity of the practices in a more direct and powerful fashion. Finally, the addition of suggested readings would have been helpful to those readers interested in pursuing the issues raised.

The absence of archival sources in the book points in part to our shortcomings in describing or providing access points for less traditional areas of research. This is mostly the result of our educational background (that is social, intellectual, and political history) and the fact that there is little training available in proper descriptive approaches and practices. In fact, the finding aids we create reflect the research areas with which we are most familiar. Instead, we should be developing descriptive tools that describe the records themselves, including their structure, and provide efficient access — as well as point to areas of current research interest. In the case of environmental history, few archivists have surveyed their records for such information. Yet private diaries, scientific records, fur trade records, etc., provide vivid descriptions of the lives and habits of species that are now extinct, and whose extinction provides invaluable patterns and evidence for modern-day scientists.

Archival issues aside, the book is appealing because of its timeliness. Easy to read, it cannot but raise consciousness about the fragility of the environment and the delicate balance that must be maintained.

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**Toil and Trouble: Military Expeditions to Red River.** GEORGE F.G. STANLEY. Dundurn Press: Toronto, 1989. Canadian War Museum Publication No. 25. 303 p. ISBN 1-55002-059-5 \$29.95 (cl.).

George F.G. Stanley’s new book *Toil and Trouble* is a welcome addition to his long list of military publications. This book is a detailed and authoritative account of the Metis Resistance and the Red River Expedition of 1870, with a distinct emphasis on its military aspects. Because it also covers, in brief, the event leading up to the disorders at