

full-length account of its early administrative life. Yet the official files which have survived and which were used by the author do not provide more than a flimsy outline of events of the first twenty years. Among the records of the department consulted are three main series, the central registry files 1909-1939 (the '39 series), those created between 1940 and 1963 (the '40 series), and the files of the office of the Under-Secretary (the "Skelton-Robertson Papers"). If the extensive cache of personal papers had not been at hand this story may have been leaner and less interesting to read, especially for the 1909 to 1939 period. It should be pointed out that the department was set up primarily to act as a channel of communication and to be the repository for the accumulated documents and records needed by the federal government in the conduct of international relations. Information dispersed throughout several departments was to be centralized in the new centre of information — in other words, a diplomatic archives. From the beginning, new files were opened, not according to subject, although such filing systems were in use in Ottawa at the time, but according to simple consecutive numbering as created. The numbering system began with "1" for each new year, and the last two digits of each year were added to the end of the file number. Handwritten bound registers and indexes served as reference and location tools. Of the total original '39 series of files created, approximately one-third survived; the other two-thirds was the victim of at least two "weedings" by departmental officials. The selection criteria used to reduce this body of records to its present size are shrouded in mystery. It is doubtful whether evidential or informational values were considered. What came down to us is a curious mixture of files ranging from the clearly mundane to others of the highest evidential value. The '40 series is likewise organized in numerical sequence, although not by year, with a slight attempt to group major subjects. These two series are supplemented by the policy files of the "Skelton-Robertson Papers" and by the small "s" and "50,000" series for classified documents beginning in 1940.

All in all, this account of External Affairs' first thirty-seven years is successful in fulfilling its stated intention to limit the treatment of policy issues and foreign events and to focus on administrative development. Readers seeking comprehensive details on policy matters need to look elsewhere. The abundance of existing sources is generously footnoted. The description of people and of their contributions should stir an interest in further research into these talented and influential public servants and their roles in these formative years. Some of the better-known stresses and strains that occurred among this group are not dealt with here. Perhaps it would not be diplomatic to bring up internal squabbles in public (one can see the departmental editorial board off in a corner).

Despite the concern over image and decorum, it is fortunate that the department went ahead with the publication. This is a fascinating story of the growth of Canada as an independent member of the world community as seen through the emergence of a small yet influential part of its national government. Let us hope that volume two will not keep us waiting another ten years.

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The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa. DAVID ZIMMERMAN. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1989. x, 209 p. ISBN 0-8020-2687-7.

The RCN in Transition, 1910-1985. W.A.B. DOUGLAS, ed. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1988. xi, 411 p. ISBN 0-7748-0312-6.

In the 1980s the historiography of the Royal Canadian Navy finally came of age. There has been a renewed interest in Canadian naval history from old salts now writing their memoirs to professional academics and their scholarly treatises. The current Canadian military hierarchy also believes there is something to be gained from a re-evaluation of Canada's naval past (witness the decision to proceed with a complete three-volume official naval history to compare in scope with C.P. Stacey's work on the Canadian Army). For the most part the current scholarship shows an inclination to tackle historical questions in a more sophisticated fashion than was possible in the immediate postwar years. This is possible for two reasons. First, the passage of time has allowed events to be examined in a less chauvinistic fashion, and second, most of the primary sources are no longer military secrets and are now open for research. Both *The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa* and *The RCN in Transition* exhibit the results of this new openness.

The RCN in Transition is a collection of seventeen selected papers from the second Canadian naval history conference, which was held in 1985 to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910. The chronology of the papers runs from Barry Gough's "The End of Pax Britannica and the Origins of the Royal Canadian Navy: Shifting Strategic Demands of An Empire at Sea" to G.R. Lindsay's "The Future of Naval Warfare." This reviewer will not attempt to discuss all of the seventeen papers in the volume but rather only note what to him are the most significant pieces for archivists and other historical researchers.

The tone of the entire volume is set by the first paper, Paul M. Kennedy's "Naval Mastery: The Canadian Context" which, while only using secondary sources, places Canadian naval development in the context of twentieth-century geopolitical developments. He argues that in spite of the "fire proof house" tradition in Canadian political thought Canadian naval policy has to a large part been shaped by economic and strategic developments in the larger world. Barry D. Hunt's "Strategy and Maritime Law: 'Free Seas' and the Canadian Navy" is important because it points out the discontinuities between Canadian external policy regarding the law of the sea and Canada's naval commitments as a member of NATO. Barry Gough's paper, noted above, is a useful reminder that the RCN was founded at least partly because of the declining strength of the Royal Navy relative to the naval growth of Germany, Japan and the United States at the turn of the century. Donald M. Schurman's "Historical Strategy and Its Uses in Large and Small Navies" discusses how various navies have studied their "glorious" pasts and how Canada — because of its colonial heritage — has been slow to follow the disciples of Mahan. "MARCOM Education: Is It a Break with Tradition?" by Richard A. Preston is in effect a potted history of the naval officer education in Canada and how the outward forms of this education have changed with the technical demands of the naval service and the development of Canadian nationalism.

Among studies of naval operations, Roger Sarty's "Hard Luck Flotilla: The RCN's Atlantic Coast Patrol, 1914-18" is one of the very few accounts of Canadian naval operations in the First World War. Readers are cautioned, though, that to find the name of the captain of HMCS *Hochelaga*, who was dismissed from the service for failure to engage U-156, they will have to turn to Fraser McKee's *The Armed Yachts of Canada*. Michael L. Hadley's "Inshore ASW in the Second World War: The U-Boat Experience" and Marc Milner's "Inshore ASW: The Canadian Experience in Home Waters" tell the

story of the Second World War submarine campaign in the St. Lawrence River and Gulf of St. Lawrence both from above and below the water. Milner makes the important observation that it was the RCN's difficulties with inshore anti-submarine warfare that led directly to the research and development programme that resulted in Canada becoming a leader in sonar technology in the 1950s and 1960s. "Canada and the Wolf Packs, September 1943" by Jürgen Rohwer and W.A.B. Douglas is a fine example of a detailed description of a convoy battle — in this case, the battle for convoys ONS 18 and ON 202 which saw the first use of homing torpedoes against Allied ships. Those critics of "bang you're dead history" should note that tactical naval history is more difficult to do than it first appears.

The remaining essays in *The RCN in Transition* cover the postwar period and only three of these are based on primary sources. S. Mathwin Davis's "The St. Laurent Decision: Genesis of a Canadian Fleet" is a most informative analysis of the decision-making process that led to the building of the St. Laurent class destroyer escorts, the first warships designed and built in Canada. Significantly, the two remaining papers based on primary research are written from sources in American archives. "Canada and the Cold War at Sea, 1945-69" by Joel J. Sokolsky is a straightforward account of this now historic period. John B. Hattendorf's "International Naval Co-operation and Admiral Richard C. Colbert: The Intertwining of a Career with an Idea" is only obliquely of interest to Canadians. This paper, about an American naval officer, is more a veneration than a scholarly biographical sketch. The rest of the postwar papers in this collection are worthy of attention by students of Canadian defence policy even if some of them have been dated by the now well-publicized end of the Cold War.

David Zimmerman's *The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa* is an iconoclastic tale of Canadian muddling at the highest levels of naval command during the Second World War. The Battle of the Atlantic to which the vast majority of the RCN was committed was a "high tech" war at sea. That the Allies finally won was a testimony not only to their greater physical resources but also to their superior technology. For the author, Canada's participation in this scientific campaign was not an unqualified success. While the development and production of sonar in Canada was an important accomplishment, the RCN's contributions in the field of radar were a dismal failure. The basic Canadian naval radar set, the SW1C, was a metric set and thus incapable of detecting a partially submerged submarine. The SW1C was initially fitted to most Canadian warships. This was done in spite of the fact that the British had produced and were fitting to their ships a centmetric radar set (that was able to detect partially submerged submarines) before the Canadian SW1C became available. Furthermore, the Canadian set had nightmarish maintenance problems which made it unsuitable for use at sea. The author does a good job of explaining the technical maintenance difficulties but he is not so clear on the differences between metric and centmetric radar. A brief chapter on how radar works and a few simple diagrams would have been most helpful.

The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa is filled with villains: Admiral Percy Nelles, Chief of Naval Staff 1934-1944; Angus L. Macdonald, minister for the Naval Service; and C.J. Mackenzie, president of the National Research Council, to name but three. Unfortunately, in this tale of bureaucratic infighting readers are left to their own devices to sort out the relative levels of responsibility for the RCN's technical ineptitude.

As these two volumes demonstrate, the writing of Canadian naval history has moved well beyond the immediate postwar hagiography, and historians are now increasingly

tackling complex issues in a variety of ways. While much of the primary source material is currently available, archivists should note that a twenty-year-old recruit in 1940 is now seventy years old. Old sailors may never die but they are fading fast.

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Archives paroissiales de la Côte-du-Sud : inventaire sommaire. DIANE SAINT-PIERRE et YVES HÉBERT. Québec : Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture, 1990. xxv, 581 p.

Les régions québécoises commencent à être mieux connues grâce à la publication de synthèses historiques et d'instruments de recherche. Le crédit en revient aux efforts déployés dans les différentes universités du territoire mais également à l'Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture (IQRC) qui s'est engagé dans un programme systématique de recherche sur les régions. L'exemple de la Côte-du-Sud est intéressant. Située entre Beaumont et Saint-André-de-Kamouraska sur la rive sud du Saint-Laurent, cette région est en voie de disposer d'une véritable panoplie d'ouvrages d'érudition; l'IQRC publiera l'an prochain une première *Histoire de la Côte-du-Sud*, oeuvre de synthèse historique, après avoir fait paraître il y a quelques années la *Bibliographie de la Côte-du-Sud*. Finalement, cet inventaire sommaire des archives paroissiales vient ajouter une autre dimension à l'expertise régionale.

À l'instar des inventaires publiés antérieurement par André Côté (*Sources de l'histoire du Saguenay — Lac-Saint-Jean : tome I : inventaire des archives paroissiales*. Québec : Archives nationales du Québec, 1978. 329 p.) et Hélène Cadieux, Benoît Dionne et Michel Houde (*Guide des archives paroissiales de l'archidiocèse de Sherbrooke*. 2 volumes. Sherbrooke : Archives du Séminaire de Sherbrooke inc., 1987. 1244 p.) le présent travail est exemplaire. Pour les soixante-huit paroisses des comtés de Bellechasse, Montmagny, L'Islet et Kamouraska, les archives de paroisse, de fabrique et du personnel religieux sont systématiquement recensées, décrites et localisées. De plus, pour chacune de ces paroisses d'autres renseignements sont donnés tels que l'adresse du dépôt, la liste chronologique des desservants et curés ainsi qu'un bref historique. Un index thématique et onomastique complète l'ouvrage. La méthodologie utilisée est à peu de choses près celle développée par André Côté pour le diocèse de Chicoutimi et quelque peu raffinée par l'équipe du Séminaire de Sherbrooke. La présentation de l'inventaire est le même d'une paroisse à l'autre de telle sorte qu'un chercheur intéressé par une série particulière de documents puisse la repérer aisément.

Ce travail, bien qu'impeccable et réalisé avec minutie et respect des documents, pose cependant quelques questions quant au choix du territoire retenu et sur le classement des fiches de paroisses. À l'évidence, les auteurs ont décidé d'étendre les limites de leur investigation aux frontières géographiques de la région qui constitue leur objet d'étude. Si la Côte-du-Sud est une entité historique qui se défend, il ne s'agit toutefois pas d'une unité territoriale religieuse. Ainsi, le lecteur trouvera ici un inventaire des archives couvrant presque toutes les paroisses du diocèse de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière et quelques paroisses du sud-est du diocèse de Québec. Pourtant, les ouvrages pionniers de Côté et de l'équipe Cadieux/Dionne/Houle avaient retenu le diocèse et l'archidiocèse comme bases territoriales. Pour notre part, nous considérons que ce dernier choix reflète