

subject in spite of the fact that he was, and continues to be, an employee of the Canadian Parks Service.

Taylor has examined the manuscript papers of a number of early HSMB members, the political papers of a few politicians and civil servants, the minutes of the HSMB and the National Battlefield Commission, the operational and policy records of the Department of the Environment's Canadian Parks Service, a wide selection of government documents including annual reports, royal commissions, and debates, and finally, an appropriate collection of related secondary material. Most of this information, aside from brief forays into manuscript holdings in Vancouver, Saint John, and London, Ontario, has been garnered on site in the Ottawa area.

Beyond these rather cursory observations on my part, in terms of archival dimensions there is little else to report. Taylor's use of archival sources is comprehensive and thorough, although there is little offered here that is either innovative or ground-breaking. I should add that the book includes an index, a fine collection of footnotes and a very useful bibliography. In the end, the study represents a much needed and much appreciated entrée into a subject area that has long been ignored and offers other researchers, students, and scholars a doorway from which to launch other equally important studies.

**Patrick Hanford Burden**  
National Archives of Canada

**The Administration of Dominion Lands, 1870-1930.** KIRK N. LAMBRECHT. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1991. x, 405 p. ISBN 0-88977-049-2 \$40.00 (pa.)

This unique work is a comprehensive reference to the laws passed by the federal government in its early administration of the lands that today constitute the western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta; the Peace River Block and the Railway Belt of British Columbia; and the Yukon Territory.

The study is broadly divided into three main components. The first part serves as a brief introduction to the legislation and regulations adopted by the Canadian government over the sixty-year period from 1870 to 1930. It discusses federal land use policy under fourteen separate subject headings, such as settlement, school lands, Hudson's Bay Company lands, forestry and ranching. This eighty-page essay establishes the historical context for the laws and regulations that are discussed by Lambrecht in subsequent sections of this work.

The essay is by no means a comprehensive analysis of federal policy. For such a study, readers must still refer to Chester Martin's *Dominion Lands Policy*. It does, however, feature an excellent bibliography of secondary sources and a selected list of the major federal statutes that applied to Dominion lands administration. I have found both of these sections to be very useful, even though the latter is somewhat incomplete. For example, I was unable to find reference to the statutes that passed responsibility for the management of natural resources from the federal government to the western provinces (20-21 Geo. V, c. 13, 1930, for Manitoba; 20-21 Geo. V, c. 37, 1930, for the Peace River Block and the Railway Belt in British Columbia; 20-21 Geo. V, c. 3, 1930, for Alberta; and 20-21 Geo. V, c. 41, 1930, for Saskatchewan). These acts were

important milestones in western resources administration since they marked the end of federal involvement. Without their inclusion there is really no way of knowing why Lambrecht's study should end at 1930.

The second component of this book is a seventeen-page listing of the land use regulations, which were passed by Order in Council, and which were administered, for the most part, by the Department of the Interior. Some seventy regulations are listed by their full title, in chronological order, under twenty-three subject headings. Unfortunately these headings do not follow the same categories that Lambrecht established in the introduction, which makes it somewhat difficult to establish links between the two sections. Each listing includes the date of the Order in Council, the Privy Council (P.C.) number (when it is known), a short description of the purpose of the regulation, and its relevant amendments.

Once again, I found the listing somewhat lacking. For example, I could not find the Orders in Council that established the national parks. The statute that brought the Rocky Mountains National Park into existence is cited in the endnotes of the introduction, but the Orders in Council establishing the other western parks do not appear to have been included. Since Lambrecht does not explain his selection criteria, it is difficult to know why some authorities are mentioned and others are not. Why would Lambrecht include an obscure regulation governing the use of moving picture machines in national parks (O.C. 27 April 1912) but not the regulations establishing the individual parks themselves? Surely, in terms of federal land use administration, they both have their importance.

The third component of the book occupies more than 300 pages and is by far the most substantial portion of Lambrecht's work. It reproduces selected portions of the acts and the Orders in Council that were listed in the two previous sections. The authorities are organized chronologically under nine subject headings. As with other parts of the study, the subject headings used here do not always follow the same categories as those presented in the other sections. As well, not all the authorities listed in the earlier sections have been reprinted, and when an authority is represented, only certain sections are usually included. Unfortunately, again Lambrecht does not mention his selection criteria, leaving the reader somewhat confused as to why some authorities are reprinted and others are not.

Aside from the use of inconsistent subject headings, I must admit that I find Lambrecht's overall presentation somewhat frustrating. In order to research an aspect of Dominion lands administration, the reader must consult four different parts of the book — the introductory essay, the listing of acts that follow the essay, the appendix on Orders in Council, and the appendix with the reprints — each of which is incomplete and with its own, slightly different, organization. Since there is no index to link the four areas, the reader must spend a lot of time examining all areas of the book.

No doubt some of these problems are directly related to the extensive editing that Lambrecht had to undertake in order to fit his manuscript within a single volume. Even with heavy culling, *The Administration of Dominion Lands, 1870-1930* amounts to more than 400 pages. This leads me to wonder if perhaps the Canadian Plains Research Centre should have chosen an electronic medium by which to disseminate Lambrecht's work, in particular a CD-ROM. Given that a major portion of this volume (almost

eighty per cent) is a reprint of original records, I believe a CD-ROM would have been much less expensive, and with proper software applications, it would also be much easier to cross-index. More importantly, with the vast memory capabilities of CD-ROM technology, Lambrecht could have been much less selective in deciding which authorities to reprint. Perhaps he could have included all the pertinent acts and Orders in Council in their entirety. As it stands, Lambrecht's study can only be considered the first step to researching Dominion lands administration, and researchers will still be required to consult a variety of primary and secondary sources if they wish to obtain the complete record of authorities.

These criticisms aside, Lambrecht's *Administration of Dominion Lands, 1870-1930* is still a significant contribution to the history of western development. To my knowledge this is the first comprehensive guide to the legal authorities which formed the basis for federal land administration in western Canada. As a general reference, it has already helped me to answer several research inquiries, and it will likely be an invaluable tool for many years to come. I highly recommend the book to all researchers interested in Dominion lands administration.

**Jeffrey S. Murray**  
National Archives of Canada

**A Country So Interesting: The Hudson's Bay Company and Two Centuries of Mapping, 1670-1870.** RICHARD I. RUGGLES. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991. xix, 300 p., ill., maps (Rupert's Land Record Society series 2). ISBN 0-7735-0678-0. \$49.95.

*A Country So Interesting* is a documentary study rarely found in Canada. Whether or not map (and other) archivists are interested in the specific period and area covered by the maps discussed in this volume, they cannot but have their horizons broadened, their skills honed, and their sensitivity to cartographic documents heightened by studying this book. By "studying" I do not mean the usual approach of reading intently to comprehend the story this book tells concerning two centuries of the Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) role in "investigating a country so interesting." Although most scholars are likely to be drawn to this aspect, the heart of the volume, archivists may well find that a study of the book's other component parts — the front and rather extensive end matter — may well be a more profitable approach.

This is not to say that the ten chapters and the afterword that look at the "investigating" be skipped over, for here for the first time we have a thorough examination of the activities of "our first national mapping agency" from 1670 to 1870, a period when the HBC "geographically defined and measured, and cartographically depicted the larger share of the territory of our nation" (p. xiii). Maps are the centre of attention at all times. Almost every episode recounted is included because it leads eventually to the production of a map and the actual role it played from the moment it was made until its influence ended and it was retired from active duty. The maps were created to help the company make business decisions; once the maps' primary purpose had been served, their long-term preservation was not of prime importance to the HBC and, especially for the early period of the centuries under discussion, the attrition rate is rather alarming.