

A Guide to the Archives of the United Church of Canada: Alberta and Northwest Conference. LORRAINE MYCHAJLUNOW and KEITH STOTYN, comp. Edmonton: Alberta and Northwest Conference, United Church of Canada, 1991. 167 p. (microfiche).

On 10 June 1925, the union of the Methodist Church, the Congregational Churches of Canada and the Presbyterian Church in Canada was realized. This "organic union" would ultimately yield a wide and rich array of primary sources effectively documenting the history of the Protestant Church in Alberta. The growth and development of the United Church in the province of Alberta did not simply reflect its wider Canadian expression. In many ways, in fact, it defined the United Church experience in Canada. Accordingly, *A Guide to the Archives of the United Church of Canada: Alberta and Northwest Conference*, compiled by Lorraine Mychajlunow and Keith Stotyn, must be considered an invaluable reference tool for a variety of researchers, both amateur and professional.

Well-structured and concise, the *Guide* provides information on archival holdings pertaining to such areas as church bodies and organizations that pre-date the 1925 union; administration of the United Church of Canada; pastoral charges/congregations; papers concerning clergy and other church workers; interdenominational affairs; the personal papers of clergy and other church workers; and a description of related holdings at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Significantly, the *Guide* provides a description of records covering the period from 1831 to 1990. As observed in the introduction, these holdings thoroughly document and indeed reflect the "spirit of fellowship and compromise" that has historically marked the United Church of Canada.

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Our Own Master Race: Eugenics in Canada, 1885-1945. ANGUS MCLAREN. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1990. 221 p. ISBN 0 771055 544 7.

The Canadian Social History Series, of which *Our Own Master Race* is a part, seeks to explore "neglected areas in the day-to-day existence of Canadians," and to increase "the general reader's appreciation of our past and [open] up new areas of study." Angus McLaren examines the thoughts and actions of "believers in the primacy of heredity," better known as eugenicists, from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries in Canada. Arguing against the belief of many that the eugenics movement was simply the actions of a minority fringe group dabbling in pseudo-scientific concepts, McLaren shows that the concept of eugenics was quite common throughout society, belying the popular image of Canada as a long-standing haven within a world of racism and class consciousness. In the preface, a brief but provocative example of the pervasiveness of the idea of eugenics in the early twentieth century underlines this point. In 1933, Tommy Douglas, first CCF premier of Saskatchewan and a pioneer of state-run health care, wrote his MA thesis entitled "The Problems of the Subnormal Family." His conclusions relied heavily upon hereditary theories for social reform; namely, that social problems had a biological cause and could therefore be solved by applying a variety of eugenic controls such as marriage restrictions, segregation, and sterilization of society's mental and physical misfits.

In the ensuing chapters, McLaren provides the context necessary to understand that Douglas did not work in isolation, but merely reflected common beliefs of his time.

Basing his analysis on a wide variety of sources, including archival documents, contemporaneous books, articles from journals, and newspaper items, as well as secondary works, McLaren uses an examination of the careers of three key figures in the Canadian eugenics movement (Francis Galton, Helen MacMurchy, and Peter Bryce) to illustrate its development. A further case study of Madge Thurlow Macklin, eminent geneticist, gives an example of the support which eugenics continued to receive from Canadian geneticists in the 1930s and 1940s, even after the revelation of the Nazi Holocaust. Other chapters examine the eugenicists' dual concerns of preventing reproduction of the "unfit" and the use of birth control by the "fit" members of society, the legislation in British Columbia and Alberta which allowed the sterilization of the mentally ill and retarded in institutions and, finally, the demise of eugenics after World War II.

Recently, a number of television documentaries have been produced on the subject of advances in genetic testing and engineering. Anyone who has listened to the debate over the moral, legal, ethical, scientific and social implications of these new developments in genetics cannot fail to notice the link between current times and history. Present rhetoric and vocabulary relating to genetics have been updated, but many of the underlying concepts seem to have remained unchanged from the heyday of the eugenics movement — at least, so the filmmakers argue. In any case, *Our Own Master Race* offers a good introduction to the history of eugenics in Canada for those who have no previous knowledge of the subject, particularly the general reader at whom this series is directed.

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Archival Science Bibliography/Bibliographie en archivistique. CANADIAN CENTRE FOR INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION ON ARCHIVES. Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, 1991. xii, 164 p. ISBN 0-662-58342-6 (free).

Of the many good things which the Canadian Centre for Information and Documentation on Archives has contributed to the archival community in recent years, this unfortunate, confusing volume will not be numbered among them. Listing more than 2,000 references to articles, essays and monographs from a wide range of sources under some 100 categories, with an author index, the volume has the laudable aim of diffusing information to archivists about their professional research base and thus of encouraging a fuller, more cumulative archival scholarship.

This aim is not realized. Readers do not know which periodicals and collections have been indexed. The very first requirement for such a bibliography is a list up-front of all source material used (except for monographs) so that the range of coverage is explicit and the results of the indexing therefore trustworthy. Take Cartography as an example (section 3.1.4.1). Under reference and research, there are articles, for the three years covered by this book, on mapping in China and Hawaii, early Australia and Arabia, New Zealand and Scotland, among others. These entries are drawn from the few journals to which the indexers had access. Yet there are several major annual map-related bibliographies published around the world (the *Bibliographia Cartographia*, for example,