

art. A "Summary" of Krieghoff's work is most unusual—it is a *précis* "designed to demonstrate the range of [Krieghoff's] subject matter and the frequency of use of various themes."

Harper makes no real assessment of Krieghoff as an artist. There are single phases, such as "spontaneous freshness" but Harper is perhaps too cautious in not judging the overall quality of Krieghoff. He is quite willing to judge the paintings as "significant historical documents," but other judgements have a curious hesitancy and a measure of faint praise: Krieghoff's canvasses "are entertaining and cleverly executed works"; "it is a measure of his artistic prowess that he has been so frequently imitated"; his works "have an intimacy, verve, and sense of quality that grips the attention as do no others by his generation of Canadian artists"; he is "the first 'popular' artist" in Canada; his work is "beyond any suggestion of dull mediocrity." One does wish that Harper had come out frankly with an assessment of Krieghoff and, more importantly, a statement of the standards upon which such an assessment ought to be made.

Harper is not, of course, the first author to deal with Krieghoff. There have been monographs by C.M. Barbeau, by Hughes de Jouvancourt and, by far the most valuable, by Raymond Vézina. Harper has gone beyond them to produce a warm, scholarly and almost satisfying book. Because of the frustrating lack of documentary material on its subject, *Krieghoff* may not be Harper's best book, but it certainly matches his best effort—a not inconsequential tribute.

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Cordial But Not Cosy: A History of the Office of the Auditor General. SONJA SINCLAIR. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1979. 208 p. ill. ISBN 0 7710 8157 X \$19.95.

In *Cordial But Not Cosy*, Sonja Sinclair, Director of Communications with Price Waterhouse Canada, recounts the history of the Office of the Auditor General, from the appointment in 1878 of Canada's first independent Auditor General to the 1978 implementation of a new Auditor General Act, the creation of the Office of the Comptroller General and the introduction of value-for-money auditing. The Office of the Auditor General has been and continues to be an important federal institution; unfortunately, the author has not done it justice in this brief volume.

Her book is divided into two very uneven parts. Part I examines the first ninety-five years of the Audit Office from the appointment of John Lorn McDougall (1878) to that of the present Auditor General James J. Macdonnell (1973). In the second part, which constitutes fully one half the book, events and developments since 1973 are examined in greater detail. McDougall's role in establishing the independence of the Auditor General's Office is adequately outlined. Examples of his numerous confrontations with politicians and public servants are told in a manner that illustrates the aggressive, no nonsense tenor of his 27 years in office. However, McDougall's immediate successors, John Fraser (1905-1919), Edward Sutherland (1919-1923) and Georges Gonthier (1924-1939) are quickly dismissed in a few pages. Watson Sellar, who held the position of Auditor General from 1940 to 1959, is studied more closely and rightfully so. In his two decades as Auditor General, Sellar strengthened the power of the Audit Office, improved its image amongst politicians and federal departments, and subsequently, the effectiveness of the Office was vastly enhanced. A.M. Henderson succeeded Sellar from 1960 to 1973 (two chapters), a period marked with increased public awareness of financial mismanagement in the public service highlighted annually in the Auditor General's report to Parliament. The remainder of the book, six chapters, are devoted to J.J. Macdonnell. They include a discussion of his

attempts to improve the effectiveness of the Audit Office to meet the complexities of present day federal government, the development of the value-for-money philosophy in public expenditure and a detailed examination of the Office's role in the Atomic Energy of Canada and the Polysar affairs of the mid-1970s.

But this overview does not constitute a real history of the Office of the Auditor General. The author is obviously more interested in the successes and triumphs of the present Auditor General than she is in the historical development of the Office. Any history of the Audit Office must take into account the state of public auditing prior to the passage of the 1878 Act. No mention is made of the attempts to establish proper auditing practices throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, the role of the Inspector General of Public Accounts in pre-Confederation Canada is not looked at and the very important career of John Langton as Auditor General of the United Canadas and Canada from 1855 until 1878 is omitted. Although Langton was also an official of the Department of Finance and therefore not "independent", during his long term as Auditor General he established important principles and precedents in the auditing of the public accounts. Events after 1878 cannot be understood without at least some acknowledgement of attempts to establish an audit system prior to 1878.

These imbalances and lack of historical perspective are only two aspects of this book that render it less than satisfactory. A third is Sinclair's use of sources, a subject that should concern all archivists. Even though it may be granted that the administrative records of the Auditor General's Office after 1878 are not extensive, supplementary sources of information are available, and wider use might have resulted in a more useful history of the Audit Office. Although there are no footnotes or bibliography, it appears that the author made some use of the voluminous annual reports of the Auditor General, but records of related departments, such as the Finance Department, and the papers of Prime Ministers, would have yielded additional information. The author interviewed public servants, politicians and former employees of the Audit Office and perhaps this accounts for the lack of historical perspective in the period prior to 1940.

One is left with the impression that the author is simply not interested in the long range development of the Auditor General's Office. Her enthusiastic description of J.J. Macdonnell's tenure leaves no doubt where her sympathies lie. If the value-for-money notion was applied to *Cordial But Not Cosy*, the cost would not be justified by the return. As a study of a highly significant government authority, it is simply and plainly inadequate.

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A Chronicle of Irish Emigration to Saint John, New Brunswick 1847. Edited by J. ELIZABETH CUSHING, TERESA CASEY and MONICA ROBERTSON; with an introduction by MONICA ROBERTSON. Saint John: New Brunswick Museum, 1979. 77p. ISBN 0 919326 36 6. \$5.95.

This work is primarily a genealogical publication containing the names of Irishmen who died at Partridge Island and obituaries of persons born in Ireland who died in the Saint John area during the year 1847. Also included is a list of vessels which brought emigrants to the Port of Saint John, accounts of relief measures undertaken on behalf of emigrants and people in Ireland, and information on tenants sent out from the estates of some prominent Irish landlords during that year. Excerpts, arranged chronologically, are taken from the 1847 files of a well established weekly newspaper, the *New Brunswick Courier*, founded in 1811 by Henry Chubb.