

The Scotiabank Story: A History of the Bank of Nova Scotia, 1832-1982. JOSEPH SCHULL and J. DOUGLAS GIBSON. Toronto: Macmillan, 1982. xv, 421 p. ISBN 0 7715 9609 X \$29.95.

The Scotiabank Story: A History of The Bank of Nova Scotia, 1832-1982 is, in fact, two books written by two very different authors, neither of whom had the opportunity to do a complete work of the type they started. Both books have merit but neither is the history which is needed and could have been written from the sources available. The first book — the one getting second billing in the title — is the history of the bank Joseph Schull began and had less than half-completed when he died in May 1980. The second is the story of Scotiabank as told by J. Douglas Gibson, former Bank of Nova Scotia Chief General Manager. Gibson attempts to pick up the threads of Schull's history and chronicle the bank's twentieth-century success through the eyes of a banker and economist.

Before his work was cut short, Joseph Schull was well on his way to producing a polished corporate history which blended enough scholarship to earn academic attention without discouraging the general reader and the amount of admiration necessary to calm the apprehensions of even the most conservative Scotiabanker. Schull takes us through the Bank's "struggle for incorporation" in 1831-32, its early years as a financial institution trying to secure a foot-hold in the Maritime economy from 1840 to 1870, its tentative expansion into new markets in the 1880s and 1890s, and, finally, the transfer of its head office to Toronto in 1900 and mergers with the Bank of New Brunswick, the Bank of Ottawa, and the Metropolitan Bank (Toronto) which made it a major national bank. Schull also acquaints us with senior Bank officers Thomas Fyshe, H.C. MacLeod, and H.A. Richardson — men whose careers clearly merit further study.

Although very readable, Schull too often sacrifices analysis to the dictates of evenly-placed narrative. He made limited use of the various archival and nineteenth-century secondary sources that were available to him. He had begun an extensive series of interviews (coordinated by the Bank's archivist), upon which he was to have based his post-Depression study. Schull's outline, however, is important for two reasons: it provides an updated overview of the Bank's development through its formative years and introduces a number of topics plainly in need of scholarly attention along with many of the sources necessary to pursue them. The roles the Bank of Nova Scotia played in the Maritime economy throughout the nineteenth century, the early bank agencies and their importance in local financial development, the critical bank amalgamations of the early twentieth century and the economic environment that catalyzed them, and the effects of the Depression on the Bank of Nova Scotia are some of the many subject areas surveyed but not developed by Schull's history.

J. Douglas Gibson sketches the post-Depression expansion of Scotiabank operations. Unfortunately, his highly detailed account still omits important aspects of the Bank's development. Accomplishments are paraded and a large number of bankers are mentioned, but historical analysis is essentially ignored. For example, the Bank is represented in forty-nine foreign countries and boasts total assets exceeding \$50 billion, but neither fact is explained. And, in the concluding chapter, Gibson accounts for the Bank's remarkable record of development as follows: "Somehow the Bank managed to do the right thing when it was needed and the right person always seemed to be there to do it." (p. 335)

Gibson's work is based almost exclusively on the Bank of Nova Scotia's *Monthly Review* (a publication of the Economics Department), the Bank's *Annual Report*, over one hundred interviews, most of which were with past or present Bank staff, and his own considerable acquaintance with developments. Unfortunately, his footnotes are few in number and he does not cite interview documentation when it is used, although those interviewed are listed at the beginning of the book. One hopes a record of the interviews found its way into the Bank's Archives.

To those who have been a part of the Bank's last forty years, Gibson's account will seem like congratulations on a job well done. To others the freewheeling survey he presents in the last chapters will seem overwhelming in scope and content. But it should be mentioned that Gibson had the unenviable task of writing about a period of recent history in which he was a principal actor through the combined memories and under the eyes of other living participants. Moreover, underlying his story of big men and events is a cautious attempt to justify his contentious resignation in 1965 from the position of Deputy Chairman and Executive Vice-President.

The Scotiabank Story provides an interesting lesson in business archives. Many business repositories are hastily created to support a company-sponsored history and some exist only until the project is completed. For nearly a decade, the Bank of Nova Scotia Archives has served as a model of the proper role a business archives can perform within its organization. The Bank has grown accustomed to serious academic use of its archival records. The Bank of Nova Scotia history project promised to demonstrate further what a well-established business archives could do for the organization and the historian. It is indeed unfortunate, and somewhat surprising, that it did not do so because this "official history" made such token use of the very sources which were plentiful and readily available through the Bank's own Archives.

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Indian History and Claims: A Research Handbook. Volume I: Research Projects. Volume II: Research Methods. BENNETT McCARDLE. Ottawa: Treaties and Historical Research Centre, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1982. 376 p.

Regular readers of this journal will recall an article by James Morrison entitled "Archives and Native Claims," *Archivaria* 9 (Winter 1979-80). Morrison called attention to a new species of archival researcher typified by its almost limitless capacity for hard work and insatiable appetite for photocopies. As archivists charged with the care and cultivation of the wide range of sources relevant to native claims research know, this creature is still alive and well in the reading rooms of archives from coast to coast. Although Bennett McCardle's *Indian History and Claims: A Research Handbook* ought to be quickly devoured by native claims researchers, it is also designed for those writing native history. Interest in native history has grown dramatically over the past decade as evidenced by the increase in native studies programs and native resource centres. It is the stated aim of the *Handbook* to encourage academic work while assisting native communities to discover and record their heritage. It is intended for the novice investigating native history or claims and the seasoned researcher.