

divers dont le livre est émaillé, outre qu'ils procurent un contact presque direct avec un certain nombre de documents, rendent encore plus concrète et plus vivante la narration des faits qui constitue la trame de l'ouvrage.

Il faut enfin se réjouir de la clarté de la langue, d'où est absent le jargon sociologique qui érige trop souvent une barrière gratuite entre l'auteur et le lecteur dans les ouvrages de cette nature.

Au total, disons que l'ouvrage d'Elisabeth Gallat-Morin mérite d'être lu non seulement des musiciens mais de tous les historiens et de toutes les personnes qui s'intéressent à l'histoire de la Nouvelle-France et plus particulièrement à l'histoire des institutions de l'Église dans l'ancien et dans le nouveau monde.

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Peter Baskerville, ed. — *Canadian Papers in Business History*, vol. 2. Victoria, B.C.: Public History Group, University of Victoria, 1993. Pp. ix, 233.

Because capitalism has been a fundamental force in Canadian history, there is no lack of research relevant to the history of Canadian business. Business history, however, written from widely varying perspectives, is among the least institutionalized of the many subfields in Canadian history. There are not many occasions for focused debate among specialists; although some books have individually attracted wide attention, the cumulative implications of current research are not always evident to non-specialists. Thus, the occasional conferences on Canadian business history, of which the third was held in Toronto in the spring of 1991 as a joint meeting with the American-based Business History Conference, have considerable importance to researchers in the field. Of the nine papers in this second volume of *Canadian Papers in Business History*, seven were first presented at the 1991 meeting. (Other papers from the meetings, including several by Canadian-based scholars, can be found in *Business and Economic History*, 2nd series, vol. 20, 1991.) There is also a brief introduction by the editor, Peter Baskerville.

Four of the articles deal directly with family business. Margaret McCallum extends her research on the Ganong candy business in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, by examining why it did not use "the systems of private ordering which the legal system provides for those with the knowledge and resources to use them" (p. 20). The result was a debilitating, long-running lawsuit on ownership, control, and family succession. Family succession, often handled more effectively by the families concerned, is also the theme of Henry Klassen's comparative study, partly based on probate records, of law and family strategies in selected businesses (a category in which he includes farms and ranches) in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Alberta and Montana. Using a typology deriving from the work of Henry Mintzberg, Barbara Austin discusses the success of five generations of the Young family of Hamilton in adapting to changing business contexts over a span of 160 years.

She is especially interested in the recent past, an era of "discontinuous changes" (p. 25), when the family abandoned cotton manufacturing to launch a diversified, international enterprise with particular strength in computer leasing. Julian Gwyn draws on Nova Scotia Chancery Court records to study the shipbuilding and timber business of the Crichton family of Pictou in the 1820s and 1830s. The family's relationship to, and legal battles with, its Liverpool agents and creditors say much about the structures and constraints of colonial business.

The state is central to another four essays, two on British Columbia and two on national issues. Ken Cruikshank persuasively uses theories of innovation to explore the role of "policy entrepreneurs", exemplified here by S. J. McLean and W. L. M. King, in the creation of the Board of Railway Commissioners in 1904 and the passage of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act in 1907. Mark Cox analyzes how British Columbia fruit growers, especially in the Okanagan Valley, succeeded in having the provincial government create a compulsory marketing system for their produce in the 1920s and why the resulting agency failed. Michael Hennessy studies warship construction in post-war Canada as an example of "command technology" (p. 147), in which state rather than market forces govern technological advance. Richard Rajala's subject is the exploitation of the Cowichan Lake forests on Vancouver Island. Here, although the core areas were privately owned or controlled and despite the professed long-term aims of provincial policy and the incentives to good management often claimed as inherent in private ownership, the forests were exhausted and local communities destroyed.

In that most relate to specific localities, these papers speak to regional variations in Canada. An explicitly regional study is Kris Inwood's and Tim Sullivan's census-based, county-level comparison of industrial growth rates from 1850 to 1890 in southern Ontario and seven Great Lakes states. There are similarities between Ontario and Indiana and Michigan, but Ontario's industrial performance looks weaker in relation to the whole region than it does by Canadian measures, and especially by comparison with states like Ohio and Illinois. Equally striking is the diversity of patterns at the levels of both county and state, even in rich farming country.

In their attention to wider contexts and their extensive, specific empirical work, these essays exemplify the quality and suggest something of the variety of research now being done in Canadian business history. Most of the authors are affiliated with history departments, but other key perspectives such as law, economics, and administrative studies are also represented. Few (and perhaps none) of the authors, if asked to rank their approaches and orientation, would list "business history" as their primary affiliation.

Reflecting what scholars chose to present at a conference, the collection does not pretend to be comprehensive. Among the gaps are several areas in which there has traditionally been much interest and excellent research: Quebec; the large, multi-divisional modern corporation; and American business activities in Canada. On the other hand, it is refreshing that the most familiar companies of our business past such as railways, banks, and department stores (not to mention fur traders) are either absent or appear principally as contexts for other stories.

Although the first volume of *Canadian Papers in Business History* foresaw a continuing series of essays, the preface to the current volume makes no such reference. That suggests a continuing need to search for appropriate ways to sustain research and debate in Canadian business history in collected, systematic fashion. Capitalism in Canada cannot be understood in narrowly national terms, but it is important to have Canadian examples of, and variants on, the wider patterns of business history.

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George Emery — *Facts of Life: The Social Construction of Vital Statistics, Ontario 1869–1952*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993. Pp. xv, 243.

George Emery has written a book that will be of "vital" interest to anyone seeking to use the techniques of historical demography to construct a portrait of past populations. His book addresses the very significant problems researchers face in using historical vital statistics as a basis for analysis. As well as identifying the problems, Emery, in a series of five meticulous case studies, suggests ways of both estimating the statistical error and "correcting" or "adjusting" for it. He further reminds us, "Because statistics are cultural phenomena, they require social interpretation, not mere technical correction" (p. 3).

A prologue, two more general chapters, and a concluding chapter provide the broader context and effectively encase the specific studies. Perhaps it is because the context is so compellingly evoked that the contents enclosed by the outer shell might leave some readers feeling vaguely dissatisfied. On the whole, the analysis in the case studies tends to focus on the problem of "technical correction", sometimes at the expense of the more significant problem of "social interpretation". Moreover, none of the case studies encompasses the entire period. The first, which focuses on the problem of revising defective mortality statistics, does deal with data for Ingersoll for the period from 1880 to 1972; the remaining four deal exclusively with the twentieth century. Thus, readers hoping for insights concerning the nineteenth century will be disappointed. Nevertheless, this is a highly useful book, for the author's approach to the interpretation and revision of historical statistics is innovative and pathbreaking.

In the opening chapters the reader is caught up in what Emery refers to as "the statistical movement", emanating first from England and Massachusetts. The evolution of civil registration in Ontario, from the Registration Act of 1869 to 1950, is outlined in an interesting way. Yet the explanation for Ontario's adoption of a civil registration law in 1869 as a by-product of nineteenth-century capitalist industrial economic development (p. 29) is not altogether convincing. Although it may have had the fastest growing and the most spatially integrated economy in the country, even Ontario had not undergone significant "capitalist industrial develop-