

Inventaire Général des Sources Documentaires sur les Acadiens, tome I. Centre d'Études Acadiennes de l'Université de Moncton, 1975.

No one working in Acadian history can afford to be without this volume, and since the time span covered by the entries includes the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, not only Acadian specialists but those working in the broader context of Canadian Maritime history will find this book an exasperating necessity. For, it might as well be said at the beginning, the volume is not precisely our old friend the "half loaf" as an even greater irritant, three-quarters. There is so much here of admirable scholarship, of patient research, of high aim that the flaws and omissions are that much more serious and that much less pardonable.

Those who compiled the volume, and the introduction stresses that the *Inventaire* is the work of an "équipe", set out not only to provide a reference for the resources of the Centre d'Études Acadiennes at Moncton University but also to all documents which might concern the Acadians held elsewhere. This is a most ambitious project, given the importance in Acadian history of so many different authorities, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Spain, and the Vatican among others. The book is divided into ten sections, eight of them headed by the names of the geographical provenance of the documents: "Le Centre d'Études de l'université de Moncton"; "Archives publiques du Canada"; "Les provinces de l'Atlantique"; "Québec"; "La France et ses colonies"; "Angleterre"; "Etats-Unis" "Espagne". The last two sections bring together "Archives religieuses" and "Documents spéciaux" respectively. Every effort has been made to guide the researcher to the central collections held in the various locations and to provide some indication of the sorts of material to be found there. In the section devoted to the French archives, for example, the material is frequently introduced by collection, as that to be found in the Archives Nationales, by deposit, as the documents of the Admiralty, for example, or of "Conseil d'Etat," and by the given series, as despatches or reports. Some indication is also often given of how the documents came to be written, who sent them to whom, what other groups of documents cover the same, or related, ground. All this is useful, as is the attempt made to establish where in Canada there are copies of the holdings of foreign archives, and whether these copies are hand-written, or some form of microfilm, microfiche or xerox. But, in the final analysis the book is as exasperating as it is useful.

The most obvious aggravation comes from the total lack of any system of cross references, combined with a singularly sparse and unhelpful index. One French departmental archive, that of the "Loire Atlantique," formerly known as the "Loire Inferieure," to be found in Nantes, is particularly badly served. The Index, without cross reference, uses all three headings, "Loire Atlantique," "Loire Inferieure" and "Nantes" for the same archive. The page numbers listed after the first two headings do not give all the references to be found after the third heading, and that heading "Nantes" omits one of the pages listed under "Loire Atlantique." Turning to the entries themselves, the main departmental entry is given under "Loire Inferieure" with no indication that this is now known as "Loire Atlantique" and no cross reference to the later section of the work where, under "Loire Atlantique," a considerable number of documents are catalogued. It is perhaps worth emphasizing that all these references "Loire Atlantique," "Loire Inferieure" and "Nantes" are to the same small building on a hill-side in that city. Unless one is already familiar with French archives this organisation seems bound to produce confusion.

Further, the *Inventaire* is not completely reliable for the listings given. Documents are listed with the wrong numbers: again, for Nantes, the documents

about the passengers who embarked from that port for New Orleans in 1785 are to be found in the series 458, not in 838. The assertions about particular collections are sometimes inaccurate. Series H in the Archives Nationales, sub-headed in the Inventaire as "Administrations provinciales (sic) et locales" is alleged to refer only to the seventeenth century and contain only one document of interest to Acadian historians. This is not the case but one searches in vain for any further reference. The H 1499² series that is included in this sub-heading in the calendars of the Archives Nationales is a rich source of documents about the settlement of the Acadians in Poitiers, containing letters and documents not to be found copied in other series nor in the archives of Vienne itself.

No volume of this size and scope can hope to emerge without errors. Those working in the field of Acadian history will quickly find it a useful work to annotate from their own researches, providing the copies they use remain glued together during the process. One might have wished that its compilers, aware of the inevitability of misprint and slip in any published work, had made every effort to ensure that the information assembled had been checked at every possible stage. The short and incomplete entries for the Spanish archives, for example, seem to have been based upon a letter this reviewer wrote, under the impression that it was, and would remain, an unpublished *aide-mémoire* between two researchers in the field of Acadian history. Had any further consultation about its contents taken place, the particular section in the *Inventaire* would have been considerably fuller.

It is the nature of the critic to emphasize the flaws in a work, but I would conclude with a repetition of the opening remark: this book is of value. The revelation of the amount of material that has been collected in the *centre* is enough to justify its price. A recent visit there has impressed me with the amount of documentation collected and the scholarly method of organisation, within the archives themselves. No studies should omit an early investigation of this archive.

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ALISON L. PRENTICE and SUSAN E. HOUSTON, eds. — *Family School & Society in Nineteenth Century Canada*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1975.

This addition to Oxford's series of volumes on Canadian social history is a valuable contribution to the historiography of Canadian education. In the words of the editors, most Canadian historians, through a concentration on "the national and narrowly political," have either ignored educational history or accepted "quite uncritically the conventional wisdom equating the expansion of formal schooling with progress" (p. 4). Prentice and Houston redress both these balances. Their volume clearly demonstrates the centrality of schooling to an understanding of nineteenth century society. Through an examination of alternatives to centralized, publicly-controlled, bureaucratic schooling they also move educational historiography away from the "one-path-to progress" syndrome.

Family School & Society raises many fundamental questions about nineteenth century education. What role did families play in moral, religious, vocational and citizenship education early in the century? What support was there for early forms of apprenticeship and private-venture schooling? Who promoted public schools and why? Why was the public school movement successful? Why