

is reluctant to provide his reader with full analyses of his sources, and, when he does, as in the case of catechetical *exempla* (e.g., 90ff.), he might well have abbreviated the quotations. His study provides no more than the briefest biographical details on the pastors and little engagement with the wide literature on secularization, de-Christianization (Delumeau, although mentioned in the text, is omitted from the bibliography), “disenchantment”, and the modernity question in its many facets.

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MCKELLAR, Shelley — *Surgical Limits: The Life of Gordon Murray*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003. Pp. vii, 270.

Few Canadians under the age of 40 will recognize Dr. Gordon Murray’s name, but, in *Surgical Limits: The Life of Gordon Murray*, Shelley McKellar has done an excellent job of examining the man and his times to demonstrate “the expanding therapeutic role of surgery, the rising power and authority of its practitioners, surgical character and culture, changes in the conduct of medical research, and the quest for cures in medicine” (p. 4). Each of these large themes is knowledgeably presented as the events of Murray’s life are recounted and his pioneering work in cardiac, renal, and vascular surgery explained in terms that lay people and health care professionals can understand and appreciate. This is a welcome development since, as McKellar observes in her introduction, there has long been a tendency in medical biography to laud the great leaders while glossing over their place in society and medical history. Equally important, little sustained analysis of the role of medical culture and the development of medical research in specific specialties has been undertaken. This study fills many gaps.

Gordon Murray was born in Oxford County in 1894 and grew up on the family farm, receiving his high school education in Stratford before entering the University of Toronto medical school in 1914. He enlisted in March 1915 and served with Canadian artillery units in France until 1917, when he returned to finish his medical degree. After a brief rural internship, Murray undertook postgraduate study at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, followed by three years in Great Britain, where he honed his surgical skills and was exposed to the British model of surgical research that emphasized “clinical results over scientific theory and methodology” (p. 25). This pivotal experience was capped by his success in winning a Royal College of Surgeons fellowship as one of only 34 of 110 who passed the demanding examination in 1926 (p. 25). Murray returned to Toronto in 1927 to take a position at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH), then recognized as one of the elite clinical teaching institutions in North America. He was to spend the rest of his life attempting to become part of the Toronto medical establishment but, as McKellar shows, his ego and personality prevented him from forging the type of relationships that would have aided his quest. Fate, too, played a role when the Chair of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at TGH, Dr. Clarence L. Starr, Murray’s mentor and supporter, died suddenly

late in 1928 and was replaced by Dr. Walter Gallie, a brilliant surgeon and medical educator, who held a different view of the attributes of surgical research. Gallie and his successors believed in the “application of scientific method to surgery” (p. 35), and this ran counter to Murray’s focus on intuition, experience, and clinical results.

With its focus on diseased or defective body parts, surgery is both a craft and a science. Murray’s practice exemplified both these aspects. He was a brilliant operator and was the leading Canadian surgeon dealing with “blue babies”, children whose heart defects caused cyanosis until blood flow was re-established. His success attracted press attention, and in the 1940s and 1950s he was hailed as a “hero, leader and miracle maker” (p. 62). As McKellar notes, this was an era in which medical journalism was just beginning and, although journalists were attempting to explain the complexities of medical and surgical developments, they were also generating public expectations about miraculous cures. Murray’s surgical prowess and his creativity in designing the first Canadian artificial kidney machine and conducting the first kidney transplant made him a media fixture but did not earn him as much professional support and respect as he expected.

From the beginning of the study, the author effectively foreshadows the great surgeon’s decline. In the late 1940s, he was not named to replace Walter Gallie and indeed was unable to get additional laboratory space or operating room access in spite of his fame. Although he continued to teach in the University of Toronto Medical Faculty until 1953, he moved his research to a privately funded foundation and shifted from cancer surgery to experiments focusing on immunology. This change brought him into conflict with his peers, particularly since here, and in later research pertaining to nerve regeneration, he would not share his research methodology or work as part of a national or international team. The constant press support that he received clearly irritated his colleagues and perturbed authorities within the university and TGH. The penultimate crisis occurred in 1967 when he claimed to have regenerated severed spinal cord nerves. This episode led to his public humiliation when leading surgeons at TGH denied that his operation had succeeded (p. 149). McKellar provides a nuanced description of this sad end to a productive career and argues that “Murray was more surgeon than scientist.... He did not alter his lone style of surgical research and never fully adapted to the new postwar standards of investigation” (p. 172).

This study demonstrates how an individual both interacts with, and is shaped by, his society and his working environment. Gordon Murray was raised and educated in a time that valued independence and determination. His career, however, paralleled the development of research teams following specific protocols and presenting the results of their discoveries in forms and fora that permitted replication and critical discussion. By showing how he built his reputation and demonstrating Murray’s empathy for and effectiveness with his patients, McKellar paints a compelling portrait of a man on an endless quest to redefine the limits of surgery. Standing between the heroic surgeons of the nineteenth century and the technologically supported ones in the twenty-first century, Murray participated in the golden age of surgical innovation and its acceptance by the public. Little wonder that he found it difficult to recognize the limits of surgery alone in resolving specific health problems. The biography

of his life and times presents an object lesson for both medical practitioners and the public who depend on them.

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MCLEOD, Donald W. — *A Brief History of GAY: Canada's First Gay Tabloid, 1964–1966*. Toronto: Homewood Books, 2003. Pp. 96.

Donald McLeod is one of Canada's most prolific, hardworking historians of sexuality. If you have not heard of him, the most likely reason is that McLeod is not a professional historian. He researches and writes from within a community-based setting. A librarian by day, McLeod is also a longtime volunteer at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, a position that undoubtedly helps to explain his extensive familiarity with the primary sources of the gay/lesbian past in Canada.

McLeod's formidable skills as a historical researcher and bibliographer were amply demonstrated in 1996 with the publication of *Lesbian and Gay Liberation in Canada: A Selected Annotated Chronology, 1964–1975*. Two years later, McLeod compiled and edited the life story of Jim Egan, *Challenging the Conspiracy of Silence: My Life as a Canadian Gay Activist*. In his most recent offering, he has unearthed and told for the first time the story of *GAY*, Canada's first gay tabloid. In addition to producing three books of gay history — something made all the more remarkable given he has done so without any of the usual institutional-material supports of the university — McLeod is also the editor of *DA*, a journal of print and design history in Canada. This holds a clue to understanding *A Brief History of GAY*. First, however, given that tabloids loom large in gay history, a few distinctions are necessary.

In addition to oral histories, tabloids have been indispensable in recuperating the lesbian/gay past, particularly for the period after World War II. The tabloids used by most historians have been mainstream publications: the "straight" sensationalist press that took great delight in printing exposés of the queer urban underworlds in places like Toronto and Montreal. McLeod, by contrast, has uncovered the history of the country's first gay tabloid. Unlike mainstream papers such as *Justice Weekly* or *Ici Montréal*, *GAY* was, as its cover invited, "for those who think gay". Another important distinction to keep in mind is that historians mining mainstream tabloids have had to read through and around their decidedly distorted messages to excavate from them rich re-creations of postwar lesbian/gay life. McLeod, however, is less concerned with what the tabloid can tell us about gay history and more with the history of the tabloid itself.

McLeod is one of only a few researchers pursuing the neglected and necessary task of piecing together the publishing history of a source widely used by historians but about which we know very little. In between the introduction, in which McLeod sketches the emergence of a gay press in mid-1960s Canada, and the conclusion, the titillating and tragic tale of Robert Mish Marsden, *GAY*'s publisher-editor, McLeod