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### **Integrated Environmental Planning**

by James K. Lein, Blackwell Science, Oxford 2003.  
228 pp. paper \$44.95 (ISBN 0-632-04346-6)

There are more than a few journals that devote space to themes in environmental planning, but there seem to be few comprehensive books that explore this important and evolving realm, and fewer still that provide a guide to the tools and techniques that can be employed to develop and implement environmental planning. James Lein has produced a timely and welcome book. As the title implies, this work covers three important realms: integration, planning and environment. He brings them together in a work that not only provides definition and a guide to fundamental planning objectives, but also outlines the mechanics of process and practice.

Lein builds his book around practical planning problems. For example, chapter 1 begins with an amusing case study titled 'If You Build It, They Will Drive, Then What?' Okay, it was amusing to me because I live in Waterloo, not a particularly well-planned community and one in which driving is requisite for survival. The book uses such grounded examples to illustrate the environmental challenges and impacts inherent in so many of the mundane planning decisions communities make every day. Given that planners often rue the lack of practical illustrations of environmental planning in practice or guides to specific tools they can use to plan in more environmentally responsible ways, Lein's book would seem to fill a real void in planning instruction.

In terms of the specific ingredients of Lein's book, there are ten chapters: 'The Nature of Planning'; 'Defining the Environmental Approach'; 'Making Plans'; 'Natural Factors in Environmental Planning'; 'Landscape Inventory and Analysis'; 'Natural Hazard Assessment'; 'Environmental Modelling and Simulation'; 'The Decision Support Perspective'; 'Ethics, Conflict and Environmental Planning'; and 'The Impact of Change'. The first three and last two chapters provide a conceptual basis for understanding the nature of planning practice, in particular the application of environmental thought to planning questions. In this sense, Lein's work has a strong applied value. Those teaching environmental planning or environmental geography courses that are pragmatic in content will find this a welcome text.

The book pays particular attention to the use of information technologies and the conservation sciences. This might be expected, given that Lein's teaching and research centre on GIS, geomatics, risk and landscape analysis. Some background preparation might be needed for students—and for some instructors—to make full use of chapters 5 and beyond. This will depend on the nature of the planning or geography program within which the book might be used and the level at which the relevant course is taught.

Overall, James Lein has produced a thoughtful and useful text.

KEVIN HANNA

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### **Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa**

Edited by Jonathan Crush and David A. McDonald, Southern African Migration Project (SAMP) and the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS), Kingston, ON, 2002, iv+184 pp. paper \$30.00 (ISBN 0-88911-926-0)

In a recent progress report on population geography, Paul Boyle noted that transnationalism reflects the experiences of contemporary cross-border migrants, as it captures the high intensity of exchange between place of origin and destination, recognises the importance of cultural identity and hybridity and provides avenues for challenging the

assimilationist tendencies of immigration policies. Following the collapse of apartheid, South Africa has become a new destination for international (im)migrants, and this has engendered a xenophobic frenzy among South Africans. *Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa* is one of two volumes recently produced by the South African Migration Project at Queen's University (the other one, *On Borders*, is also reviewed in this issue). *Transnationalism and New African Immigration* examines the nature of cross-border migration in South Africa: 'Who are the new international migrants and immigrants in South Africa? What are the conditions shaping their migratory patterns? What is the nature of their relations with South Africans and their home countries?' (p. 3).

The papers in this volume, most of which had already been published in the *Canadian Journal of African Studies (CJAS)*, are a testament to the burgeoning interest in transnational migration. In the introduction, coeditors Jonathan Crush and David McDonald highlight the trends in international migration to South Africa, identify the themes of transnational migration and discuss new 'migration spaces' in South Africa. The seven papers in the volume deal with a variety of issues, ranging from case studies on the interaction between (im)migrants and citizens (Dodson and Oelofse, McDonald, and Reitzes and Bam) to the analysis of entrepreneurship among immigrants (Peberdy and Rogerson), from the emergence of transnational immigrant communities (Lubkemann) to a discussion on the geography of (im)migration to Durban (Maharaj and Moodley) and an intriguing insight into the lives of Lesotho women who work as contract labourers on South African farms (Ulicki and Crush).

The articles suggest that xenophobia is a serious problem in South Africa. Most of the papers point to incidences of harassment and violence against immigrants, especially Black immigrants. Ironically, Black African immigrants with whom South African Blacks had shared a common 'outsider' identity now find themselves severely antagonized by their South African counterparts, who have become 'insiders' since the collapse of apartheid. This trend notwithstanding, McDonald found, in his analysis of subsidised housing in Marconi Beam, that '[V]ery few of the citizens interviewed used xenophobic language to describe why non-citizens should not be eligible. For the most part, negative responses

where grounded in very practical, material concerns such as “there are not enough houses for everyone” (p. 115). As Barker (1983) points out, anti-immigrant and racist sentiments are increasingly shrouded in languages that appear harmless on the surface; only incisive deconstruction can uncover their underlying antagonism. In this particular instance, one wonders whether there would ever be enough houses for everyone.

The authors draw out the policy implications of their papers and stress the need to understand the heterogeneity of immigration in formulating policies. They also send out a clear message that xenophobia will persist as long as the material circumstances of many South Africans remain deplorable. In a rather bold move, the editors contend that the notion of ‘immigrant community’ has limited analytical value in transnational migration analysis because of its ‘conceptual wooliness’ (15) and ‘because it suggests a kind of insularity that diverts attention away from the intimate patterns of daily social and economic interaction with citizens and host institutions that preoccupy most migrants’ (pp. 14–15). Whether their substitute concept of ‘transnational immigrant spaces’ is any better is debatable, however, especially considering that Lubkemann uses the phrase ‘immigrant community’ in this same volume.

Overall, the book has a good balance between theoretical analysis and case studies based on different scenarios. It would have been useful to have a concluding chapter that brings the key findings together. In addition, a strong editorial hand would have avoided a situation in which the lengthy abstract and the introduction to the book are virtually the same, and would also helped eliminate statements such as ‘as the case studies in this special [sic] issue of *CJAS* demonstrates’ (p. 147); similar references to *CJAS* occur on pages 11 and 17. Furthermore, the bibliography lacks pagination for journal articles and papers in edited volumes. These petty criticisms aside, the book would make invaluable reading for scholars of population geography. I intend to add it to the reading list of my third-year undergraduate course on gender, population and immigration.

## References

- BARKER, M. 1983 *The New Racism: Conservatives and the Ideology of the Tribe* (London: Junction)

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## On Borders: Perspectives on International Migration in Southern Africa

Edited by David A. McDonald, Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), Kingston, ON and St. Martin’s Press, New York, 2000, xiv + 302 pp. paper Cdn\$30.00 (ISBN: 0-312-23268-3)

*On Borders* is a very welcome addition to the growing literature on cross-border migration, diasporic identity and xenophobia couched in transnationalism. This book and *Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa* (also reviewed in this issue) are produced by the South Africa Migration Project at Queen’s University. Unlike the latter, which deals primarily with South Africa, *On Borders* is based on national surveys conducted in five southern African countries, including South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, with South Africa serving as destination and the rest as source nations.

The sequence of the nine papers that constitute this volume is intuitively appealing. David McDonald makes clear in the introduction that the popular belief in South Africa that most immigrants from neighbouring countries are uneducated and desperate people seeking to make money by any means possible does not hold up to empirical scrutiny. Available evidence suggests that most of the (im)migrants in South Africa are well educated, generally work in legitimate employment, and have little or no intention of staying in the country permanently. The first chapter, by Crush, deals with the history and typology of cross-border migration in Southern African. The next four chapters are based on the source-country surveys, with papers on Lesotho by Gay, Mozambique by de Vletter, Zimbabwe by Zinyama, and Namibia by Frayne and Pendleton, in that order. While these country studies deal with the gender dimensions of migration, it is in chapter 6 that the issue receives the most comprehensive coverage through the pen of Dodson. Chapter 7 is perhaps the most innovative of them all: Taylor and Barlow zero in on respondents who intend to go to South Africa in the future and

explore what the future might hold for South Africa in cross-border migration. The significance of such an analysis for policy-making cannot be gainsaid. The penultimate chapter, by McDonald, Mashike, and Golden, is based on a survey conducted among immigrants from other African countries living in South Africa; this broadens the scope of the volume to reflect the pan-African character of transnational migration in postapartheid South Africa. The final chapter, by Mattes and colleagues, examines the attitudes of host citizens towards immigrants and immigration policies.

To avoid the criminal connotations of 'illegal immigrant' and 'illegal aliens,' the editor used the term 'undocumented migrants' to refer to all those who are in South Africa without the necessary official documentation. This notwithstanding, and, perhaps for the lack of a better term, de Vletter used 'illegal legals' to describe immigrants who 'assimilate as South Africans through the unauthorised acquisition of South African identity documents'. How this chimes with the editor's concern is another issue.

There is much to commend about this book. Unlike many previous international migration studies, in which women are given only perfunctory attention, either as dependents or those left behind, *On Borders* discusses the increasing feminisation of transnational migration and stresses the need to address issues of women in formulating immigration policy. The need to intensify public education on the positive aspects of immigration in combating xenophobia is also echoed by all the contributors. The issue of whether South Africans have any moral obligation for other Black African immigrants—most of whom supported the struggle against apartheid—remains unresolved, however.

*On Borders* provides interesting theoretical discussions backed by reliable empirical data. There are some minor issues of concern, however. Frayne and Pendleton's analysis in chapter 5 has a few inconsistencies. They contend that 'Given that nearly 70% of Namibia's population is rural, and that it is the more affluent and mobile urban sectors that move, this suggests that there is not likely to be an exodus of people from Namibia to South Africa now or in the foreseeable future' (p. 116). This argument comes after they have observed that '[T]he pattern of internal migration in Namibia is for rural migrants to move to urban

places within Namibia, often in a step-wise fashion, and not to travel directly to South Africa' (p. 116). Is it not more logical to expect the influx of Namibians to South Africa to *increase* in the future if rural Namibians are constantly moving to the cities and the city-dwellers are, in turn, crossing over to South Africa? Also, I am unsure whether multiple regression is the appropriate statistical tool for explaining peoples' opposition to immigration in the paper by Mattes and colleagues, given that most of the variables used have nominal measurement; logit models would have been better in this case, from what I can see from the limited information provided on the statistical results.

On the whole, *On Borders* is a stimulating book full of empirical data and pointed theoretical analyses. The book provides a summary of its research methods and survey results in appendices, and has useful references and a user-friendly index. It would certainly appeal to both undergraduate and graduate students, not only in human geography but also in sociology and development studies. Readers might like to read it alongside *Transnationalism and New African Immigration to South Africa*.

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### **Social Geographies, Space and Society**

by Gill Valentine, Pearson Education Ltd, Harlow, England, 2001, xvi + 420p. paper Cdn\$52.95 (ISBN 0582-35777-2)

With this textbook, Gill Valentine has largely achieved her goal to write a book that will inspire undergraduate geography students to specialise in social geography (p. 12). Abandoning the structure typical of social-geography textbooks, she explores the spatiality of social processes and their roles in the construction of space at eight different geographical scales, ranging from the body to the nation. Written in an engaging style, the book outlines significant theoretical and empirical issues in contemporary social geography.

After a brief introduction that summarises the intellectual history of social geography and the notion of scale, the book reviews geographical perspectives on the body, 'the geography closest in' (p. 15). The debates concerning the body will be new to many students, but other topics concerning

body-building, tattoos and eating disorders are relevant to their daily lives. Chapter 3 provides a comprehensive review of research concerning housing design and gender, the home as a workplace and a site of violence and the social regulation of behaviour in the home. The closing discussion of homelessness would be an ideal topic for seminars to illustrate these themes. Competing geographical perspectives on community are the subject of the fourth chapter, in which Valentine explores whether the concept of community itself is useful. Chapter 5, the most innovative chapter in the book, reviews the sparse geographical literature about the cultures and identities associated with four institutions; school, workplace, prison and asylum. The history of the street as a public space, the determinants of fear of crime in suburban and downtown neighbourhoods and the impacts of various policing practices are topics in chapter 6. The final three chapters consider larger spaces. Chapter 7 examines the vast literature about the city through selected topics such as ethnic segregation, the underclass, gentrification and urban landscapes of production and consumption. In chapter 8, a critique of common presumptions about the rural landscape and its residents links theoretical debates to current political disputes regarding access to private rural property, the pollution associated with agricultural and military land uses and the conflicts they engender. The final chapter discusses current notions of citizenship, particularly the distinction between nationality and citizenship and the emergence of global, technological and ecological citizenship.

The book is thoroughly contemporary in its emphasis on identities and culture. Without question, students will be exposed to the most recent debates in social and cultural geography. The book is also very appropriate for Canadian students. Although the British context is emphasised in some chapters, particularly chapter 8, there are numerous North American examples that instructors and students will appreciate. Well-designed to facilitate informative and provocative instruction, the book includes highlighted boxes that illustrate difficult and contentious theoretical concepts. Each section also ends with a summary that highlights the main ideas and questions. At the end of each chapter, a final summary is accompanied by a reading list of important sources, intriguing exercises that refer to

students' everyday lives and relevant essay topics. Two appendices offer a glossary of important terms and a frank guide to writing a research paper.

The book's contemporary emphasis does not include much consideration of social class, an ironic omission given the reliance on Neil Smith's scalar analysis to organise the argument. Although important aspects of identity, such as gender, race and sexuality, are taken up in several chapters, social class is mentioned only briefly in two or three chapters. The apparent neglect of class may result from curricular differences between Canada and the United Kingdom, but many Canadian instructors may want to supplement the discussions of social class. The scalar organisation of the book may also require that instructors like me who want to emphasise geographical perspectives on race, gender and sexuality, integrate the discussions from various chapters.

I have some minor quibbles. Valentine's expertise, which extends from discussions of the body to explorations of prison identities, is breathtakingly apparent in chapters 2 through 8. In comparison, the discussion of citizenship in chapter 9 is less satisfactory, drawing on relatively few sources. The book would also benefit from additional copyediting. For example, East New York is still a neighbourhood of New York City, not Toronto.

This is an innovative and important textbook that will help instructors introduce contemporary social geography to undergraduate students. I recommend it highly to all my colleagues for their serious consideration.

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### **Geographies of Health: An Introduction**

by Anthony C. Gatrell, Oxford and Malden, MA, Blackwell Publishers, 2002, xv+294 pp. cloth US\$59.95 (ISBN 0-631-219-846); paper US\$27.95 (ISBN 0-631-219-854)

In some ways, Canada is a country obsessed with its health-care system. The obsession is first and foremost concerned with having a health-care system in which every Canadian is assured of high-quality medical care regardless of their income, race, ethnicity or personal politics. Canadians are also obsessed with the health-care system because it is one of the most important

symbolic ways in which Canadians see themselves as different from the people of the United States. For Canadians, a public and universal health-care system represents a more compassionate and communal society than what exists south of the border. *Geographies of Health* has nothing to do with the Canadian health-care system. It does, however, have everything to do with understanding health and health care as more than the absence of disease or a biomedical response to disease.

Since the early 1990s, a debate has been taking place between the members of one group who continue to call themselves medical geographers and those in another group who prefer to call themselves health geographers. The former group argues that the subdiscipline should remain focused on the traditional themes of medical geography, the geography of disease and the geography of medical resources and the traditional approaches of medical geography, regional studies, cultural ecology and spatial modelling. The latter group argues that medical geography needs to be recast as health geography, divided between the geography of health and the geography of health care. It draws on postpositivist theories of structure and agency and embraces new quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

*Geographies of Health* represents the first effort at articulating a comprehensive presentation of the themes of a reinterpreted medical geography. To Anthony Gatrell's credit (and, I suspect, because he comes with such a strong background in the traditional themes of medical geography), he demonstrates that the traditional themes need not be ignored, but must be built upon if health geography is to flourish in the twenty-first century.

Gatrell succeeds in making the case for health geography in three ways. Almost every chapter moves from the traditional to the new by focusing on a change in how a health or health-care issue can be reinterpreted in a post-positivist perspective. For example, the topic of chapter 4 is inequalities in health outcomes. The early part of the chapter is very much a traditional presentation of health inequalities at various geographic scales using the standard measures of comparison (e.g., disability-adjusted life years, age and sex-adjusted mortality and morbidity) and standard explanatory variables such as age, sex, income, social class, ethnicity and race. In the second half of the chapter, Gatrell challenges the reader to

rethink these explanations by illustrating a variety of hypotheses (e.g., David Barker's programming hypothesis) and theoretical positions (e.g., social-capital and structural explanations) to move beyond traditional ways of thinking about health inequalities. Secondly, Gatrell writes just as comfortably about multilevel modelling, the use of GIS and qualitative methods as he does about more traditional methods such as disease-mapping and ecological modelling in some of the chapters of *Geographies of Health*. Thirdly, Gatrell's book reflects a number of topics that were either ignored in medical geography or have been rethought as part of health geography. Chapter 6, on migration, is an example of the former, while chapter 9, on the health impacts of global environmental change, is an example of the latter.

While there is much strength to this book, it has a number of important limitations. If part of the explanation for the recasting of medical geography as health geography is that medical geography defines itself in terms of the biomedical model of disease, whereas health geography defines itself in terms of the World Health Organization definition of health as 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity,' then readers will be disappointed at the lack of coverage of mental health by Gatrell. Readers will also be disappointed that health in the developing world, women's health, children's health and the health of aging populations receive modest coverage and only in the context of other themes. While every author has to make choices about how to organise their material, it strikes me that there are three good reasons to regret Gatrell's decision not to have a chapter on health and health care in the developing world and a chapter organised around women, children and the aging population, as well as a chapter organised around the theme of mental health. The argument for a chapter on health in the developing world is that the magnitude and nature of health problems in the developing world represent one of the great challenges of the twenty-first century. In a similar vein, in both developing and developed countries women, children and the elderly are the major users of health care, and this ought to be highlighted. Secondly, some of the most theoretically challenging and innovative research being done in health geography focuses on the above-mentioned topics. My third reason is balance.

As important as the impacts of air and water quality (chapters 7 and 8) are to health, when one includes chapter 9, a third of the book is dedicated to issues on health and the environment. Should there be a second edition of the book—and I, for one, hope that there will be—I would suggest adding three more chapters on the themes suggested above. As it stands, the body of the book is only 255 pages.

Just as Canada's public, comprehensive and universal health-care system is an extremely important marker in understanding how Canadians define themselves as a people, *Geographies of Health* is an extremely important marker in understanding how medical geography is being recast as health geography, where social, cultural and symbolic meanings of health and health care are of as much importance as the quantitative measures of health and health care. For geographers—and, indeed, other health and health-care researchers, *Geographies of Health* is a good place to start if you want to understand where health geography is going in the twenty-first century.

MARK ROSENBERG  
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### **Fish, Law and Colonialism: The Legal Capture of Salmon in British Columbia**

by Douglas C. Harris, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 2001, ix+306 pp. paper \$27.95 (ISBN 0802084532)

This is one of the finest scholarly studies on the history and law of an Aboriginal fishery. Fish, law and colonialism may seem to be an odd mix of topics or some playful ruse; however, the Supreme Court of Canada keeps demonstrating that an understanding of the sharing of space between Indigenous and settler societies deserves serious attention. Geographers can easily appreciate that fisheries were an essential activity for most Aboriginal societies.

Trained in both law and history, Douglas Harris has as his central finding that 'Through myriad colonial strategies designed to induce fear, foster division, create truths and assimilate the other, the Canadian state replaced indigenous fisheries law with its own' (p. 4). Harris's historical research is exhaustive. A comprehensive array of sources—statute books, old case reports, state records, missionary and private correspondence and news-

papers—is synthesised into a nuanced and fresh legal analysis. But he also knows the limits of the information filtered through 'the prism of the Canadian legal system' (p. 5). Unlike his colleagues, who either ignore historical evidence or habitually employ it in a reductionist manner, Harris uses intensely archival records by reconstructing the attendant conditions under which events were caused and then recorded.

In the first chapter, Harris explains the clash between the common-law right to fish and Aboriginal-controlled fisheries, the evolution of federal fisheries regulations to deal with the situation in British Columbia and how the development of the salmon-canning industry necessitated regulations that did not work in the interest of traditional fisheries. In effect, colonial law displaced Aboriginal law (e.g., patterns of Native ownership/access and management) by creating conflicts over licences and weirs. Chapter 2 is one of the two substantive chapters that provide a detailed case study of the clash of legal cultures on Babine Lake (1904–1907). Harris found that 'Justified on the basis of establishing and preserving a particular economic order, and legitimised with law, the removal of the Babine weirs had secured for the Skeena River canneries a supply of fish and a flexible, although increasingly neglected and impoverished, labor force' (p. 126). Unlike the Babine situation, on the Cowichan River Indians continued to build weirs up until 1936, demonstrating the 'complexity of a continuing colonial encounter' (p. 127). Historical evidence substantiating the argument that management regulations are not necessarily neutral means with which to allocate resources should be of interest to geographers.

In the process of recounting Indian resistance and defence of their customs, Harris does not exaggerate Native agency. Instead he notes that 'Law is a site of conflict, flexible in one instance, rigid the next, and sometimes operating in the particular to support rather than diminish Native resistance' (p. 206). In addition, 'Replacing one system of resource allocation and social control with another is not so neat and tidy as it appears from a distance'; thus, he finds that colonial law was also designed to protect the traditional economy (pp. 206, 193).

While colonialism is not a completely alien concept to legal academics, Harris develops a more explicit awareness thereof: '[T]o understand the colonial processes, one must explore the intersecting legal systems' (p. 189). His final chapter is

a vital statement on law and colonialism. Law is a means to bring people and their resources into the imperial orbit, in contrast to the legalists who present a decontextualised Aboriginal legal history based on the self-referential mode of thought based on legal authorities. In other words, Harris does not ignore the market economy, wage labour or the political relations that Indian bands had with nearby settler communities. Hence, 'Myriad forms of power were at work, transforming people into wage labour and fish into an industrial resource' (p. 206)—a finding more in keeping with history and that contrasts with abstract legal principles (i.e., the Honor of the Crown). Harris's even-handed approach to law and history is illustrated by his concern not just for the text of the statute books, but for the details of actual enforcement as well. More can be learned about Aboriginal law from *Fish, Law and Colonialism* than from a dozen comments on contemporary court cases.

My single criticism would be that insightful comparisons between British Columbia and the existing studies on freshwater fisheries should have been made. For example, Harris's account of the importance of the common-law fishing right explains the quarrel on the prairies between Indian Affairs and Fisheries officials.

It is pretty hard to predict the reception of this study: both historians and legalists are steadfast defenders of the intellectual status quo, yet each employs very different analytical processes. For the historically minded, *Fish, Law and Colonialism* provides a detailed, exhaustive empirical reconstruction. In order to reflect on why things turned out the way they did, Harris challenges comfortable empiricism by employing both social-science theories and legal principles. Legalists will be troubled by the clear lines connecting law and colonialism and by the fact that the historical record, as is so often the case in today's Aboriginal litigation, really clutters the certitude that they think is inherent in the deductive Anglo-legal system. All those involved with Aboriginal rights litigation should study *Fish, Law and Colonialism* closely, especially those who prefer to argue rights based simply on a grandiloquent articulation of legal principles, thereby avoiding the murky history of colonialism.

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### The 'Great Swivel Link': Canada's Welland Canal

by Roberta M. Styran and Robert R. Taylor, The Champlain Society, Toronto, 2001, cxviii + 494 pp. cloth \$100.00 (ISBN 09689317-0-7)

The Champlain Society is two years short of its centenary, and four years short of the centenary of its first publication. The purpose of the Society was to publish collections of original print and graphic material bearing on Canada's past. During its illustrious tenure, it has published one hundred volumes in the trademark red cloth covers embossed in gold. Through the years, it has launched into special projects, including 6 volumes of the works of Samuel de Champlain, 12 volumes in a Hudson Bay Company Series, 16 volumes in a continuing Ontario Series, and a recent collection of essays on aboriginal history. But the Society's main publishing emphasis has been on the General Series, which numbered 65 volumes by 2002. The chosen documents have included the personal letters of influential individuals, the diaries of fur traders, explorers and surveyors, governor generals' papers, translations of significant sources and, as with the volume under review, documents relating to technical advances or newsworthy episodes, including the drawing of the 49th parallel, the 1837 Rebellion, the War of 1812 and the religious 'awakening' in late eighteenth-century Nova Scotia. Some of the topics occupy two volumes. Many of the volumes become prized by collectors and show up on rare-book lists. In keeping with its mission to disseminate historical material, the Society has an attractive and easily used Internet site that not only lists all its publications but also provides full-text reproduction of about sixty of its volumes. In recent decades, historical geographers have had a notable presence in this broad-based association, and at the time of this publication held positions as honorary president, a member of the council, general editor and treasurer.

Canal-building was the most invasive and expensive expression of built environment in early nineteenth-century Canada. It engaged in massive excavations, such as the unstable Deep Cut at Thorold, rerouting of streams, translocation of material and widespread flooding of land. Although the first Welland Canal was a private venture based on locks of timber, little time

passed before governments became committed to more and more expense to help maintain the system. By the end of the 1830s, the Upper Canada Board of Works had taken over the canal and moved toward reconstructing the locks with large blocks of stone, at a cost the private company could not contemplate. The imperial government was the ultimate public purse at the time, and it is likely that the colossal expense of canal-building in the Canadas, hand in hand with the fading of the mercantilist persuasion, was the main stimulus to freeing the colonies to manage their own finances.

Roberta Styran and Robert Taylor's *Welland Canal* volume thoroughly traces the metamorphosis of 'Mr. Merritt's Ditch' (an echo of the depiction of the Erie Canal as 'Clinton's Ditch') from a daunting, almost overwhelming technical challenge in the mid-1820s through regular upgrading until it could properly call itself, before the end of the nineteenth century, a ship canal and 'seaway'. From the beginning, it was to be for steam vessels; it was important for its promoters, especially the ambitious W. Hamilton Merritt, that it outclass the Erie Canal, opened in late 1825 as a waterway only for barges. It won the race with competitors on the New York state side of Niagara Falls with the help of American investors. To secure sufficient water to maintain the canal, shortly after the canal's opening in 1829, the company built a dam and lock near the mouth of the Grand River and a 35-km feeder that was, for a time, the southern arm of the canal. The original locks were designed to be 110 feet long by 22 feet wide and 7 feet 6 inches deep, and were regularly enlarged and improved through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The term 'Great Swivel Link' (1856) depicts the canal as the pivot or hinge of a vast water transportation system that joins the resources of the upper Great Lakes basin and the West to the ocean. The four significant modifications of the canal route within 90 years underline the scale of the challenge of lifting large ships the 326 feet over the limestone Niagara Escarpment and across its dip slope to Lake Erie, and hint at the daunting investment required. The documents detail the many tribulations of the canal managers, including flooding, landslides, riots, difficult contractors and collisions, as well as illustrating the motives and relationships behind the canal idea, the significance of the project even beyond provincial boundaries and the peninsular social context.

Editors of document collections usually make a choice between providing a contextual essay with scattered notes within the text or focusing on the documents by appending many critical notes where appropriate. Using an approach that has been taken by some previous Society publications, Styran and Taylor do both, producing a full and informative volume with a 100-page introduction and a treasure trove of 899 footnotes. The repositories of material relevant to the canal—including many government departments as well as business archives and personal papers, some of which are not catalogued—form a huge field of search, unlike the more circumscribed range relating to a diary, journal or personal letters. There would be grounds for more than a single volume on the Welland Canal, as a number of the excerpts seem fragmentary. The editors' introduction follows the seven themes into which the documents are divided: the canal as a link in the St. Lawrence–Great Lakes system; suggested routes for a Lake Erie–Lake Ontario canal; the evolution of the Welland Canal; administration and operation; engineering and technology; personnel; and social and economic concerns (one of the two largest sections of the book, with administration and operation, at 90 pages each; engineering and technology comes next, at 58 pages). During most of the nineteenth century, patronage appointments affected the quality of administration and maintenance of the canal: '[T]here was seldom a time when all went smoothly with either construction or operation' (p. lxvii). Graphic material includes 26 figures, comprising photographs of construction diagrams, equipment and some scenes, and 6 maps. Map 1 is a regional location map, but does not show some of the places involved in the canal route debates, such as Lake Nipissing and French River, on the planned 1909 Georgian Bay Ship Canal, and Lake Simcoe, part of an earlier Georgian Bay route through the Humber River valley. The maps depicting the proposed and actual routes of the Welland Canal(s) are complex but very readable.

This ninety-ninth publication of the Society is typically well produced—a worthy representative of a venerable project that has made a notable contribution to the interpretation of Canada's history.

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