

## Book Reviews

**Explorations in the History of Canadian Mapping: A Collection of Essays.** BARBARA FARRELL and AILEEN DESBARATS, eds. Ottawa: Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, 1988. x, 274 p. ISBN 0-9690682-5-5 (bound) ISBN 0-9690682-6-3 (pbk).

Barbara Farrell and Aileen Desbarats, the editors of this collection of essays on the history of the cartography of Canada, state in their preface that the purpose of the work is to increase the readership of these essays beyond the cartographic and academic communities; by so doing they hope to fulfil an educational need. Using the *Bulletin of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries* and the earlier *ACML Proceedings* as source publications, they selected twenty articles for inclusion in *Explorations*. The editors do not claim to have assembled a collection which provides systematic, balanced treatment of the subject; the material at hand necessarily defined the bounds of the ultimate product.

Farrell and Desbarats experimented with different ways of organizing the essays and eventually decided to group them into four thematic sections: "Research Background", "Exploring the Coasts", "Routes and Patterns of Settlement", and "Survey and Resources". The editors readily admit that some of the essays "fitted more appropriately than others into their part of this schema." However, there are a number of other problems associated with this classification. The sections are not mutually exclusive; thus Michael Staveley's essay, which deals with the relationship between method of survey and land settlement, could be assigned to either of two sections — "Routes and Patterns of Settlement" or "Survey and Resources." Second, at least one essay is not well placed in any of the four sections; one example of this situation is Coolie Verner's essay on the Arrowsmith firm. A simple geographical arrangement of the material by region and province would have resulted in a more meaningful grouping and sequencing of the essays (other than those in the first section); this is the approach taken by Richard Ruggles in his essay entitled "The Next Step Forward" (chapter 1 in *Explorations*).

The map reproductions in *Explorations* are very disappointing. With few exceptions they are crudely reproduced and virtually illegible. *Laurie's Map of the North-West Territories* (p. 26) is little more than a series of ink splashes on white paper: T. Devine's *Government Map of Canada, from Red River to the Gulf of St. Lawrence* (p. 158) is a featureless greytone, even though the illustration is a detail from the

map as a whole. On the other hand, the location maps in Staveley's essay are sharp and clear; also well reproduced are some of the non-map illustrations (map legends, portraits, and so on). The maps do not complement the text in a majority of the essays; the reader may at times wonder why a particular map has been included at all. In part this is because the map illustrations are often not specifically referred to in the body of the text — even though all of the illustrations in the volume are numbered. Furthermore, in Verner's article on the Arrowsmith firm, Figure 4.3 is a reproduction of Arrowsmith's *British North America* (1854); but nowhere in the text is this map mentioned. Figure 7.3 in Walter Morrison's essay is a reproduction of Thomas Jefferys' map of New England and eastern Canada, yet the text indicates that this figure is a reproduction of Emanuel Bowen's copy of a map by N. Bellin. Unfortunately, those readers who wish to seek clarification cannot easily refer back to the original articles in the *ACML Bulletin* or *Proceedings* since the essays are not bibliographically referenced in *Explorations*.

The section entitled "Research Background" includes a miscellany of essays that are difficult to categorize. Ruggles reviews the dominant themes of research on maps of Canadian territory and includes a lengthy, well-researched bibliography on the subject. Lou Gentilcore and Betty Kidd, in two separate essays, respectively discuss maps as data sources for research in historical geography and for historical research. The final essay in the section is Verner's account of the Arrowsmith firm and its contributions to the cartography of Canada. Aaron Arrowsmith and his successors in the firm produced superb maps of Canada in the late eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. However, it is ironic that, according to Victor Hopwood in his essay on David Thompson (chapter 16, *Explorations*), some of the firm's maps were "unquestionably copied from Thompson's work without proper acknowledgement." On the other hand, Verner states that one of Arrowsmith's most popular maps "was copied in France, Germany, Italy, the United States, and by many other publishers who neglected to acknowledge their source." Where was the Copyright Act when it was needed!

In the second section, "Exploring the Coasts," there are three articles on the exploration and charting of Canada's Atlantic coast and three on the Pacific coast. The topic of Fabian O'Dea's article is the location of John Cabot's landfall in the New World in 1497: he presents convincing evidence that Cabot landed on the east coast of Newfoundland, probably at Cape Bonavista. Gayle Garlock's contribution concerns itself with the seventeenth-century exploration and charting of the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia and parts of New Brunswick's Fundy coast. Morrison analyzes the distortion in eighteenth-century maps of the Atlantic Provinces by overlaying 1:50,000 N.T.S. sheets scaled photographically to fit either the map grid or the map's physical features. Essays by Verner, W. Kaye Lamb, and R.W. Sandilands trace the history of the exploration and charting of Canada's western coast. Verner reviews Capt. James Cook's contributions to the geography and cartography of the North Pacific Ocean. George Vancouver's charting activities along the northwest coast of North America are described in considerable detail by Lamb. The topic of Sandilands' essay is the history of hydrographic surveying in British Columbia.

"Routes and Patterns of Settlement" is the name given to the third section. Whereas many of the essays elsewhere in this volume focus upon the data-gathering aspects of the cartographic process — exploration, surveying, charting — the

five articles in this third section treat the cartographic product itself; that is, they provide information about map content and/or map form. For this reason, map archivists and librarians may find this section to be of more practical value than the other three. Richard Malinski provides a detailed cartobibliographical description and discussion of John Purdy's *Map of Cabotia*, a map of eastern Canada which existed in various states from 1814 to 1850. Marilyn Olsen examines those maps she considers to be the most significant ones made of the whole of southern Ontario between the years 1783 and 1867 at scales greater than 1:2,000,000. She describes eleven maps which appear to be particularly significant. The topic of Edward Phelps' essay is the county atlases of Ontario from 1875 to 1982; particularly useful is his comprehensive listing of original and facsimile editions of these atlases for the period under review. Bob Hayward provides a thorough discussion of fire insurance cartography with particular reference to the Chas. E. Goad Company. John Spittle inventories the cartographic output of the Royal Engineer Survey Office in New Westminster, British Columbia, from 1861 to 1866; he also discusses the mandate and activities of this British detachment.

The fourth section, "Survey and Resources," focuses upon the surveying activities of three stalwart individuals: David Thompson, A.O. Wheeler, and Alexander Murray. In addition, there are two essays which examine the exploration and survey of particular regions — the Kootenay District of British Columbia and the Mackenzie Mountains, N.W.T. The work of David Thompson in western Canada is discussed in Hopwood's essay; J.O. Wheeler examines the mapping activities of his grandfather, A.O. Wheeler, in the Canadian Cordillera; and Staveley describes the topographic work of Alexander Murray in Newfoundland. The exploration and early survey of the Kootenay District is reviewed in considerable detail by Frances Woodward. Lastly, G.P. Kershaw discusses the CANOL Project (1942, 1943) and its role in the production of maps of the Mackenzie Mountains.

It is beyond the scope of this review to critique each of the essays in *Explorations*. Suffice it to say that the editors have chosen well; the essays are thoughtful, informative, and very readable. They also bear witness to the vitality of ACML and its publications. Essays were written by academics, librarians and archivists, map collectors, and students. There are a disproportionately large number of essays pertaining to the Atlantic Region and to the West Coast; conversely, there are no essays on the cartography of Quebec or the Prairie Provinces. One hopes that future contributions to the *ACML Bulletin* will include more articles on the mapping of these interior provinces (as well as Ontario); a greater number of articles focusing on map form and content; and a greater emphasis on cartobibliographical description.

*Explorations* would have been greatly improved had it been possible for the editors to consolidate in one lengthy appendix all of the maps cited throughout the volume. Surprisingly, however, few of the authors concluded their essays with much more than a series of abbreviated footnotes. Map archivists and librarians will find that the reference value of *Explorations* is reduced because of this general lack of rigorous bibliographical control (although there are some notable exceptions — for example, Ruggles, Malinski, Olsen, Phelps, and Spittle) and because of the poor quality of the map reproductions. Map curators will want to purchase the hard-bound edition of *Explorations*; the paperback edition is not particularly sturdy. The copy received for review purposes is flawed: the first ten pages of chapter eighteen

are bound into the volume in two separate locations — immediately after chapter seventeen and after the appendix.

Despite the book's shortcomings, it is unquestionably a worthwhile acquisition for those who serve the general public. *Explorations* brings to the attention of the general reader some of the excellent research on the history of the mapping of Canada which has for too long remained inaccessible within the pages of the *ACML Bulletin* and *Proceedings*.

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**The Northward Expansion of Canada, 1914-1967.** MORRIS ZASLOW. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1988. 421 p. ISBN 0-7710-9071-4.

Before one can properly review *The Northward Expansion of Canada, 1914-1967*, it is necessary to place the book in context as one of the nineteen-volume *Canadian Centenary Series*. The stated goal of the series editors was to explore the history of the peoples and lands which form the Canadian nation, through "volumes sufficiently large to permit adequate treatment of all the phases of the theme in light of modern knowledge" (p. ix). Each volume followed the prescribed format of general narrative, giving a balanced treatment to economic, social, and political history. The editors were fully aware of the difficulties which such constraints would impose on the individual authors, but they were confident that the rewards were worth the risks. With the spirit of Canada's centennial providing the impetus and the burgeoning supply of new archival sources furnishing the raw materials, W.L. Morton and Donald Creighton felt "justified" in publishing a new "cooperative" history of Canada. Motives and approach firmly established, it remained to select the subjects as well as the appropriate authors.

Of the regional histories included in the nineteen volumes, only one, the North, receives substantial treatment in four separate works. Some historians criticized this arrangement, but Morton was quick to defend the decision. His own views are well documented. In 1960, his article "The North in Canadian History" explained the feature that most distinguished Canada from other nations, and in particular the United States. "The difference is the North, the fact that Canada is a northern country with a northern economy, a northern way of life and a northern destiny. I believe it is terribly important that we Canadians should recognize this fact, both in order to keep our own notion of ourselves clear and distinct, and also in order to understand our own destiny." Morton selected Morris Zaslow, an historian who shared a similar view, as the author of the two volumes that deal directly with the North. No other contributor wrote more than one volume in the series. Zaslow was the exception.

The choice of author was, in some respects, a foregone conclusion. No other historian has accumulated as much knowledge about northern studies as Professor Zaslow over his forty-two years of research and teaching. His academic interest began in 1948 with the completion of his M.A. and Ph.D. theses, both based on studies of the Mackenzie Basin, the former from 1870 to 1921, and the latter from 1920 to 1940. That same year he also published an article in the *Canadian Historical Review* entitled "The Frontier Hypothesis in Recent Historiography."