

## BOOK NOTES / RÉFÉRENCES BIBLIOGRAPHIQUES

G.A. Rawlyk, *Ravished by the Spirit: Religious Revivals, Baptists, and Henry Alline* (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press 1984).

THIS COLLECTION of the 1983 Hayward Lectures presented at Acadia University departs from Rawlyk's previous presentation of Alline, to attempt a more sympathetic depiction of the evangelical fervour and piety of the New Light revivalism of the late eighteenth century. Stressing Alline's influence on the social and religious developments of nineteenth-century Atlantic Canada, Rawlyk implies that his intensity and mysticism can "even in the 1980s still energize religious revival and renewal."

P.A. Buckner and David Frank, eds., *The Acadiensis Reader*, Volume I: *Atlantic Canada Before Confederation* and Volume II: *Atlantic Canada After Confederation* (Fredericton: Acadiensis Press 1985).

THIRTY-FOUR *Acadiensis* articles are collected in this two-volume reader, obviously designed to be used in courses on Atlantic Canada. Those with topical, as opposed to regional interests, might have been better-served by a series of more focused volumes on aspects of the Atlantic Canada experience. As it is, this eclectic collection serves to remind all of us of the range and quality of articles that have appeared over the course of the last fifteen years in what is perhaps the best regional scholarly journal in the country. *Labour/*

*Le Travail* readers will be interested in the republication of important studies of poor relief and crimping by Judith Fingard in Volume I. Volume II contains more of direct relevance to labour specialists, including two essays on the economy of Newfoundland by the late David Alexander; Bill Acheson's much-utilized look at the National Policy and industrialization in the Maritimes; the meticulous account of the rise and fall of BESCO by current *Acadiensis* editor David Frank; Jim Sacouman's analysis of the origins of the Antigonish movement; a pioneering article on out-migration by Alan Brookes and Ian McKay's most sophisticated account of strike activity in the region in the immediate pre-World War I years.

Peter Ward, ed., *The Mysteries of Montreal: Memoirs of a Midwife by Charlotte Führer* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press 1984).

PACKAGED in a lurid dust jacket that brings to mind scenes from the escapades of Mr. Hyde, this memoir of a Victorian midwife is a series of sensationalist moral tales. Ward introduces the text with a certain clinical detachment, but if the ideological and material meaning of the reproductive realm is to be enriched by a reading of Führer's account it will require caution and an imaginative as well as theoretical interrogation of writing that blurs fact and fiction for obvious ideological purpose.

Paul-Andre Linteau, translated by Robert Chodos. *The Promoters' City: Building the Industrial Town of Maisonneuve, 1883-1918* (Toronto: Lorimer 1985).

LINTEAU'S AWARD-WINNING study of Maisonneuve (reviewed, *L/IT*, 11 [1983], 239-415) is now available in English translation. Known as "the Pittsburgh of Canada," Maisonneuve was a town of workers, developed and controlled by large landowners, merchants, and manufacturers. If this book fails to explore working-class life with much sensitivity, it does a fuller and better job in its treatment of the promoters.

K.J. Rea and Nelson Wiseman, eds., *Government and Enterprise in Canada* (Toronto: Methuen 1985).

THE ROLE OF government in Canadian economic life is discussed by more than 30 contributors. As Bob White rubs shoulders with Brian Mulroney, Donald Johnson with the NDP, and John McCallum with Ron Wonnacott, it is clear that this is a book designed to encompass all of the mainstream positions.

Jacob Finkelman and Shirley B. Goldenberg, eds., *Collective Bargaining in the Public Service: The Federal Experience in Canada*, Volumes I-II (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy 1983).

READERS OF Panitch and Swartz's "Towards Permanent Exceptionalism" (*L/IT*, 13 [1984], 133-58), may want to consult this dry but thorough account of the development of collective bargaining in the public sector. The "bold experiment" that culminated in the 1967 Public Service Staff Relations Act, however, may be succumbing to newer and even bolder experiments in the 1980s.

Daniel J. Leab, ed., *The Labor History Reader* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press 1985).

INTRODUCED BY David Brody and the late Herbert Gutman, this volume reproduces twenty articles that have appeared in *Labor History* over the course of its first 25 years. The assembled collection starts with David Brody's 1978 historiographical statement on "the old labour history and the new," followed by James Henretta's critique of mobility studies. Then follow articles on the colonial and Jacksonian periods (Nash, Young, and Pessen). The book is strongest on the Gilded Age and Progressive eras, where landmark essays by Montgomery on workers' control, Gutman on railroad communities, Worthman on black workers in Birmingham, Kessler-Harris on women's organizational efforts, and Dubofsky on western radicalism appear. Closing the collection are seven essays on discrete aspects of the post-1920 years, including Sidney Fire's analysis of Frank Murphy and picketing as free speech and Nancy Gabin's arguments about women workers and the auto industry in the immediate post-World War II years. Notable are the absence of treatments of the early national period or much commentary on the post-1960 history of American labour, Dale Newman's study of a southern textile town being the only essay to venture into the contemporary period. The book closes with each author offering some afterthoughts on how more recent work would revise his/her original contribution.

Irving Louis Horowitz, *C. Wright Mills: An American Utopian* (New York: Free Press 1983).

IRVING LOUIS HOROWITZ is the Hannah Arendt Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Political Science at Rutgers University, an odd chair to occupy for a man who has made his reputation as an authority on C. Wright Mills. In this account Mills' potential as a scholar is revered, while his later political activism is caricatured, in the words of the dust jacket, as

descent into "fevered journalistic blandishment." This is in spite of the author's disclaimers, a gossipy book. It does serve one purpose, however, and that is to make clear how thoroughly incapable the scholastic sociological establishment was of dealing with Mills as a presence in its midst. Consider this passage of Edward Shils' *Encounter* review of *The Sociological Imagination*:

Imagine a burly cowpuncher on the long, slow ride from the Panhandle of Texas to Columbia University, carrying in his saddle-bag some books which he reads with absorption while his horse trots along. Imagine that among the books are some novels of Kafka, Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution*, and the essays of Max Weber. Imagine the style and imagery that would result from the interaction of the cowboy student and his studies. . . . The end result of such an imaginary grand tour would be a work like *The Sociological Imagination*.

Horowitz's book reveals this shallow academic response to Mills, but his own analysis of Mills is equally superficial. Mills would not have been pleased.

Lloyd Zimpel, *Foundry Foreman. Foundrymen* (San Pedro 1980); Reg Theriault, *Longshoring on the San Francisco Waterfront* (San Pedro: Singlejack 1978); and Steve Turner, *Night Shift in a Pickle Factory* (San Pedro: Singlejack 1980).

THESE SINGLEJACK Little Books explore work and what it means to the people that do it. Produced to fit easily into pocket or purse, they are inexpensive and are available from Miles & Weir Ltd., Singlejack Books, Box 1906X, San Pedro, California, U.S.A. 90733.

Staughton Lynd, *The Fight Against Shutdowns: Youngstown's Steel Mill Closings* (San Pedro: Singlejack 1982).

LYND EXAMINES THE unfolding crisis in Youngstown from September 1977 to March 1982. It captures what it means to a working-class community when capital

strikes against it and workers' bureaucratized leaders of the international union stand aloof from the struggle.

*International Labour Reports* (a bi-monthly magazine established 1983).

THIS publication of a workers' cooperative is available from Mayday, 300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS England and covers world-wide developments affecting the working class.

Gertrude Himmelfarb, *The Idea of Poverty: England in the Early Industrial Age* (New York: Vintage 1985).

WIDELY-PRAISED, this text explores the ideas of those nineteenth-century figures whose political and economic commentary related to the poor: Adam Smith, Edmund Burke, Jeremy Bentham, Thomas Paine, Thomas Robert Malthus, Friedrich Engels, William Cobbett, Thomas Carlyle, and Henry Mayhew. It thus relates directly to the now fashionable discussions of "the language of class," and closes, appropriately, with the ways in which that language was used in the fictional works about the poor.

Max Beer, *A History of British Socialism* (Nottingham: Spokesman 1984).

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1919, this Spokesman edition of Beer's classic account is introduced by Ken Coates and an earlier appreciation of Beer by R.H. Tawney. Beautifully produced and illustrated, this new edition is a fitting addition to Spokesman's "Socialist Classics."

Richard Dennis, *English Industrial Cities of the Nineteenth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1984).

URBAN GEOGRAPHY and social history merge in this study of nineteenth-century industrial cities in Lancashire, Yorkshire, the West Midlands, and South Wales. Chapters on public transport and the journey to work, the geography of housing,

and the spatial structure of nineteenth-century cities are of importance to labour specialists, but the central chapter is Dennis' discussion of class consciousness and stratification. More methodological and theoretical than empirical, this chapter deals briefly with the language of class in industrial cities and tries to provide an "operational definition of class" rooted in residential and marriage choices. It is not particularly enlightening, producing an awkward eclecticism articulated in conclusions such as this: "From the arguments described in this chapter we can reconstruct a pattern of change: from three weakly defined classes (land, labour, and capital) at the beginning of the century, to two strongly defined and polarised classes (bourgeoisie and proletariat) in some industrial towns, to a multitude of inward-looking status groups, internally united by common economic objectives and intra-group interaction (marriage, church membership, unionism, or a commitment to self-help) later in the century." (199)

Steven Tolliday and Jonathan Zeitlin, eds., *Shop Floor Bargaining and the State: Historical and Comparative Perspectives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985).

TWENTIETH-CENTURY FORMS of collective bargaining in Britain, the United States, and Italy form the foundation on which six particular studies of the shopfloor's relation to the state are explored. Zeitlin introduces the volume with a wide-ranging analysis of the contradictory character of state-trade union relations, a consequence of the state's priorities differing from those of organized labour. Unable to ignore workers' interests, the state is nevertheless capable of dealing with them in diverse ways. As all of the essays reveal, moreover, once specific state policies defining the nature of bargaining are in place, the shop floor becomes an arena of conflict in which workers often acquire

powers quite unanticipated by the various layers of the political economy.

Beatrix Campbell, *Wigan Pier Revisited: Poverty and Politics in the 80s* (London: Virago 1984).

THE ROAD TO Wigan Pier is travelled by feminist Beatrix Campbell, whose journey comes 50 years after Orwell's original "urban ride." As a critical account of poverty and politics in contemporary Britain, Campbell's commentary is also a reassessment of Orwell and of the working class he saw. The book should be read and thought through seriously, for Campbell raises many contentious issues and offers a series of substantial arguments. But the feminist questioning, at times rejection of, the traditional "class politics" of an apparently masculinized trade unionism appears somewhat suspect in light of recent developments. As Ralph Miliband points out in an argument that engages Campbell and many others, in her chapter on the miners, written in 1982, Campbell was quick to note the fading of support for militant industrial action, adding that this confirmed a suspicion that "gone are the old ways of fighting the class war." (114) She also noted that the miners lived within a "cult of masculinity in work and play and politics," which thrived "only in exclusive masonries of men with their secret codes which render women immigrants in their own communities." (98) By the time the book appeared, however, the miners were engaged in the Great Strike of 1983-4 and the women of those striking communities, no longer apparently aliens, were organizing support groups and picket lines that aimed to preserve, not exclusive masonries of men with secret codes, but a way of life that embraced men, women, and children in an open, public class way. For all of her revisionist feminist skepticism, Campbell has probed — in the case of the miners at least — only the surface of class and gender relations.

Theda Skocpol, ed., *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1984).

EIGHT ESSAYS comment on specific figures prominent in the development of historical sociology, among them Marc Bloch, Perry Anderson, Edward Thompson, and Immanuel Wallerstein. Skocpol sets the stage with an account of "sociology's historical imagination," an imagination that, in Thompson's case, has a place for *The Making of the English Working Class*, but only cursory acknowledgement of *Whigs and Hunters*.

Joe Elster, *Making Sense of Marx* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1985).

AN AGNOSTIC assessment of Marx, this text argues that Marx was, in many particulars, wrong. More sympathetic to Marx's critique of capitalism and his analysis of the significance of alienation and exploitation than to his economic

theories or elaboration of historical materialism. Elster perhaps conveniently divorces philosophy/economics in Marx from his theory of history. These, after all, were developed and argued through as part of a whole. Elster's supermarket approach to Marx -- pick what you want -- ignores this dependency of the particulars.

B.D.P.

Andrea J. Tucher, comp., *Agriculture in America, 1622-1860* (New York and London: Garland Publishing 1984).

THIS IS A bibliography of the printed works on early American agriculture found in the collections of the American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Library Company of Philadelphia, none of which are repositories well known to the general public. For that reason the bibliography has some, if limited use. Actually, this is not a bibliography in the scholarly sense of the term, but rather a reprinting of the

reproduced in Labor's Joke Book



"Poor Buhle, he's spent years trying to overthrow the social order by farce."

Collin Allan

three libraries' index cards. The entries contain information on author, title, place of publication, printer or publisher, date of publication, and physical description of the book: exactly the sort of information useful to the collector of antique books. There is, however, very little in the way of annotation and the few comments made on individual volumes are of an antiquarian, rather than a scholarly, character. It is hard to see what use this volume could be to social historians of any sort, labour, agricultural, or technological. Indeed, one would be at a loss to explain its provenance, save for the fact that in 1977 the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation gave the three societies a grant "to increase the scholarly usefulness" of their

collections, and, presumably the money had to be spent.

D.H.A.

Paul Buhle, ed., *Labor's Joke Book* (St. Louis, MO: WD Press 1985).

THIS 64-PAGE compendium of American labour humour should be in all labour historians' and trade unionists' libraries. Divided into four sections covering origins, 1900-30, 1930-70, and the present. Buhle's compendium is profusely illustrated with cartoons, comics, jokes, limericks, and stories. The volume also contains an introduction, a bibliography, and an index. One example must suffice.

G.S.K.

*1986 North American  
Labor History Conference*

October 23 to 25, 1986

University of Toronto

Toronto, Canada

*1946 and After:*

*North American Labor in the Post-War Years*

CALL FOR PAPERS

The eighth annual North American Labor History Conference will be held this year in Toronto, Canada on October 23-25, 1986. The conference title is "1946 and After: North American Labor in the Post-War Years." The conference's programme committee invites proposals for papers. Please send a one-page abstract. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 1986. The programme will focus on five general themes: labor legislation, important strikes, women workers, labor and politics, and the public sector. It is hoped these topics will encourage new work on post-war working-class and labor history, some comparative (Canadian-American) papers and/or broader syntheses. Proposals should be sent to: Professor Laurel Sefton MacDowell, History Department, Erindale College, University of Toronto in Mississauga, Mississauga, L5L 1C6, Canada.

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