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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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world, and a foundation upon which to build future research. However, while the threads that connect these works are drawn out and elaborated, the essays provide only a snapshot of a small number of very specific places, topics, and periods in time. Much has been left unexamined and unexplained. Several regions have been underrepresented or are excluded altogether. For example, the entirety of West Africa and Canada are limited to one study each. It would also be refreshing to see a greater representation of Indigenous peoples, and their impact on the material culture of the Atlantic region. This is explored by Alison Stanley in her work on seventeenth-century praying towns—constructed

for Indigenous inhabitants of Massachusetts—but it is an area deserving of far more attention. These gaps are understandable given the vastness of the topic and the breadth of material examined, but it would be risky to presume that the trends outlined in this book are reflective of the entirety of the British Atlantic region and those who dwelled within it. This is particularly the case considering the recent prevalence and success of studies that are specific and contextual rather than broad and overarching. Given the enormity of the topics undertaken, this book will be most useful to those interested in specific chapters or sections, rather than as an encompassing and singular study of the British Atlantic world.

## SARAH MACINNES

Review of

Campbell, Claire Elizabeth, ed. 2011. *A Century of Parks Canada, 1911-2011*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press.

Pp. 458, 19 maps, 44 colour and b&w images. Includes notes, references, appendices, and index. ISBN 978-1-55238-526-5, (E-pub) 978-5238-558-6, \$34.95.

The Canadian national parks system has become an institution that is representative of many Canadian ideals, in particular the preservation, protection, and promotion of some of Canada's most treasured landscapes. Since it was founded in 1911, its parks have been subject to substantial change, shaped by the ever-evolving needs and desires of the Canadian public.

In *A Century of Parks Canada, 1911-2011*, editor Claire Elizabeth Campbell explores the history of Canada's national parks through the works of multiple contributors. Focusing on the growth and evolution of the institution during its first hundred years, the collection shares stories from across the country, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the world's first national park system. The authors describe the difficulties and challenges faced by an organisation that was truly navigating the unknown, as parks staff at the national level were met with an ever-increasing number of unique sites that were spread across the vast expanse of the Great White North.

Campbell notes early on that her goal is not to present a typical institutional history, and in

that she is successful. *A Century of Parks Canada* goes far beyond what that the reader may expect from this collection, painting a detailed portrait of the relationship between Canada's levels of government, the national parks service, and the diverse Canadian public. Throughout these essays, the reader can expect to gain a better understanding of the uniqueness of Canada's national parks, and the distinctive challenges that each location faces. Campbell and the other authors provide a fair and balanced view of some of the trials and triumphs that stemmed from the development of the service, and provide modern readers with a deeper understanding of the way in which it has adapted over the past century.

In her introduction to the collection, Campbell notes that the writers of the enclosed essays did something unusual by making an effort to come together a number of times throughout the writing process to discuss themes and connections that were emerging between their works. The collection benefits tremendously from this choice. Each piece, while focusing on independent issues, weaves together to provide the reader

with a more complete and deeper understanding of the issues that have and continue to face the Canadian national parks system. A common thread found throughout the works is that the service's administrators have always struggled to balance the wants and needs of the public and government officials, all while working to stay true to their mandate. The authors point out that, for much of their history, parks have had to juggle the need to protect spaces and landscapes of national significance while still providing tourism and revenue generation opportunities. Through their discussion of different parks and related issues from across the country, they effectively articulate how officials faced these challenges and the ways in which their methods of dealing with them have evolved over time.

In reading *A Century of Parks Canada*, one key element is missing from the story of Canada's national park service: its national historic sites. With now almost 200 sites across the country,

the Agency's services and vision have been shaped by the need to address the dramatically different demands of Parks Canada places, from Banff National Park to the Wrecks of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site. By acknowledging the important connection between national parks and national historic sites, the collection would have offered a more complete view of how the current-day parks system came to be.

This does not, however, detract from the quality and fullness of the pieces that are presented, and in the end *A Century of Parks Canada* is a strong and much needed addition to the field of Canadian Studies. The collection sheds light on how we, as Canadians, understand and interact with the public spaces that are our national parks. At the same time, the authors remind us how far Canada's national parks and Parks Canada Agency have come, and what possibilities await in the future.

## DAVID P. STEPHENS

Review of

Twitchell, James B. 2014. *Winnebago Nation: The RV in American Culture*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Pp. 192, 47 photos and illustrations, references, acknowledgements, and index. ISBN 978-0-231-16778-9, \$26.00.

In *Winnebago Nation: The RV in American Culture*, author James B. Twitchell invites the reader to drive into the heart and soul of a central aspect of American highway culture: the tinted-windshield, air-conditioned, modern-day recreational vehicle, or RV. Along the way, he exposes the various underpinnings that gave rise to the American cult-like notion of life on the road.

Each of the five chapters present a unique aspect of RV culture. The book is also filled with photos, diagrams, and vintage advertising images, including two full-colour centre spreads of visionary artist Leonard Knight's powerful Salvation Mountain and his equally colourful art

truck or "RV." Collectively, these various images paint a visual narrative to accompany Twitchell's diverse commentary on RVs. The book is also supported by Twitchell's first-person reflections of living in an RV, travelling highways and back roads like some free-spirited, youthful, romantic nomad. However, as Twitchell points out, he is not unlike the majority of drivers of RVs who are "most often of a certain age—Geritol gypsies" (4). Throughout, Twitchell presents his findings in a lighthearted style, using humour and dry wit to actively engage his audience.

The author suggests that one reason why the notion of existing and travelling within a self-contained home on wheels is "so often