
John H. Taylor
The Canadian Illustrated News (1869-1883) and its French counter — L'Opinion publique (1870-1883) were among the first lavishly-illustrated weeklies to appear in Canada, corresponding to similar journals in the United States and Britain. Both used the “leggotype” process of reproduction and both were considered outstanding examples of their genre. About half their 16 weekly pages were devoted to illustrations of “... the majesty of nature in Canada, great architectural achievements, historical monuments, factories and great events” (p. 12).

This Parks Canada volume represents a systematic survey of the two journals with the aim of building an inventory of Canadian buildings illustrated in them.

It was obviously considerable. Citations to some 2,000 buildings, from commercial establishments to monuments, are embraced by the index.

The main body of the inventory will be especially amenable to urban historians: it is organized alphabetically by place. References to each building are then listed chronologically, with basic information about each, including the architect, and builder, and, where applicable, the date of destruction or demolition.

Well-organized general and street indexes permit fast cross-referencing, for example to owners and architects.

An excellent introductory section provides a reader’s guide to both the content of the inventory and the history of the two journals, as well as a brief bibliography of additional reference material.

The inventory provides fast access to a considerable source of Victorian building in Canada, of obvious use to the student of the city, whether searching for material evidence or for illustration.

Copies of this volume are available free of charge by writing Research Publications, Parks Canada, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ottawa K1A 1G2.


This volume is clearly a labour of love by two adopted Yellowknifers, and is intended as a palatable introduction for the outsider to the capital and only city of the Northwest Territories.

It is a “booster” publication, perhaps more important to the scholar for its evident sense of a city growing conscious of itself after only some 60 years of existence.

There are brief sections on Yellowknife’s history, its economy, its community and its activities through the season. All are lavishly illustrated with the sympathetic colour photography of Barfod.

Academic apparatus, from analysis to footnotes, is completely absent. So, too, is a bibliography.

Yellowknife is pleasant to read and even more pleasant to look at, but as an historical tool it is basically an artifact that illustrates a stage in the growth of a frontier community.

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Students of the city and of the urban process in Quebec will welcome this publication by the INRS: Urbanisation, of Montreal.

The bibliography, prepared by Hélène Houde, covers reports, working documents, books, articles, conferences and theses produced since 1970 by researchers and certain of their collaborators at INRS.

Some of the material has been published directly by INRS. Much of it, however, represents material published in other vehicles, for example, reviews, by scholars associated with the institute. Much is historical in orientation.

Three inventories are provided: list of works by author, an index by subject, and a list of materials which have already appeared in either “Etudes et documents” or in “Rapports de recherche.”

Writing of local history by gifted young professionals has had a recent renaissance in Ontario. This volume is one of the best examples of the genre.

It is a commissioned history, designed to celebrate the bicentennial of a rural and recreational township near Smith’s Falls, on the Rideau waterway system, south of Ottawa.

But it is more than just a pastiche of local lore and folk tales. It is a competent study of a local community by a trained historian who spent more than two years in the research and writing.

For students of the rural hinterlands of major Canadian centres, it is a valuable addition to the bibliography.

It is available from the Township of South Elmsley, Lombardy, Ontario, K0G 1L0.

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