

Broadfoot, Barry. *The Immigrant Years: From Europe to Canada 1945-1967*. Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1986. Pp. 240. \$22.95

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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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temps sur les historiens . . . et leurs idéologies. Il faudrait trouver une version de ce livre écrite en 1980, en un temps ou des convictions coloraient encore les pages imprimées, pour faire la comparaison . . .

Quel jugement porter sur cet ouvrage? Il a les défauts de ses qualités. Il fera la joie des professeurs, des étudiants et d'un certain public cultivé, puisqu'il témoigne bien de l'état de l'historiographie québécoise, fait le point sur nos connaissances dans un effort de synthèse habilement figolé. Et bien sûr, les vides, l'impression que l'on a parfois que le Québec commence à Sorel pour se terminer à Valleyfield, sont à reprocher largement à l'état des recherches: après tout, la majorité des chercheurs en histoire oeuvrent à Montréal . . . Et j'y pense, la majorité des lecteurs s'y trouvent aussi! Enfin, l'ambition de tout traiter donne à l'ensemble l'allure d'un «patchwork»: il y est question de tout, ou presque . . . mais on ne trouve sur un sujet précis qu'une toute petite pièce.

Le «patchwork» est cependant superbe, l'ouvrage remplira magnifiquement son objectif, et il est déjà promu «manuel» dans mon cours d'histoire du Québec!

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Broadfoot, Barry. *The Immigrant Years: From Europe to Canada 1945-1967*. Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1986. Pp. 240. \$22.95.

The Immigrant Years, the most recent collection of oral interviews by Barry Broadfoot, documents an important immigration era that Canadian historians are only beginning to examine. Broadfoot limits his book to British and continental European immigrants whom he views as sharing a common interest in escaping the aftermath of the Second World War. These immigrants also constituted the majority of admissions before the removal of open racial discrimination from Canada's immigration policy in the 1960s. Although a few excerpts from interviews with immigrants of the 1960s are included, most stories are told by immigrants who arrived in the years immediately after the war: war brides coming to join husbands whom they hardly recognized in a foreign environment; displaced persons seeking a new home; and others attracted by reports of better economic conditions in Canada. Several who talked to Broadfoot, including a German who had fought against the Canadians in the war, chose Canada because they had been impressed by the conduct of the Canadian troops.

The reader may dip into this book at any point as each excerpt is a separate unit. Nevertheless, certain themes do

emerge from the stories. Immigrants describe the networks they used to facilitate migration and adaptation. Repeatedly, both British and continental European immigrants comment on receiving assistance from relatives or friends in Canada. European immigrants without personal contacts often found comfort and support in ethnic neighbourhoods or associations. A number were directed to Kensington Market, Toronto, where shop owners welcomed newcomers, helping to arrange employment as well as providing services in a familiar way. A Winnipeg landlady noticed ads for Ukrainian social clubs in the *Free Press* and obtained the address for her unhappy lodger who spoke no English. Other immigrants found a social centre at their church. Those who sought companionship through ethnic associations fared better than the lonely Greek immigrant who tried to get a date by approaching young women at a University of British Columbia bus stop.

Post-war immigrants quickly learned that ethnic prejudice and discrimination against immigrants still existed in Canada. British immigrants were surprised to encounter hostility from Canadians who regarded them as unwelcome competitors for jobs. Continental European immigrants from professional or skilled backgrounds resented being considered inferior and only suited for menial jobs Canadians did not want. Women working as maids felt insulted when employers carefully explained to them in elementary terms the use of equipment in Canadian homes. Others, including those who were children at school, remember the hurt of being stigmatized a "dumb D. P." Yet the discrimination is in part offset by stories of unexpected assistance from people met by chance, from authorities, or from neighbours.

The immigrants who told their experiences to Broadfoot survived and succeeded in their new country, usually through very hard work, sometimes coupled with a spirit of enterprise and strategies to circumvent restrictive regulations. Some, like the British war brides who took the Thousand Dollar Cure, only became satisfied with their lives in Canada after a visit home. All contribute to the growing interest in post-war immigration. Unfortunately, the accounts are not as useful as they might be had Broadfoot identified at least the background, age, and year of arrival of the speaker. This important biographical context could have been supplied without compromising the anonymity of the person interviewed.

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Adam, Ian. *Glass Canyons*. Edmonton: NeWest Press, 1985. Pp. 190. \$17.95 cloth; \$7.95 paper.