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Wright, Donald. *The Professionalization of History in English Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. Pp x, 270, index $45.00 (hardcover)

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Cette technique inusitée, si elle a l'avantage d'épargner à l'auteur la connaissance détaillée des sources de l'iconographie, le contexte exact de la production artistique, les attributs stylistiques et symboliques d'œuvres comparables—toutes choses chères à Panofsky—prive néanmoins le lecteur de ce qu'il aurait pu quérir dans pareil ouvrage, à savoir l'imaginaire encodé dans les dites représentations, tel qu'il aurait pu être reçu et véhiculé à l'époque de leur publication. En effet, malgré la synthèse assez soignée des événements et des enjeux géopolitiques contemporains des œuvres, la contextualisation de celles-ci, dans la foulée des « énoncés descriptifs », tient plutôt d'une curieuse dyslexie méthodologique au fil de laquelle l'auteur met en parallèle, d'une part l'image produite, disons, en 1760, d'autre part le discours issu, lui, d'études publiées quelque deux siècles plus tard : par exemple, pour démontrer que certaines images de Short (1761) invitent à se réjouir du « succès de la politique conquérante et impérialiste », l'auteur invoque cette citation, « Combien ironique cette église représentée à l'état de ruines [...] » extraite d'un travail de Douglas Schoenherr de... 1984. En d'autres mots, les sources sont interprétées à la lumière d'études qui ont, au XXe siècle, exploré celles-ci.

À défaut des outils d'analyse qui auraient permis à l'auteur de véritablement innover, soit en dévoilant un aspect peu connu du XVIIIe siècle canadien (ce qui était son intention, louablement novatrice), soit en révélant l'impact des représentations analysées au fil du XXe siècle, l'ouvrage se limite donc à une forme de réagencement des savoirs produits par les nombreuses études abondamment citées. Certes, cette critique ressortit davantage à la *thèse* qu'au livre et la soutenance de celle-ci est probablement garante, en partie au moins, de la qualité de l'ouvrage.

L'édition, elle, s'en tire moins honorablement. On connaît habituellement deux formats aux ouvrages illustrés : soit les images sont regroupées en un cahier où le lecteur peut les consulter au fil de sa lecture, soit elles sont insérées dans le texte, de sorte que le lecteur les ait immédiatement sous les yeux au moment où elles y sont invoquées. Cet ouvrage-ci métisse les deux principes, ce qui multiplie les inconvénients de chacun : du fait d'un graphisme de type « traitement de texte », les images sont en effet chacune seule sur une page, mais intercalées un peu partout, ce qui transforme la consultation de l'ouvrage en un véritable parcours du combattant. À la rigueur, ce défaut d'édition importerait peu s'il servait la qualité de l'illustration du livre, évidemment cruciale compte tenu du sujet : mais la qualité d'impression des soixante images en noir et blanc d'environ 11 cm par 8 cm, que n'aide pas le papier choisi, tend plutôt à évoquer d'autres préoccupations de l'éditeur.

Il est des ouvrages où le sujet est un prétexte à l'élaboration d'un appareil méthodologique considérable et d'autres où la méthodologie se dissimule, comme dans un roman, derrière des pages où on se sent pénétré du sujet. Celui-ci appartient définitivement à la première de ces deux catégories, ce qui hélas le confinera peut-être au cénacle des universitaires représentés par les membres du jury qui ont encadré et avalisé la thèse. Mais on ne pourrait que souhaiter aux images en question et à l'auteur de se révéler au public québécois sous un jour meilleur où l'intérêt des unes et l'habileté de l'autre se dévoileraient à leur juste valeur. Il faut en effet féliciter l'auteur de ce premier pas dans un riche univers qui gagne encore à être exploré, et d'avoir abordé celui-ci avec une grande intuition ; espérons donc que son prochain ouvrage lui permettra de poursuivre plus avant ses recherches et ses quêtes méthodologiques dans un domaine qui n'a pas fini de nous révéler ses secrets, celui des représentations de la ville et du pouvoir.

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Wright, Donald. *The Professionalization of History in English Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. Pp x, 270, index $45.00 (hardcover).

In this book, Donald Wright examines the professionalization of history in English Canada during the first half of the twentieth century. During these decades, he argues, the preservation and writing of history, previously the domain of amateurs, came under the purview of professionals, people (usually men) trained and hired by universities, who worked according to new scientific methods. In the attempt to cultivate "expertise, authority, and status"(3) the members of this new discipline determined what "history" consisted of and who could call themselves "historians." It is thus a story not only of the development of one discipline, but also the process of professionalization, the spread of the research ideal, the institutional development of universities, and the way in which these developments affected the creation and control of knowledge.

Beginning in the 1890s, Wright argues, history was gradually transformed "from an avocation to a vocation"(29). In the late-nineteenth century, men and women who loved history collected and preserved artifacts and documents, founded historical societies and museums, and wrote pamphlets and monographs, often with the purpose of cultivating Canadian identity and preserving imperial ties. In the first half of the twentieth century "professionals" gradually replaced these "amateurs." Universities appointed historians who in turn created departments and solidified and unified a discipline. University-trained historians emphasized the importance of archival research, historical methodology, and graduate training, thus delineating new forms of historical practice. They raised their status and authority by creating a professional association and journal. This "boundary-work" helped determine, and limit, who could gain access into, and claim membership in, this new profession.

Wright eschews a Whiggish interpretation of the "rise" of the historical profession, instead arguing that one type of historical practice replaced another. The latter approach, he points out, allows us to see the costs of professionalization, such as the exclusion of women, the prioritization of particular types of history, and its privatization. Yet, he argues, and this is his overarching theme, there were also important continuities between past and present historical practice.

The professionalization of history, Wright demonstrates, involved its masculinization. Although women were central in the nineteenth century to the writing and preservation of history, as history became embedded within the university, they were pushed to the margins. History became defined as a masculine endeavour, requiring reason, decisiveness, and broad interpretation rather than the ostensibly feminine qualities of emotion and intuition. Some historians did support women, and often they recognized female graduates as superior to their male counterparts. But, in general, ingrained beliefs about male and female intellectual abilities and social position led male academics to exclude women from student historical clubs, separate men and women in seminars, and rank women below men for scholarships and academic positions. The sexism that prevented many women from continuing on in history also shaped what was considered historically significant. Wright recounts a wonderful example in which the *Review of Historical Publications* denigrated as insignificant the reprinting of an 1816 letter by a Saint John Woman by the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto in their 1914–15 *Annual Report and Transactions* , because it mentioned only the latest fashions and styles of furniture. The professionalization of history was also its privatization. History increasingly became a conversation among professionals, who used technical language. Local historical societies, while still considered important to the collection and preservation of documents, were increasingly marginalized by historians who eschewed their "heroic" (and especially as written by women, their emotional and romantic) approach to the past.

There were also, however, continuities between the approach of "amateurs" and "professionals." Wright argues that facts and values have always been interconnected for historians. In the nineteenth century nationalists drew on history to convey Canada's Loyalist and Tory past and its imperial connections. In the 1920s and '30s historians drew on social science methods and the resulting emphasis prioritized facts over values. However, in the 1940s and 1950s, in the face of war and the perceived threat to democracy posed by fascism and communism, historians rearticulated the need to forcefully emphasize history's moral aims and to make history accessible to the public. As Wright notes in his conclusion, historians' debates in the 1990s over the purpose and aims of history echoed those earlier in the century.

Wright places his work within a historiographical debate over the emergence of the social sciences. There are other literatures that also could have been usefully employed. In showing that historians did not sever social scientific methods from humanistic ideals, Wright's work falls within an emerging historiography on North American religion and the modern university which argues, like Wright, that despite a process of change and modernization at the turn of the century, nineteenth-century moral thought continued to shape the intellectual landscape well into the twentieth century. This literature might have helped shed light on some lingering questions: Was the moral imperative changed by the aims and insights of social science? Or, in other words, did the "amateurs" of the nineteenth century mean the same thing as the "professionals" of the mid-twentieth century when they evoked the need for history to elucidate the "moral good" and provide a civilizing influence? Moreover, did professional historians (with their disparate political and religious affiliations) all mean the same thing when they evoked these concepts? Similarly, Wright's is an important contribution to the history of the professionalization of a particular discipline. It might have been useful to know how the process of professionalization within this discipline compared to that of other areas, and in particular the experience of female historians to their counterparts in other fields. On a less substantive critical note, Wright has been ill served by the editorial staff of the Press—the note numbers in chapter one do not correspond to the endnotes.

Overall, Wright provides a thoughtful history of the historical profession and the pitfalls of the process of professionalization. It is a well-written book, which engages the reader, and it makes an important contribution to our understanding of the nature of Canadian history and more generally, the development of the modern university.

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Wong, John Chi-Kit. *The Lords of the Rinks: The Emergence of the National Hockey League, 1875–1936,* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. Pp viii, 235, index, illustrations. $32.95 (paper).

This well-researched and clearly written account of the early history of the National Hockey League (NHL) provides an explanation of how various stakeholder groups, club directors, promoters, arena owners, players, fans, the media, rival leagues and the three levels of government contributed to the building of a complex and integrated professional hockey network. From the late nineteenth century until today, hockey has been a game of many different guises, from shinny contests on frozen lakes, to youth and recreational hockey for both men and women, to high-school and collegiate games, to the elite amateur and professional games directed at attracting broad audiences. In this study, however, one will find little mention of hockey played outside of major metropolitan centers, or by women or people of colour, or of the development of the game in small towns in hinterland areas, on the Prairies, in rural Quebec or in the Maritimes.

Wong's interest is in hockey as a commercial enterprise, and the development of a highly urbanized hockey network that mirrored the growing inter and intra-urban systems of transportation, communications and commercial interaction. Having gained relatively unfettered access to the NHL's previously unexamined archives for the interwar period, Wong concentrates on the development of hockey as a business, outlining the transition from fraternal, albeit commercialized organizations committed to elite amateur competition, to the closed corporations that organizations such as the National Hockey Association (NHA), the Pacific Coast Hockey Association (PSHA), and the NHL eventu-