

Beverly Boutilier and Alison Prentice, eds. *Creating Historical Memory: English-Canadian Women and the Work of History*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1997. Pp. xii, 308.

This pioneering anthology aims to introduce us to the ways in which women have contributed to the writing of English-Canadian history, and succeeds admirably. In their introduction the editors raise important questions about "the legitimacy of amateur/professional dichotomy as applied to the term 'historian'" (4) and about "just how closely allied historical professionalization was to the masculinization of history" (5)—themes pursued by most of the authors. Careful research is wedded to excellent narrative writing in ten chapters, organized into four sections, about women doing historical work, both as individuals and collectively. It is a tribute to editors and contributors that this challenging book is such a delightful read.

In perhaps my favourite chapter, Jean Barman effectively puts to rest any lingering doubts that female historians might prove to be a dull lot by examining the life of Constance Lindsay Skinner. Here is a woman whose story begs for big screen treatment. She crossed paths with the likes of Jack London and (more intimately) Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and expressed strong views about experiential history and the links between literature and historical writing, both living by and suffering for her brand of history.

By contrast, Dianne Hallman considers the views of the quite different, more conservative and proper Agnes Maule Machar on Canadian nationalism and her contributions to the writing of history, particularly popular history for young people. Terry Crowley offers a balanced study of how Isabel Skelton sought to write women back into Canadian history while negotiating her role as "the wife of" and her identity as an intellectual. In these chapters—and those on Sarah Anne Curzon by Beverly Boutilier, on Esther Clark Wright by Barry Moody, and on Kathleen Wood-Legh by Megan Davies and Colin Coates—we see women struggling to work as historians despite the demands placed on them by circumstances and social context. In some cases the challenge became to balance research and writing time with married life and children; in others, it was to continue scholarly work despite illness, inadequate incomes, or overt job discrimination.

Another set of articles examines collective efforts of women who embraced the work of history writing. Elizabeth Smyth explores three Ontario examples of the "community-oriented historical work undertaken by women religious." (102) She emphasized the sustained purposeful intent of their research and writing through shifts in approaches and methods in their histories of their orders within the Roman Catholic church. Linda Ambrose explicitly takes up debates about the value of the "amateur" historians' contributions in relation to the positions adopted by several "professional" historians in her account of the organized actions of the Ontario Women's Institutes in collecting and preserving local histories. The major concern for both the women religious and the members of the Women's Institute was preserving history that would otherwise likely be lost because it was

about women or about small rural or local settings. In other words, there was political meaning to their historical endeavours.

Politics dominate the events recorded by Alison Prentice and Deborah Gorham. Describing how female graduate students and historians sought to enter the professoriate in the first half of the twentieth-century, Prentice makes clear those women who succeeded did so only because many women had been occupied in storming the walls of male-dominated academe. She raises interesting questions about why women found it easier to secure and hold appointments in departments of history in western Canadian universities (Margaret Ormsby and Hilda Neatby being but two outstanding examples). Gorham carries the story forward by recounting efforts to introduce women's history courses into various departments around the country during the 1970s. Examining the struggles and achievements of a strong group of female historians, Gorham questions the role of feminist analysis in historical interpretation, noting how the rhetoric and practices of professionalism can dilute feminist critique and co-opt women into traditional, masculinist approaches to history.

To their credit, Boutillier and Prentice make no grand claims for their book, insisting it is but the beginning of a more thorough and complete story. They particularly acknowledge that the lives explored come primarily from the white, Anglo-Celtic segment of society, and are not necessarily "typical of the women who have taken up the work of history..." (9) Despite these cautions, this book provides a welcome introduction to some of the women who devoted themselves to the creation of historical memory and serves to remind us (again) of how easily women's work and struggles for recognition can be forgotten.

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Paul Anisef, Paul Axelrod, Etta Baichman-Anisef, Carl James and Anton Turriffin, *Opportunity and Uncertainty: Life Course Experiences of the Class of '73*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000. Pp. 327.

Paul Anisef and his colleagues revisit familiar ground in his latest volume exploring the post-high school experiences of the Ontario class of 1973. Originally conceived by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities as a one-time project to better understand the post-secondary education choices of high school seniors, Anisef extended the life of the project many times over resulting in a 22-year perspective on the lives of these (now not so young) Ontarians. This research, the first longitudinal study of its kind in Canada, is updated in this book with results of the 1994-95 follow-up surveys and interviews.

As with previous publications and papers, this new work continues to explore the effects of socio-economic status, geography, gender, race and the immigrant experience on the educational, economic and social outcomes of the 1973 graduates. The authors report their data concisely in clean prose, supplementing the text with tables to provide details of survey results or to explain the interactions among