

## Book Reviews

*Out of the Past — Digs and Artifacts in the Saskatoon Area*, edited by Urve Linnamae and Tim E.H. Jones. Saskatoon: Saskatoon Archaeological Society, 1988. Pp. 191.

*Out of the Past* consists of twelve articles which commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Saskatoon Archaeological Society. The strength of the society and its very real contribution to the understanding of both Saskatchewan and Saskatoon archaeology is very evident in even the most cursory reading of the volume. In the second essay, "People, Potsherds and Projectile Points" by Tim Jones, Muriel Carlson and T.R. Smith, the importance of A.S. Morton, that indefatigable historian who wrote what still remains the definitive history of the pre-1870 Canadian west and founded the Saskatchewan Archives, in setting the pace for community involvement is very evident. Icons like Grant MacEwan, onetime lieutenant governor of Alberta, and J.W.T. Spinks, president emeritus of the University of Saskatchewan, are all associated with the history of the society. While this essay is a better-than-usual anniversary summary, the authors missed an opportunity to place the activities of this very important society in the context of western Canadian and even Canadian intellectual or recreational historiography.

Most of the other essays are worth pondering, and can and should be read by both historians and generalists. Dale Russell's "Native Groups in the Saskatoon Area in the 1700's and 1800's" is an excellent outline of the debates that are being waged over the Native occupations of the Saskatoon area. I have not read better. Urve Linnamae's "The Tschetter Site: A Prehistoric Bison Pound in the Parklands" is also a fascinating summary of bison pounds, although it says little that is new.

Disappointing, however, is the essay by Olga Klimko, "The Marr Residence: Field Hospital and Home." It is difficult to determine whether it is the article or the discipline of historical archaeology which is so deficient. The article consists of a description drawn from archival records of the house. This is followed by a detailed summary of the mechanics of the on-site dig. The laundry list of findings is impressive, but one is tempted to ask "so what?" There are no intellectual questions posed of the material; consequently the conclusions are vague and uninspired. The major observation seems to be that "the burial of a dog and pigeon indicate . . . an emotional attachment by the owner" and that "various personal activities . . . include hunting, gardening, training pigeons, recreational games and smoking" (p. 130). Hardly conclusions worth the several thousand dollars it probably took to excavate the site. Weak models and weaker analysis seem to be typical of Canadian historical archaeology (see, for example, the dozens of manuscript reports produced by the Canadian Parks

Service, also known as Parks Canada, and Environment Canada-Parks, and so discretely deposited in all provincial archives). Perhaps I am simply sighing the historians' sigh — when will archaeologists learn to write so that they can be understood by more than just other archaeologists?

Ernie Walker's essay on Tipperary Creek also fails to do justice to that complex of sites (tipi rings, bison kill sites and habitations sites, and so on) which tell so much about Saskatoon's Native heritage. The proposed interpretation centre at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, particularly if it contains an imaginative exhibit and public interpretation program, will not only be a boost to tourism, but will build a bridge between Native and non-Native much as Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump has done in Alberta.

All in all, however, this book is a worthwhile read and can be recommended to any who want an understanding of the archaeology of the Saskatoon area. The Saskatoon Archaeological Society is to be congratulated for its contribution over the last fifty years and for its production of this volume. Despite my sniping, it is an outstanding example of the type of publication many archaeological and even historical societies could emulate.

Frits Pannekoek  
Historical Resources  
Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism

*The Gibraltar: Socialism and Labor in Butte, Montana, 1895-1920*, by Jerry W. Calvert. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1988. Pp. 189.

The author describes this book in the preface as an attempt "to reveal for the first time the richness and power of an indigenous radical heritage" (p. vii). To accomplish this he explores the radical milieu of Butte, Montana, perhaps the most famous mining community in the United States at the turn of the century. The city was best known for the titanic struggles between the "copper kings," the battles of three entrepreneurs for control of the copper ore deposits beneath Butte. Eventually both city and state were dominated by one powerful mining company. This essential fact had a profound influence on life and work in Butte, helping to create class tensions which on occasion flared into open struggle. Calvert argues that while historians have devoted considerable attention to the complex corporate manoeuvres that shaped the city's development, its important labour history has been virtually ignored. His book is intended to redress this neglect, to delineate the character of what he calls a "protracted working-class rebellion."

The author devotes most of his attention to two facets of "the working-class insurgency that dominated the city from 1895 to 1920" (p. 11): the strategies of political groups which challenged the hegemony of the Democrats and Republicans, and the efforts of various labour unions to wring concessions from