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Jackson, John N. and Sheila M. Wilson. *St. Catharines: Canada's Canal City*. St. Catharines, St. Catharines Standard, 1993 [originally 1992]. Pp. xiii, 413. Illustrations, maps, graphs, bibliography. ISBN 0-919549-24-1.

Elwood H. Jones

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us with detail, implying evaluation, but never delivering a thematic point of view. At times the text presents an account of CACP views and records that is far too accepting.

The Gervais book is a very local history, undoubtedly enjoyed by those familiar with the many persons mentioned, and well-suited to its centennial commission. It is too enthusiastic in its border-town emphasis upon hard-nosed policing, insisting upon adjectives such as *hard-boiled*, *tough*, and *belligerent*, while describing police officers as “fighters” or “scrappers.” Yet there is also something about the book that is informative beyond “border-town,” and illustrative of the historic character of Canadian municipal policing. It captures the male, working-class occupational environment of taverns and brawls, of which the police were participants in every sense. Much of the early civic experience of police misconduct had to do with their drinking. Gervais conveys how marginally respectable and competent our early police were. Gervais reckons that the police in Windsor were on the track to reform by the mid-1930s, even as he discusses a major corruption scandal after World War II. He presents an interesting line-up of characters—police officers who become progressively more bland, at least in his treatment of them, as we move nearer the present; by the 1960s his roll-call is shadowy indeed.

Marquis, who has written of policing in St. John, Charlottetown, and Toronto, and especially has considered the working-class character of policing and the role of police unions, had the support of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police for the research and publication of this work in the Osgoode Society series. The support seems to have restrained him. He resorts to almost a book within a book to narrate a general history of the

evolution of Canadian policing, while at the same time he juxtaposes a faithful chronicle of the association from its founding in 1905. The association history becomes an account of successful efforts to secure career opportunities for Canadian police personnel, and in some measure to promote an aura of professionalism, while on the other hand describing a litany of failures in the area of public policy. The chiefs' early concerns about criminal law, and their failed periodic attempts to seek amendments, have a familiar ring in the 1990s. They complain, for example, of police unions, and in 1918 seek legislation to have them banned; they succeed only in reinforcing a federal government intent to prohibit unions in the Royal North-West Mounted Police. (117–18) They object in the “inter-war years” to immigration and seek “easier” deportation (151); they complain in the 1920s of liberal criminology and parole, and that prisons are “too comfortable” (141); they object to the release of “too many serious offenders” without prior notice to the police (142), and generally complain that their views and expertise are ignored. (140)

While there is no such explicit judgement by the author, the book does convey a ineffectual body. Marquis approvingly remarks that in our federal structure a national “advocacy group” such as the NCIPHER is necessary, for “public policy should not be the private preserve of bureaucrats, lawyers and academics.” (397) But even as his narrative conveys a failure to affect public policy, he declines to specify or analyse the failure. Police unions are described as a bane of the chiefs, even as they share many points of view, but the implication that they have seized the public advocacy agenda from the chiefs is not explored. In a postscript Marquis ponders the near future, and notes, for example, the possible impact of present demands for greater police ac-

countability. But in this as in other matters not simply related to police careerism, he does not volunteer critical or analytic comment. Perhaps most curious, given the parallel content of the book that sketches an overview of the development of policing in Canada, he barely mentions the present and future impact of the now-dominant reform ideology in policing, that is, community policing. Publicly embraced by the chiefs, the implications of community policing for genuine organizational reform and a decentralization of the powers of the traditional Canadian chief of police are not considered. There must be, in the author's undoubtedly capacious notes, another less inhibited book in gestation.

These different books contribute to the all-too-sparse literature on Canadian policing. There is almost certainly more to come from Professor Marquis.

Dennis P. Forcese, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

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**Jackson, John N. and Sheila M. Wilson. St. Catharines: Canada's Canal City. St. Catharines, St. Catharines Standard, 1993 [originally 1992]. Pp. xiii, 413. Illustrations, maps, graphs, bibliography. ISBN 0-919549-24-1.**

This is an exceptional book, with over 400 large-format pages packed with ideas, details, pictures, and maps. The photographic record in this book is impressive, drawing heavily on the archives of the local newspaper, the *St. Catharines Standard*. Many of the 300 or so photographs are more telling than the authors note. Jackson has been writing books on St. Catharines and the Welland Canal for two decades, and clearly knows the sources like the back of his hand. As a geographer his interest and

talent in well-produced maps is most evident. Sheila Wilson was the reference librarian at the St. Catharines Public Library. The collaboration is a natural and effective one. Between them it is hard to imagine anything about St. Catharines that the authors would not know. Curiously, though, neither is a native of the city each knows so well.

The organization of the book is primarily chronological from the earliest days of the settlement to 1991. Despite being rooted in the pre-European period, the narrative is triumphal. St. Catharines rises from humble origins to be a major Ontario Victorian city. The Welland canals, the grapes, and the agriculture combine to set the special times and places of an interesting city. The city's development was slow until the 1950s when it picked up steam, ostensibly because of major amalgamations with Merriton, Port Dalhousie, and parts of Grantham and Louth townships. By 1971 it was a city of 110,000; and has grown another 20,000 since. In the early part of the century, population was doubling every 20 years; at all other times (with the possible exception of the years before 1851 when W.H. Merritt left his imprint so boldly), it grew very modestly.

Useful comparisons can be made with another Ontario canal city. Peterborough was generally a more important town and industrial centre until the 1950s, even though the traffic through the Welland was much heavier than that through the Trent canal. Peterborough has, in St. John's Anglican Church, a stone Gothic building dating from 1835. St. Catharines has, in St. George's Anglican Church, a stone Gothic church for which the cornerstone was also laid in 1835. There are no stone Gothic Anglican churches in North America of older vintage than this pair; an earlier church in Thorold was torn down because it was on the route of the second Welland canal. St. Catharines

has more insurance companies, but Peterborough was probably more heavily insured, chiefly with Canada Life, than any place in Ontario in the late nineteenth-century. St. Catharines came up with very significant bridges; the Glen Ridge Bridge (1914) appears to be a match for the Hunter Street Bridge (1919-21). Peterborough has emerged as a major rowing centre only since the building of Trent University; St. Catharines has a very long tradition of rowing prowess. While St. Catharines was the centre of the fine Niagara agricultural regions, the annual fall fairs at Peterborough were much more important. The comparisons between the two cities clearly would reward close historical analysis.

This book is strongly recommended and deserves to be widely read by a general audience, as well as an academic one. Still, it is not the last word. "Incentives from outside its boundaries, as well as from within, have dictated much of the city's character." (ix) *Incentives* seems to translate as "impersonal forces"; the thesis of the book is somewhat deterministic when discussing setting and trends; yet people, in great diversity, "helped shape the city." Is a city people, or is it things and forces? Jackson and Wilson touch on almost everything, but in the end are satisfied with description. Housing patterns are described as being working-class, but there is no definition of class. One is struck, as well, by the contrast between Jackson's analysis of canal workers compared to Peter Way's *Common Labour* (Cambridge, 1993). The book is more anecdotal, less analytical, than urban historians might wish. We learn, for example, that in 1921 34.2% of the population was Anglican; however, we have nothing against which to savour that observation. We are told, also in 1921, that the Merriton fair "drew large crowds" without any hint of how large, or why it attracted crowds; the point is only mentioned

so we can be told that a tightrope walker fell to his death. (237) The absence of footnotes also encourages the authors to pursue chronological detail rather than interpretive overlays. While one could wish for more interpretation and more detail on significant matters, the authors offer forthright and authoritative opinions at almost every turn of this big book.

Elwood H. Jones, Trent University

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**Kalman, Harold. A History of Canadian Architecture. Toronto, New York, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994. Pp. 933. 2 volumes. 860 Black and White photographs. Bibliographies. Notes. Index. \$95.00 (set) cloth.**

W. Biggerstaff Wilson, the "second son of pioneer Victoria entrepreneur William Wilson," built a Tudor revival house "on Rockland Avenue, Victoria" in 1905-6. It is "characteristic of (Samuel) Maclure's best work." The false half-timbering appears "only on the front and sides" but has "a striking decorative effect" and the house as a whole has "a truly picturesque effect." "The principal interior feature . . . is the magnificent hall" in which a "variety of handsome materials is introduced to good effect." "Fir is used for the wall panelling . . . the fireplace is tiled . . . Maclure looked for . . . a historical point of departure that was appropriate for the strong British element in the young west-coast city" and could only find that in "an external tradition that had appropriate meaning in the new setting." But Maclure's design was not merely historically derivative, it was also in tune with contemporary developments both in Britain and the United States, in both the "Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts" movements. Norman Shaw and Philip Webb in Britain, and Bruce Price and H.H. Richardson in the United States produced similar work at about the same time, or