

Boyer, Barbaranne. *The Boardwalk Album: Memories of The Beach*. Erin, Ontario: The Boston Mills Press, 1985. Pp. 72. Photographs. \$9.95

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own distinctly non-English languages, nor could they, as new arrivals or later, necessarily be considered the blessed of Victorian children.

Regarding the book's production, there are far too many images shoe-horned onto the pages for all of them to make effective impact. They are reproduced in mediocre halftone, (the photo of Knox College on page 182 is unforgiveably marred by the graffiti of a production note), and are sometimes made more confusing than revealing by the bottom strip of modern street photos. This is because the same strip of addresses has been reproduced on several pages, presumably to maintain continuity. Actually the repetition tends to be distracting and the idea is further confused by running the addresses at times left to right, at other times right to left.

As comparison with the present addresses is so stressed, the author lays on herself the onerous burden of absolute accuracy in identification. Consequently the reader is disconcerted to find numbers 332 to 338 are all shifted over one, particularly since two of those addresses are featured with larger photos. In addition, the famous Crest Grill is given the address of the equally famous Waverly Hotel and Silver Dollar lounge, while the Pickford Theatre (its address was actually 380 Queen St. West) is inattentively moved several blocks uptown, from the corner of Queen and Spadina to 382 Spadina.

However these and a few other minor imperfections (Ontario Archives for Archives of Ontario, M. Micklethwaite for the photographer Frank Micklethwaite) cannot deny the basically sound and inventive research and presentation on which this book is to be congratulated. Originally created as a photo exhibition shown at A Space Gallery on Spadina Avenue in 1984, for which many people's effort was responsible, it well deserves this more permanent record of the searching, thinking, analysis and new photography that brought the idea into existence.

Lilly Koltun
Chief, Acquisition and Research
National Photography Collection
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The Boardwalk Album, as its sub-title indicates, is chiefly memorabilia, dealing with the heyday of a "recreational suburb" of Toronto.

It is worth noting because of the thin literature on the subject, and to express the earnest desire that the authors

and publishers of such material would take the small amount of effort necessary to document their sources. In doing so, such local histories could become important historical building blocks. Work done to build up the material presented here, for example, would not be lost, and at some future date have to be researched once again. The acknowledgments given at the beginning of the book are helpful, but not adequate.

Perhaps a minimum of scholarly apparatus should be required by the granting agencies that subsidize such publications. In this instance financial assistance is acknowledged from The Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Office of the Secretary of State. All of them should be insisting on some sort of long-term gain, and not assist what, unnecessarily, is pure ephemera.

The author, in this case, was clearly committed to the subject, and had privileged access to local, usually oral sources. By not documenting them properly, there is no way to tell what in the text is representative and what is fantasy. Those who follow cannot simply take her word on it. The book is well produced. But clearly an opportunity has been lost. Again.

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Armstrong, Frederick H. *Handbook of Upper Canadian Chronology: Revised Edition*. Toronto: Dundurn Press Ltd., 1985. Pp. 278. \$29.95.

The first edition of this book was prepared in 1967 "... because of the difficulties that inevitably seem to arise in finding answers to even the simplest of questions. . . ." It was immediately useful then, and in revised form should be even more so.

The tables in the original publication, including those on "Local and Municipal Government, 1788-1849," have "been checked for corrections and amplifications" and where necessary have been reorganized.

Parts VI and VII — "Special Government Departments and Commissions" and "Supplementary Information" — contain largely new information or complete revisions of tables. In these sections can be found information on the customs department, the emigrant office, the post office, special commissions, surveyors, corporate legislation, corporate officers, ecclesiastical information, and population statistics.