

Managing Canada's Fisheries : From Early Days to the Year 2000. By Joseph Gough. (Sillery: Septentrion, 2005. xxiii + 304 p., ill., tab., notes, bibl., index. ISBN 978-2-8944-8523-1 \$55)

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Volume 31, numéro 1-2, 2008

Natural Science in the New World: The Descriptive Enterprise

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/019764ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/019764ar>

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Éditeur(s)

CSTHA/AHSTC

ISSN

0829-2507 (imprimé)

1918-7750 (numérique)

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Citer ce compte rendu

Kinsey, D. (2008). Compte rendu de [*Managing Canada's Fisheries : From Early Days to the Year 2000.* By Joseph Gough. (Sillery: Septentrion, 2005. xxiii + 304 p., ill., tab., notes, bibl., index. ISBN 978-2-8944-8523-1 \$55)]. *Scientia Canadensis*, 31(1-2), 177-179. <https://doi.org/10.7202/019764ar>

recherches et discours publics sur la Baie James. Perron a su mettre en lumière les mécanismes de cette rhétorique et, ce faisant, ouvrir encore davantage la brèche qui s'élargit depuis quelques années et par laquelle d'autres lectures réussissent à occuper la place publique. L'analyse des discours inauguraux de Daniel Johnson et René Lévesque au chapitre 4 donne du poids à l'imaginaire qui s'exprime dans la série télévisée : bien que chacun des leaders livre un message qui s'inscrit dans le contexte politique de chaque inauguration (dans l'ordre Manic 5 et La Grande 2), on retrouve dans les deux élocutions ce « Récit de l'exploit » (p.215), figure récurrente du corpus ici étudié. À ce titre, la sensibilité constante de Perron à la question des dynamiques de genre contribue à la justesse et à la profondeur de son analyse. Tel qu'elle le démontre non seulement au chapitre 5 (intitulé « Femmes électriques ») mais tout au cours de l'écriture, la mise en récit de l'énergie au Québec est d'abord et avant tout la construction du « Récit du père. » C'est là un aspect incontournable de cette dense constellation de discours, pratiques et politiques qu'est le « roman de l'énergie nationale », au Québec comme l'a si bien démontré l'auteure mais sûrement ailleurs au Canada et dans d'autres pays. Il faut se réjouir du fait que les travaux de Dominique Perron se poursuivent maintenant en lien avec l'exploitation des sables bitumineux en Alberta car la comparaison avec le Québec et d'autres sites d'exploitation intensive de ressources énergétiques dans le monde ne manquera d'être fructueuse.

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***Managing Canada's Fisheries : From Early Days to the Year 2000.* By Joseph Gough.** (Sillery: Septentrion, 2005. xxiii + 304 p., ill., tab., notes, bibl., index. ISBN 978-2-8944-8523-1 \$55)

Fisheries were a cornerstone of Canada's staples economy and they have fascinated and attracted the attention of historians for more than a century. Yet, these historical studies have mostly been regional and topical in nature; focusing on iconic species, such as cod in the Maritimes and salmon in British Columbia. Joseph Gough's *Managing Canada's Fisheries* is an ambitious attempt to provide a sweeping 500-year historical overview of the development of management practices dealing with Canada's fisheries resources.

Organized into thirty-one chapters broken up into six major parts, the text examines the development of the fisheries both chronologically and

thematically. Emphasis here is on the maritime fisheries. Unfortunately, the often neglected freshwater and sport fisheries are deftly, if apologetically, set aside. With the exception of Part 1, which surveys the use of fishery resources before Confederation, each subsequent Part is broken up into different periods of the economic and organizational evolution of the fishery. These periods include: "Bringing law and order to the fishery" (1867-1914); "Short booms, long Depression" (1914-45); "The age of development" (1945-68); "Comprehensive management begins" (1968-84); and "Making the new system work" (1984-2000). Within each Part, a number of chapters lay out the highlights of the salient events taking place within each region's fisheries accompanied by vignettes of the major fisheries officials during the period.

Gough brings together a wealth of sources including annual reports of federal and provincial fisheries authorities, speeches in the House of Commons, newspaper reports, and press releases, and statistical data from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. As a retired civil servant for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Gough shows that he knows this material well. It is clear that this text is a labour of years of work. It is well-illustrated, well-documented and contains a wealth of information from statistical snapshots to the outlines of important fisheries treaties.

No one could expect a book with such a broad scope to cover any aspect in great detail. Yet, lack of detail, is not the book's main fault. Most glaringly, the divisions of the author's main themes show little appreciation for the overlap of activities such as persistent lawlessness and economic and scientific changes. My principal criticism, however, is of its lack of a clear unifying narrative. Each chapter is divided into myriads of sub sections each consisting of three or four paragraphs that seem to almost stand alone and all too often transition awkwardly from one to the next. Of more consequence, this organizational schema often makes it difficult to follow the development of major themes as the book progresses, such as the evolution and application of laws and regulations, or the development of the lobster industry,

Since its temporal scope is so large, the book necessarily employs a broad definition of management that gradually becomes more specific as the years progress. In so doing, the text seemingly implies that the management of fishery resources was a logical extension of State authority, which progressively became more sophisticated, and better, over time. This is explicitly confirmed in the author's conclusion that the fisheries department "served Canada well." All in all, this book makes for a good reference to compare and contrast the regional development of fisheries policy. Historians of science, however, especially those with an interest in fisheries, will not find here any critical analysis of the

integration of science into Canadian fisheries. The lack of such analysis may stem less from the author's own bias as a long-time civil servant in the fisheries department, and more from an inconsistent synthesis of the primary sources with the wealth of secondary literature on Canada's fisheries. The result is a great deal of fascinating information, largely, and unfortunately, disassociated from the broader economic, political, and social context of Canadian history.

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Science / Science

***The Victorian Scientist: The Growth of a Profession.* By Jack Meadows.** (London: The British Library, 2004. vi + 202 p., ill., index. ISBN 0-7123-0894-6 \$35)

Science came of age in Europe and North America in the nineteenth century, a trend that followed soon after in other areas of the world. By the beginning of World War I, work in scientific fields had taken on a professionalism not seen a century earlier. In both public schools and post-secondary institutions science had become entrenched in curricula, and government financial support for scientific research was common. Careers in scientific and technical fields could, in fact, be pursued full-time. In *The Victorian Scientist* Jack Meadows, noted British historian of science and information scientist, aims to describe this transformation by following the careers of forty "eminent Victorian scientists." His collective biography of these British men is cast as representing "how science itself evolved in the nineteenth century" (p.1). Written largely for a general audience, Meadows offers an overview that will also be read by historians of the period, particularly if they are interested in developments that occurred in England. Readers expecting to discover how scientific careers unfolded outside the UK will need to look elsewhere. Canada, for example, receives little notice, and in the chapter on "scientists abroad," Canadian connections are located in a section headed "links with the United States" even when Meadows refers to the first meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science held outside the UK, which occurred in Montreal in 1884.

With a principal objective of treating the middle decades of the Victorian period (the 1850s-1870s, when "the pace of change in the scientific community seems greatest"), Meadows selected leading