

Halton Hills Outlook

Their Outlook

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Christmas reading

Books

At this season every year, Canadian publishers are accustomed to bringing forth their biggest, best, most glittering array of books, aimed directly at the Christmas gift market.
Every year, as well, they push the price frontiers somewhat farther back. Will 1966 be the year that shoppers finally resist higher prices?
Here are notes on some of the current season offerings to be found in Canadian bookstores:

-The Arctic Grail, by Pierre Berton (McClelland and Stewart; 672 pages; \$29.95). Berton - at 68, comfortably beyond the usual retirement age - continues his unique work as our pre-eminent popular historian with as much energy as ever. His 1966 opus tells the story of the 19th-century search for the North-West Passage and the North Pole, heaps criticism upon the stiff-necked British explorers such as Sir John Franklin, and gives overdue credit to the contributions of the nameless and neglected native people of the North.

Perhaps the most intriguing sections of The Arctic Grail are the final chapters detailing the controversial American expeditions to the North Pole. Berton ultimately dismisses the claims of both of the major rival "discoverers," Cmdr. R.E. Peary and Dr. Frederick Cook, although, at the height of the controversy - 1909 to 1911 - Peary was lionized even by the National Geographic Society of Washington, on the basis of personal faith and a scanty examination of Peary's even scantier records.

-The National Geographic Society: 100 Years of Adventure and Discovery, by C.D.B. Bryan (Prentice-Hall Canada; 484 pages; \$65). The NGS is a Washington-based private company, founded in 1866, that promotes the circulation of its monthly magazine, recognizable immediately by its unchanging yellow-bordered front cover. Of the many financial grants made by the NGS to encourage exploration, the first went to the flamboyant Medr. Peary - and the Society still accepts his claim to be the first to have reached the North Pole.

From a century of exciting accounts of expeditions to the most distant corners of the world (and, latterly, into space as well), author Bryan has distilled an engrossing selection of text and photographs, including nearly 300 in full color. The design and production are superb, making this a volume to be treasured even more than those monthly issues that no subscriber can discard.

-The Coast Way, by Louise Abbott (McGill-Queen's University Press; 128 pages; \$19). Subtitled A Portrait of the English on the Lower North Shore of the St. Lawrence, this is a large-format, heavily illustrated account of the small and isolated English-speaking fishing villages of that remote region of Quebec. The area was settled in the 18th century by United Empire Loyalists and by fishermen and merchants from the Channel Islands, who were joined later by immigrants from Ireland at the time of the potato famine. The author's emphasis is on the way that daily life changed in the early 1970s with the advent of electrical power - and, with it, the TV images of an outside world that had been almost unknown.

First Person, by Valerie Knowles (Dundurn Press; 364 pages; \$14.95; paperback). A biography of Cairine Mackay Wilson (1885-1962), first woman to be appointed to the Canadian Senate (in 1930, by Prime Minister Mackenzie King). The daughter of a Liberal senator, raised in the privileged milieu of Westmount, and married to a Member of Parliament, Wilson distinguished herself by her tireless work on behalf of refugees and the needy. She was one of the very few contemporary Canadian politicians to recognize that the British appeasement of Nazi Germany in the 1938 Czechoslovakian crisis, far from ensuring "peace in our time," had made a tragic war inevitable.

-Trafalgar and the Spanish Navy, by John D. Harbron (Vanwell Publishing, St. Catharines, Ont.; 178 pages; \$39.95). This is the 400th anniversary of the defeat of the Spanish Armada, a defeat that the victorious British believed had destroyed Spain's naval power. Author Harbron, foreign affairs analyst for Thomson News Service and a former Canadian Navy officer, shows by means of his meticulous research in Spanish archives that Spain in fact soon rebuilt its maritime forces, and was a leader in sea-borne exploration and colonization of the New World throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. (It's no accident that the southwestern British Columbia coast has so many Spanish place-names). In 1805, the British under Lord Horatio Nelson again defeated a Spanish armada (and Spain's French allies), this time at Trafalgar in the last great battle of the Age of Sail.

This is a true-life story of great adventure and outstanding bravery, handsomely complemented by dozens of contemporary illustrations in both color and monochrome, and by Denys Baker's maps.

-Feminist Organizing for Change: The Contemporary Women's Movement in Canada, by Nancy Adamson, Linda Briklis, Margaret McPhail (Oxford University Press; 332 pages; \$19.95). A densely written version of the history, or "herstory," of the "collective struggle of the contemporary Canadian women's movement to make social change," by three Toronto-based socialist feminists.

Duchess, by Andrew Morton (Doubleday Canada; 169 pages; \$19.95). A candid biography, by a well known royalty-watcher, of Sarah Ferguson, the popular and free-wheeling wife of His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew. Morton gives high marks to the couple, and especially to Fergie, for the impression they made in Canada during their visit here in the summer of 1967, when the duchess displayed a somewhat un-regal eagerness to reach out to ordinary people, and to co-operate with the members of the news media assigned to cover the tour.

Orser, A Skater's Life, by Brian Orser with Steve Milton (Key Porter; 214 pages; \$19.95). Few careers could be more demanding than that of a figure skater. To win a world championship, as Ontario's Brian Orser did in 1967, requires extraordinary talent, dedication, and the ability to perform superbly under intense competitive pressure. Orser's first-person account of his life-long pursuit of excellence will be an inspiration to aspiring young skaters - or, in fact, to anyone striving to reach his full potential in life.

Steve Milton, former sports editor of The Orillia Packet and Times, is a baseball writer with The Hamilton Spectator.

Two's a Crowd

By BILL BUTTLE



"Tell your boss you need a paper shredder . . .
that's going back to my kitchen!"

Suspicious minds



Your
Business
Diane Maley

Thomson News Service

Suppose I'm an American and I want to make a deal with you. You have lots of trees and I have lots of cotton; we Americans need houses and you Canadians need clothing.

We each want to keep manufacturing jobs in our own country. So we draw up an agreement to trade your lumber for my socks and long underwear. We go to our respective federal governments, show them our deal and ask them to waive customs duties. They agree, figuring the increased business will be good for both countries.

But Canadian sock-makers fret that I may try to undercut them by selling my socks too cheaply in Canada; in the United States, sawmill owners worry you might be trying to pull a fast one on them with your two-by-fours. So they force us both to promise that we won't resort to unfair subsidies.

We agree, our governments agree, we set up an arbitration board and the deal is struck.
Along comes John and says our agreement threatens Canada's sovereignty, its health-care system, the Canada Pension Plan, unemployment insurance, the CBC, our waters, lakes and forests, the trees that grow by the roadside and the very air we breathe.

"Why?" you ask, flabbergasted.
"Because you didn't say it wouldn't," he replies. "Your agreement does not protect social programs."
"But it's a trade agreement," I chip in. "How can a trade agreement affect social programs, or any other legislation for that matter?"

TEXTUAL EXEGESIS

John, of course, is running for election and he needs an issue to champion. "Look here, section B," he shouts. "It says no unfair subsidies."

"Yeah, so?"
"The Americans could say our health system is an unfair subsidy."
"We could say that right now if we wanted to," I reply, "but I doubt anyone would listen." You nod.

"Liar," he screams. "You're trying to take over our country."
"Well, no, actually, I was just trying to sell you some underwear," I reply, taken aback.

"That's now it starts," he roars. "First you sell us socks, then long-johns. Then you take all our lumber, leaving us homeless, standing in the snow in our underwear."

WHAT'S TRUTH?

"You're reading things into the deal that aren't there," you say, trying to reason with him. "This is a trade pact, not the Book of Revelations."

"Ha," he fumes, stomping off to carry the word to the people.

"No use," I say, shaking my head. "His mind is made up. Besides, it's the only issue he's got."

As columnist Peter Cook writes in The Globe and Mail, this is what happens to people who "acquire instant knowledge on arcane subjects... From such an instant and miraculous conversion, it is only a short step toward becoming a mite fanatical."

Somehow, we have to free ourselves from fanaticism and lift the political process up from the sloganeering and mud-slinging that has dominated this election campaign. Democracy depends on an informed electorate.

When we the people find ourselves unable to judge an issue, we grow intensely suspicious of our leaders. Suspicion does not make us better judges.

Political theatrics



Staff
Comment

By BRIAN MACLEOD

There were some interesting theatrics at the free trade debate between Halton-Peel's four political candidates Nov. 15.

Progressive Conservative candidate Garth Turner held up a bottle of Caledon Springs water to make his point that water cannot be exported to the US on a large scale under the free trade agreement.

He also had a page of the free trade agreement blown up to five times its normal size and mounted on cardboard to show the same point.

Liberal Pierre Klein and Libertarian George Panagapka refrained from such theatrics but it was New Democrat Fern Wolf who provided the most interesting show and tell.

She tore up a copy of the synopsis of the free trade agreement much to the delight of many of the audience members.

But Garth Turner pounced on that. He quickly snatched up the torn copy, attempted to place it back together and said Liberal Leader John Turner will need plenty of scotch tape if he wins on Nov. 21.

And the actual free trade agreement is about 800 pages long, said Garth. "But I won't ask you to tear that up," he mused to Ms. Wolf.

Let it never again be said that Canadians are apathetic when it comes to politics.

This election has proved that when it comes down to the crunch, nationalist spirits run high and they are willing to choose up sides and fight.

In Quebec, a heckler at a John Turner rally was bloodied by Liberal supporters. During the same meeting other hecklers were physically heaved out of the hall and still another was backed into a corner with a barricade of political signs in his face, according to the Globe and Mail.

In Western Canada, a PC candidate had a bomb thrown through the window of his campaign headquarters.

Most of us wouldn't be surprised if these sorts of incidents happened in the US, but here in Canada?

Bombs and bloody faces aside, there are some good points to this election.

It's the first time in a while that Canadians have taken politics to heart, and taken emotional stands on issues.

Many people are becoming involved in heated political debates for the first time in this election.

In the Halton-Peel riding, some all-candidates meetings have become raucous discussions on free trade.

There's nothing wrong with a little heckling or emotional discussion at these meetings.

It means Canadians feel they're actually playing a part in the democratic process.

Not once during this election campaign have I heard the familiar refrain that goes: "I can't tell the difference between the three parties anyway."

I'm expecting a heavy turnout on Monday.

I'm also expecting a minority government.

What will happen to the free trade agreement if that happens, is anyone's guess.