Athabasca University: The Evolution of Distance Education, by T. C. Byrne; Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1989; x, 137 pp., illus., paper (ISBN 0-919813-51-8).

T. C. Byrne, who joined the staff of Alberta’s Department of Education in 1942, is the Founding President of Athabasca University. In this work, he describes the history of the early years of Alberta’s fourth and youngest university, including its planning stages in the late 1960s, and discusses in some detail the pilot project which ended in 1975. Byrne’s examination of Athabasca’s relationship both to the Cluster College Concept associated with the University of California’s campus at Santa Cruz and to Britain’s Open University is illuminating. Given the current climate of university education, the story of an educational institution which accepted the importance of the humanities as its starting point and which particularly emphasized interdisciplinary studies is both interesting and suggestive. Athabasca’s rejection of the traditional lecture model for university education, with its gathering of students and faculty in one centralized location, is significant in view of much contemporary pressure in favour of centralization. While it is clear from the case studies provided that many of Athabasca’s successful students may not have been successful in a conventional academic sense, it is also clear that conventional academic success is by no means excluded. It is its flexibility in this area that has been one of Athabasca’s strengths so far. Whether it can continue into the future remains to be seen. However, its emphasis on working in the community, and particularly on extensive fieldwork, make it an institution of some importance to students working in such fields as oral history.

The Best of Helen Creighton, selected and introduced by Rosemary Bauchman; Hantsport, NS: Lancelot Press, 1988; 143 pp., illus., music, paper (ISBN 0-88999-378-5).

This work is a collection of excerpts from Helen Creighton’s published works, plus transcriptions of eight songs, and two previously unpublished tales taken from a manuscript in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The book begins with an introduction which gives a fair amount of biographical and other information concerning Dr. Creighton. Each of the next four chapters is devoted to excerpts from one of her four major publications: The Folklore of Lunenburg County, Bluenose Ghosts, Bluenose Magic, and A Life in Folklore. Apart from the final two chapters, which include the previously unpublished material, this anthology is obviously not of interest to serious researchers, but it provides an excellent and well illustrated introduction to the folklore of Nova Scotia for young students and other newcomers to the field.

Guide to Historical Resources in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, by Elizabeth Macnaughton and Pat Wagner; Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press and Heritage Resources Department, 1989; vii, 118 pp., illus., paper (ISBN 0-88920-969-3).

Originally a volunteer project coordinated by Doon Heritage Crossroads’ curatorial and research staff, this small directory attempts to be as comprehensive as possible in listing historical resources in the regional municipality of Waterloo, Ontario. Obviously, some of the listings will be much more complete than others, but a large amount of information is given for the majority of the 175 organizations included, and the descriptions of holdings are often very detailed indeed. Addresses, telephone numbers, names of principal staff, and hours of opening are also provided. For the researcher looking for historical documents, and many other historical resources, in and related to the Waterloo area, this is an invaluable guide.


This reference guide provides an alphabetical listing under the names of professional instrumentalists who played ragtime or jazz and who lived in Montreal before 1970, including some theatre pianists, part–time musicians, those who made some significant contribution to jazz in Montreal and elsewhere, studio performers, and bands. As much biographical and professional information as possible, including bibliographical references, is given for each individual, and variants in names are cross-referenced. The entries range in length from extremely detailed ones for well known musicians to just two or three lines for those of whom little is now known, apart from a name and the dates of a few performances. While the latter must be a sad comment on the wealth of material that has been forever lost, Gilmore is to be praised for his attempt to make permanent the information which still remains. This reference book is an essential work for those interested in the history of jazz in Montreal and Canada.
Books Received/Livres reçus

The following books have been received by the Journal as of 1 December 1991. Inclusion in this list does not preclude any of these books from being reviewed in future issues of the Journal.


FOLKLORE
CALL FOR PAPERS, PANELS AND FORUMS for the 1992 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FSAC

The FSAC Annual Meeting will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, May 29–31, 1992 in conjunction with the Learned Societies. Members of FSAC are invited to submit proposals for papers, media sessions, organized panels, and forums on any folklore topic. This year’s special theme is "Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Relationships, 1492–1992", and papers on this topic are particularly solicited.

All questions and suggestions should be addressed to:

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FOLKLORE
INVITATION A SOUMETTRE DES SEANCES OU DES COMMUNICATIONS pour la REUNION DE L’ACEF 1992


Les questions et les suggestions devraient être adressées à:

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