

The work studied from the outer circle of books inspired by the terror is Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. Douthwaite emphasizes what she considers the incongruities of the text. She finds unwarranted the voluntary martyrdom of Sydney Carton at the end, even if his brave self-sacrifice is based on the courage displayed by Madame Roland at her execution when she let another lady go ahead of her in the ascent of the scaffold. Douthwaite concludes that Dickens' aim was to show how there are no easy answers to the social problems that caused the French Revolution.

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FORKEY, Neil S. – *Canadians and the Natural Environment to the Twenty-First Century*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012. Pp. 157.

To write an environmental history of Canada in fewer than one hundred and fifty pages is no simple task. Neil S. Forkey's recent contribution to the "Themes in Canadian History" series from the University of Toronto Press ably takes on this daunting challenge, offering a brief and accessible account of the field for undergraduate students and other non-specialist readers. Like other books in this series, Forkey's textbook successfully synthesizes current literature while providing a broad geographic and chronological survey of Canadian history.

Canadian environmental historians now have a small collection of textbooks from which to choose for teaching this growing sub-discipline. David Freeland Duke's 2006 book *Canadian Environmental History* was the first such textbook, offering a collection of previously published articles and book chapters from Canadian and US literature. Since its publication new textbooks have attempted a variety of styles to suit different course formats. Graeme Wynn's lengthy, *Canada and Arctic North America: An Environmental History* (2006), serves as a useful comprehensive text with a strong narrative argument. *Method and Meaning in Canadian Environmental History* (2009), edited by Alan MacEachern and William J. Turkel, is a collection of original essays on an assortment of topics. This collection with its focus on methodological approaches and challenges to studying environmental history is well-suited to advanced undergraduate and graduate seminars. Finally, UBC Press' recently published *An Environmental History of Canada* by Laurel Sefton MacDowell is one of the first to attempt a traditional comprehensive survey textbook format.

Canadians and the Natural Environment to the Twenty-First Century provides a succinct narrative of Canadian environmental history that is structured by a clear central argument. As such, it is very well suited for use in undergraduate seminar courses. The book is primarily driven by Forkey's contention that "[a]t the surface level, Canadians' experience with the natural world has been informed by two major impulses. The first is the need to exploit natural resources, while the second is the desire to protect them" (p. 3). Forkey uses this argument as a hook for his readers to think critically about the various fluctuations in human relations with the rest of nature in Canada since European colonization in the early seventeenth century.

In five brief chapters, Forkey impressively covers a chronology from the early 1600s to the present. His first chapter encompasses the broadest time frame, examining European resettlement across what is now Canada from the early seventeenth century to the early twentieth century. This chapter admittedly skips across an enormous sweep of history, but does so in order to demonstrate the ways in which natural resources became knowable to European/Euro-Canadian colonizers through natural history. Such early scientific observations, according to Forkey, were used to simultaneously amass knowledge about exploitable natural resources and to build an appreciation for the natural world. In the following two chapters, Forkey looks at the histories of conservation and preservation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These two chapters capture best the tension at the heart of this narrative between consumption of natural resources and the protection of the environment. Drawing from a substantive body of literature, these chapters outline the emergence of the conservation movement in Canada and its transnational connections through forestry sciences and wildlife and fisheries management. They also cover the romantic inspirations for the development of parks in Canada, particularly the national parks in the Rocky Mountains. In the final chapters, Forkey explores the origins and development of modern environmentalism in Canada after the Second World War, a period when Euro-Canadians re-evaluated their relationship with nature and sought to protect the environment through the application of ecological principles. The last chapter of the book specially looks at the place of Aboriginal peoples in twentieth-century Canadian environmentalism. Citing specific case studies, including the Mackenzie Valley pipeline and James Bay hydro-electric power projects, Forkey shows the effects of natural resource exploitation in northern Canada on the lives of indigenous peoples.

The greatest strength of this ambitious textbook is its brief length. I recently assigned this book in a senior undergraduate seminar on Canadian environmental history. We read it in one of the early weeks of class and used the textbook to discuss broad trends and transformations in the relationship between humans and the rest of nature in Canada over a long period of time. Even though the depth of analysis is limited, Forkey makes up for this shortcoming with great breadth of chronology. This permitted my students to think about Canadian history beyond the limited timescales and periods that we usually apply. Because this book so effectively condenses more than four hundred years of history, we were able to construct a full timeline of Canadian environmental history from the migration of the first humans to North America to the present. This helped frame Canadian history in a different manner, highlighting the major junctures and transformations of the reciprocal relationship between nature and culture over time before we examined specific case studies in later weeks.

As a synthetic work, Forkey's book is limited by the existing state of scholarship in Canadian environmental history. Because the book is a reflection of current literature in the field, it places most of its emphasis on the period between Confederation and the start of the Second World War. One could use this book as a map for determining the gaps in Canadian environmental history scholarship. The need for more research on pre-Confederation environmental history is obvious, particularly studies of the ecological effects of European colonization and resettlement. There is also a great need for further studies of the period from 1945 to the end of the twentieth century, including studies of the environmental movement, the expansion of high-energy fossil fuel extraction and consumption, and the role that Canadians played in the warming of the global climate. Nevertheless, this book

is a very welcome contribution to this growing sub-discipline and it underlines the importance of rethinking the place of humans within nature in Canadian history.

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GAGNON, François-Marc, Nancy SENIOR and Réal OUELLET – *The Codex Canadensis and the Writings of Louis Nicolas*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011. Pp. 676

This lavish, large-format work is a modern edition of two extraordinary seventeenth-century manuscripts concerned with the people, flora, and fauna of northeastern North America: the *Codex Canadensis*, a predominantly pictorial work comprising 180 rich images, and the *Histoire naturelle des Indes occidentales*, a textual account of Canadian natural history. These works—attributed to the same author, Louis Nicolas—are introduced by art historian François-Marc Gagnon, while Réal Ouellet and Nancy Senior provide modernized French and English translations of the *Histoire naturelle*. Together these two texts resulted from an ambitious project to illustrate, describe, and classify the natural world of New France.

The *Codex Canadensis*, described by Gagnon as “an album of pen drawings,” is now housed at the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, while the *Histoire naturelle* resides at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Although the texts were neither signed nor dated, Gagnon's extensive introduction does the crucial work of mapping out the provenance of the manuscripts—analysis and background that is key to the value of this volume. He demonstrates how both works have been attributed to Nicolas, a French Jesuit who missioned in New France between 1664 and 1674. Gagnon lays out several textual clues that render this ascription highly plausible, including analyses by Anne-Marie Sioui and Germaine Warkentin which suggest that the manuscripts were penned in the same hand.

Nicolas proves to be as interesting as the work he produced; his temper and unusual behavior—such as taming and training two bears to perform tricks at the Jesuits' Sillery residence—led to the disapproval of his confrères. While in New France, Nicolas travelled a great deal beyond the Saint Lawrence Valley, from Iroquoia to the *pays d'en haut*. As a result of his travels, his texts give a lively and sweeping depiction of the geography, flora, fauna, and peoples of northeastern North America. The *Codex's* vivid drawings of men and women from various nations, including members of the Illinois, Ottawa, and Sioux, as well as images of indigenous material culture, such as several styles of canoes and cabins, are ethnographically significant. The *Codex* also includes two fascinating maps—one of eastern North America and one of the interior of New France—an area Nicolas refers to as “la Manitoüinie”—that will surely spark scholarly interest. Interestingly, Gagnon notes (as has Warkentin) that Nicolas often modeled his images on pre-existing plates or woodcuts found in well-known published works, such as François Du Creux's *Historiae canadensis* (1664) and Conrad Gesner's *Historiae Animalium* (1551). Nicolas's method, however, was not unusual and does not lessen the value of the images.