

George Woodcock. *The Canadians*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1979) 301 pp., \$20.00.

The Canadians offers nothing new to advanced students of North American ethnicity. It is a richly illustrated, pleasant, inoffensive, pseudo-comprehensive pictorial account of Canada's history. Every library should have it for the general reader, for it is a facile introduction to a complex North American alternative nation. Canadians would probably be tempted to serialize portions of it--in Anglo newspapers!

The vibrant tensions endemic to Canadian history--economic, social and racial--are static in *The Canadians*. Ethnicities are there, but as fixed images in the usually staid Victorian mosaic entasselled in Scottish Ontario. Chapter titles tell us that Quebec is "Remembrance of Things Past," Newfoundland is "Where the Empire Began," the Prairie Provinces are "Canada's Third World" and the North is "vulnerable." But Ontario is "Ontario!" *The Canadians* is pre-1960s Canadian history as usual, English and Scottish viewpoints--a gift book for unreconstructed Victorians!

But a gift book it is--pictures abound that have not generally circulated heretofore, witness to the unexploited richness in Canadian galleries and archives. Many times, narrative notwithstanding, the pictures tell us what happened or, failing that, stimulate and provoke questions. All considered, at twenty Yankee bucks a shot *The Canadians* is a pricey tourist primer.

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