

6. Jeffrey Weeks. "Uses and Abuses of Michel Foucault" in *Against Nature: Essays on History, Sexuality, and Identity*. London: Rivers Oram Press, 1991, pp. 159-60.

7. Pierson and Chaudhuri, 96.

8. Pierson and Chaudhuri, 221.

9. Creese, 141.

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A Female Economy: Women's Work in a Prairie Province 1870-1970. Mary Kinnear. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1998; 7 illustrations; xiv + 215 pages; ISBN 0-7735-1735-9; \$22.95.

A Female Economy is the result of close to twenty years' labour. As the author notes, "[a] comprehensive social history of women in Manitoba, to include all ethnic groups, all religions, and all economic classes of women -a truly multicultural history -has yet to be written" (xii). This disclaimer notwithstanding, Mary Kinnear's painstaking presentation of a century of women's work in Manitoba is an absolutely rock-solid study of the material bases -and hence, the possibilities - of women's lives. It is a model for studies waiting to be done documenting women's lives and labour elsewhere, providing a basis for comparison and foundation for analysis of the lot of those who have the dubious fortune of finding themselves in the category "women."

Kinnear begins her study with four framing chapters which outline the context within which her detailed treatment of four sites of women's work will be understood. Key interpretive terms are defined, followed by an overview of Manitoba's ethnic composition, the ideologies governing women, and the preparation given women for engaging their adult lives. Four chapters address women's work in home-making, farm work, paid labour, and public service, respectively, followed by a conclusion. After reading this book, no one will ever be able to say that women "don't work"! Indeed, it is remarkable that women have survived their lives, given all they have had to do.

This is a significant resource which will complement other studies of women's work, western history, and women's history. Written in a clear, straightforward style which is easily accessible to scholars and the general public alike, *A Female Economy* presents an impressive range of data. While not theoretically neutral, the text has an evenness of tone which actually serves to highlight the disabilities and inequalities visited upon women. Kinnear is careful and not moralistic as she marshals extensive evidence to demonstrate the practical effects of class, race, gender and cultural privilege. She then lets readers draw their own conclusions. Like a television show without a "laugh track," the material here stands on its own.

There are a few slips (Nellie McClung's *In Times Like These* was published in 1915, not 1914; her father-in-law was Rev. J. W. McClung, not "Mark"); these are minor compared with the exhaustive amount of detail presented overall. While some might find the weaving of aboriginal women's experience into the narrative awkward, it may be argued that their special circumstances are thus highlighted. The extent to which a range of women's lives are depicted is this text's commendable achievement. *A Female Economy* makes a significant contribution to the study of women's lives and possibilities, using Manitoba as an example. Our understanding will only be enriched should others take up the task elsewhere.

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Feminist Politics on the Farm: Rural Catholic Women in Southern Quebec and Southwestern France. Naomi Black and Gail Cuthbert Brandt. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1999; 295 pages, ISBN 0-7735-1828-2; \$65.00.

Women and Political Representation in Canada. Manon Tremblay and Caroline Andrew, eds. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 1998; 372 pages, ISBN 0-7766-0451-1; \$29.00.