

The Bonds of Womanhood provides many insights into the cult of domesticity. The exploration of the connections between domesticity and religion are particularly striking. Drawing on the earlier work of Barbara Welter, Mary Ryan and others, Cott suggests that the egalitarian feminism of Wollstonecraft and the American "Constantia" disappeared under the influence of evangelical protestantism only to reappear after 1835 in connection with Quakerism, Unitarianism and radical sectarianism.

The flaws that mar the book are mostly conceptual in nature. Cott relies too uncritically on "modernization" to explain general economic change in the introduction and chapter 1. Her reference in chapter 5 to "women as a discrete class" is not supported or discussed and leaves the reader confused as to the implications intended. Moreover, despite her recognition of the double edge of domesticity, Cott clearly favors the revisionist view which imbues woman's sphere not only with a supportive female subculture, but also with an implied social power base. The nature of that "power" has been largely unexplored by proponents of the revisionist school in women's history and would make a useful companion piece to this study.

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**The Neglected Majority: Essays in Canadian Women's History**  
SUSAN MANN TROFIMENKOFF and ALISON PRENTICE (eds.). Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1977. Pp. 192.

The Neglected Majority presents an interesting tapestry of history in eight articles and one bibliographical essay, each dealing with a different aspect of women in Canadian society from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. Although most of these essays have been published elsewhere, this collection remains invaluable as it combines all the essays in one volume and therefore can become a useful guide for the teaching of the history of women in Canada.

The essays vary in style, quality and length beginning with Isabel Foulché-Delbosc's work on "Women of Three Rivers: 1651-63" and ending with Ruth Pierson's "Women's Emancipation and the Recruitment of Women into the Labour Force in World War II." The time period covered is extensive and the reader can easily recognize the multitudinous roles woman played, from her appearance in the first Canadian settlements and the fur trade to her presence in the labour force during the Second World War. Susan Mann Trofimenkoff and Alison Prentice, in a well-edited volume, have chosen articles that depict the unique role of women as experienced in Canada and have shown that they played an impor-

tant and necessary part in the creation of this country. Women had a major function in the building of early New France and "native" women according to Sylvia Van Kirk's analysis were clearly an asset during the fur trade. Prentice investigates the role of elementary school teachers, an occupation that changed from a largely male dominated to a female one. The work of women outside the family in the early period of industrialization in Montreal is described by D. Suzanne Cross. The book concludes with the essay on woman's role in the labour force during the Second World War, showing how women were manipulated before and during the war according to the requirements of the labour market, a problem that still concerns many women today.

The essays collected in this volume will not only help to illuminate various aspects in the history of women in Canada but they also help to point out new and important areas for future research. One of the chief weaknesses of the volume is that the articles are very specialized and there is no critical framework to tie them together. Another volume dealing with theoretical models and critical approaches to the study of women's history would make a welcome companion. However, this was not the objective of the editors in the present volume. Most importantly, the essays have brought to light the historical problems with which women historians in

Canada are concerning themselves and give the reader a useful introduction to the approaches, methods and sources of their research.

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### The Perfect Gentleman

JUNE ROSE. London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 1977. Pp. 160

This biography of Dr. James Miranda Barry is of peripheral interest to Canadians since Dr. Barry served briefly as a medical officer in Canada from 1857 to 1859 and was responsible for advocating improved sanitary conditions in the army barracks. Dr. Barry's career may also have wider significance if it is true, as June Rose argues, that Dr. Barry was a woman.

Rose's research is the most recent contribution to what has been a century-long debate over the sexual identity of "the strange Dr. Barry." Rumours concerning Barry circulated during her lifetime. Her delicate physique, high-pitched voice, absence of facial hair and "petulant temper," were certain to invoke gossip and innuendo. The ques-