

time when both identities were suppressed by sexist and racist ideologies. But Miki does not explore these ideas in this work.

Muriel Kitagawa's legacy, as Miki underlines, can serve as an example of the need to resolve the current debate on redress for Japanese Canadian survivors of World War II. Kitagawa foreshadowed the urgency of this issue when in 1947 she wrote, "Reparation for our property

losses will. . . heal a little of the damage done to us. . . a determined effort of all decent Canadians will wipe out the stain of our psychological hurts." (p. 249) The publication of *This Is My Own* contributes to this process of healing. For people of Japanese origin in Canada who lived through the cruelty imposed upon them during World War II by the Canadian government, as well as for the generations which have followed, this book is repre-

sentative of a struggle to claim a history which is defined by us and "our own." Hopefully, *This Is My Own* will be read by "all decent Canadians" to whom Muriel Kitagawa entrusted the challenge to create a world of peace and equality for all. In this way, her work may stand as a reminder of how knowledge of the past may inform the ways in which we conceptualize the future.

## THE NEGLECTED MAJORITY: VOLUME 2

Edited by Alison Prentice and Susan Mann Trofimenkoff. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1985.

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McClelland and Stewart have provided a sequel to *The Neglected Majority*, Volume 1 (1977). This second volume brings together previously printed articles which have appeared since the publication of Volume 1. Comparison is inevitable and readers will find in this volume not only a handy teaching tool, but also a barometer of change in the field of women's history. As the editors optimistically note in their introduction, Canadian women's history has begun to make inroads into the discipline. Unfortunately, far too little concrete evidence of this has yet appeared in text books. On the positive side, Volume 2 demonstrates significant strides within women's history – a broadening of subjects, a more imaginative use of sources and more awareness of the need for regional case studies.

The collection addresses areas and themes of importance for understanding women's past and present experiences – the women's movement, women's work and family life, ideology, culture and education, as well as health and sexuality. The authors utilize both "traditional" historical sources and newer techniques, such as oral history.

The women's movement and its relationship to other organizations and ideologies provide the focus for Marta Danylewycz's article on nuns and feminists in Montreal. This piece explores how nuns and lay women developed an important supportive relationship which aided feminist campaigns in Quebec. Danylewycz and Margaret Conrad also explore education, ideology and culture in their articles. The attempts to establish

institutions of higher learning in Quebec detailed by Danylewycz emphasises the constraints imposed by the Catholic Church. Conrad's piece of women's diaries also stresses the importance of religion for women in the Maritimes, albeit most of her diarists were protestants. Conrad's essay addresses the broader question of women's culture as revealed in women's private writings; moreover it reveals the wide range of information diaries provide on most of the themes addressed by this volume.

Several of the essays, as well as the introduction, pinpoint the importance of demographic factors and life cycle considerations for women. Imbalanced sex ratios, age at first marriage, fertility and mortality patterns, and migration had profound effects on the way women lived their lives. Access to birth control and abortion, still a controversial issue, is discussed by Angus McLaren in his article which covers the period 1870 to 1920. The observable decline in marital fertility in these years provoked a debate which drew together many threads of social commentary on women. The "new woman" with her potential employment, new values (sometimes including feminism) and her attraction to urban areas threatened to undermine expected roles centering around marriage and child-bearing. McLaren's essay indicates how far women would contest their rights to control over fertility and provides a needed corrective to the notion that women were the passive victims of the medical profession and the state.

Women's work both inside and outside the home is analyzed in Jan Noel's piece on women in New France, in Gail Cuthbert Brandt's discussion of women cotton workers in Quebec, in Marjorie Cohen's exploration of Ontario women in dairying and in Marilyn Barber's examination of domestic service. These same articles address the relationship between paid work and women's position in the

family, a key dynamic which has to be considered in the context of the life cycle of both the individual and the family.

In comparison with Volume 1, it is gratifying that more of the essays in Volume 2 pay attention to the history of working class women and socialist women. In the early stages of Canadian women's history, middle class women's experiences tended to dominate. The essays by Barber, Brandt and Cohen serve to remind us of the vast territories still in need of research. Susan Walsh's article on two CCF women in British Columbia raises the question of the tensions between socialism and feminism, a subject of contemporary feminist analysis.

Volume 2 is a welcome addition to the corpus of Canadian women's history; not only does it provide a valuable teaching tool, but it also reflects where Canadian women's history is both strongest and weakest. Clearly the strengths lie in certain regions and time periods. More work has been done on central Canada and more recently, B.C. and the Maritimes; the weaknesses remain apparent but diminishing in the Prairies, and in parts of Atlantic Canada (Newfoundland and PEI). Canadian women's historians have tended to focus on the period 1870-1920, with some significant strides toward the twentieth century. What is missing from our reconstruction of the past, however, is the historical experience of native, black and ethnic women. Integrating that history into mainstream Canadian women's history awaits a future volume.

