

Not Just Pin Money: Selected Essays on the History of Women's Work in British Columbia, by Barbara Latham and Roberta Pazdro. Victoria: Camosun College, 1984.

In Her Own Right: Selected Essays on Women's History in British Columbia, edited by Barbara Latham and Cathy Kess in 1980, was a pioneering work. *Not Just Pin Money*, edited by Barbara Latham and Roberta Pazdro, is in effect the "daughter" of *In Her Own Right*. This volume is not just a "supplement" to the first as Latham modestly puts it, but a more substantial work, not only in size (thirty contributions in contrast to fourteen) but also in scope. The collection of papers is the outcome of a conference on women's history that was hosted by Camosun College in Victoria, B.C., in April 1984 and published very ably by its Applied Communications Program.

Not Just Pin Money, unlike many collections of conference papers, has a clearly defined focus and remarkable coherence. Most of the essays are concerned either directly or indirectly with women's labour: both unpaid in the home and community and paid in the labour force. Furthermore, because of the overlap in organizations, personalities, issues and purposes examined, the papers tend to form a unified whole.

Though it has a clearly defined focus, this book covers a wide range of topics. The contributors include lay historians in the province's historical societies and students and professors at colleges and universities from a wide variety of disciplines: history, anthropology, psychology, sociology and education. In contrast to many studies of women's history in Canada, this volume does not restrict itself to an analysis of reform and suffrage movements. Five articles on native and Asian women serve a particularly important function in broadening our knowledge of B.C. women's experiences.

Some of the papers such as the thumbnail sketches of the twenty-three women who held or still hold seats in the B.C. Legislature are simple reference tools. Other essays, by concentrating on such notables as Mary Moody, Sister Mary Osithe, Josephine Crease, Ina Uhthoff, Beatrice Lennie, May Campbell, Vivian Dowding, Mary Ellen Smith, Dorothy Gretchen Steeves, Grace MacInnis, Tilly Jean Rolston and Joan Kennedy fill in gaps of our knowledge. Still others examine the significance to women of such agencies and organizations as the Rescue Home for Chinese Girls, the Queen Mary's Coronation Hostel, the UBC Ladies Lit, the Vancouver women's clubs, the Women's Institutes, the Girl Guides, the Industrial Home for Girls, the Vancouver telephone opera-

tors' local, the IWA Ladies' Auxiliary, the Graduate Nurses Association of B.C., the Victorian Order of Nurses and the B.C. Women's Service Corps. The editors have successfully produced what they unpretentiously present as a reference tool. Had an index been provided, their goal would have been further realized.

Not Just Pin Money is not a definitive historical account of women's work experiences in B.C. Contributors tend to focus on the lives of middle-class rather than working-class women. Though they touch on many aspects of women's labour, much of the attention is given to voluntary or political work. Missing are case studies of women's experiences as domestics, mothers, teachers, prostitutes, salesclerks, laundresses, canners, secretaries, providers of room and board and so on. Neglected too are full treatments of broad theoretical questions regarding, for instance, the impact of patriarchy, capitalism and the state on women's lives.

But one should not end a review of such a valuable text on a negative note. Barbara Latham and Roberta Pazdro and their associates and contributors are to be congratulated on producing a study which shows what can be done and what remains to be done in the history of women in B.C.

Simon Fraser University

ARLENE TIGAR MCLAREN

Circle of Voices: A History of the Religious Communities of British Columbia, edited by Charles P. Anderson, Tirthankar Bose and Joseph I. Richardson. Lantzville: Oolichan Books, 1983. Pp. 288. \$9.95.

As Charles P. Anderson, the author of the introduction to this volume, observes, British Columbia is often said to be Canada's most secular province, and the contention seems to be confirmed by the paucity of books on religion in the province. In publishing this historical account of the religious faiths held by British Columbians, the Pacific Interfaith Citizenship Association of British Columbia had a specific objective in the promotion of better understanding among diverse cultural and religious groups. Funding was provided in part by the Multiculturalism Program of the federal government and by the government of British Columbia. In its purpose this volume has much in common with the earlier work by John Norris, *Strangers Entertained: A History of the*