

## 9 MÉTIS

Bumsted, J.M. *The Red River Rebellion*. Winnipeg: Watson Dwyer Publishing 1996 (MMJ)

This book is an accessible introduction for undergraduate students and general readers. Bumsted reaches several noteworthy conclusions about social relations within the Métis community. Riel and the leaders faced considerable resistance from within and resorted to bullying tactics – an explanation, perhaps, for the execution of Thomas Scott. Although the text is not documented, Bumsted includes a bibliographical essay, an extensive bibliography, and dozens of short biographies. *CHR* 79, 4 (1998): 762–3.

Ens, Gerhard J. *Homeland to Hinterland: The Changing Worlds of the Red River Métis in the Nineteenth Century*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press 1996 (MMJ)

Employing the methods of historical demography and economic history, Ens demonstrates Métis participation in merchant capitalism and the class lines that divided them in 1870. His interpretation of social dynamics, with its emphasis on a proto-industrial Métis economy, differs from Pannekoek's emphasis on racial and religious strife. Ens foregrounds Euro-Canadian immigration and intolerance rather than government malfeasance as coercive factors in the Métis exodus from Red River after 1870. Although less informed by a Métis perspective, the book contributes to the economic, demographic, and epidemiological history of Manitoba. *CHR* 79, 2 (1998): 340–2.

Pannekoek, Frnts. *A Snug Little Rock: The Social Origins of the Riel Resistance, 1869–1870*. Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer 1991 (MMJ)

Using the Hudson's Bay Company archives and Anglican Church records, Pannekoek finds internal divisions within Red River resulting from racial and religious tensions between Protestant mixed-bloods and Catholic Métis. This evidence suggests that more complex interpretations of Métis history are in order. Pannekoek is less successful in his discussion of the mixed-bloods' transition from a semi-nomadic to an agricultural lifestyle. Alongside the works of Ens, Flanagan, and Sprague, Pannekoek adds much to the debate. *CHR* 76, 2 (1995): 286–8.

Payment, Diane. *The Free People of Otipemisiwak: Batoche, Saskatchewan, 1870–1930*. Ottawa: Parks Canada 1990 (MMJ)

A revised edition of the author's French volume, *Batoche (1870–1910)*, published in 1983, *The Free People* presents additional research extending the time period of the original study. Payment argues that western Métis

history is not simply a story of social disintegration, but one also marked by political, social, and economic continuity. With mixed results, she struggles with how best to relate a tangled tale of marginalization and adaptation, assimilation and continuity. The book is useful for its revision of earlier ideas about the western Métis after 1885 and for discussions about how to approach the history of historically marginalized peoples. *CHR* 72, 4 (1991): 606–8.

Thorne, Tanis. *The Many Hands of My Relations: French and Indians in the Lower Missouri*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press 1996 (MMI)

This ambitious study aims to chart the history of relations between French Creoles, French Indians, and Central Siouan tribes from 1750 to 1880. Although ethnohistorical in nature, Thorne's work also foregrounds economic and social realities. In tackling the nettlesome question of intercultural identity, she finds that the French-Indian peoples of the Lower Missouri 'may have shared a collective identity as members of a community, but not necessarily a nationalistic identity as a "new people."' A lively and stimulating contribution offering a comparative North American perspective to the literature on Native-European communities.

#### 10 CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Bird, Elizabeth S., ed. *Dressing in Feathers: The Construction of the Indian in American Popular Culture*. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press 1996 (KTC)

This collection of original essays explores not only the history behind popular representations of Aboriginal societies and individuals but also the power of such mythic images within North American society. The volume is part of the broader body of American literature on Aboriginal images and myth making which has no real counterpart in Canadian historiography outside of the works of Daniel Francis and Olive Dickason. Taken as a whole, it reflects the influence of literary discourse analysis within American intellectual and cultural history. The one Canadian contribution is Peter Geller's "'Hudson's Bay Company Indians": Images of Native People and the Red River Pageant, 1920,' which explores the corporate creation of Indian identity in the 1920s Canadian prairies and its public display by Aboriginal people participating in the company's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Carter, Sarah. *Capturing Women: The Manipulation of Cultural Imagery in Canada's Prairie West*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press 1997 (KTC)

In an excellent example of the application of discourse analysis within a narrative framework, Carter demonstrates how the resistance of 1885