

for a rational and rounded historical overview. To some extent, the humanistic perspective had been footnoted throughout the gallery by a "Cost of War" graphic feature in each section which provided a tally of sorts for Newfoundland-land losses in each context (human and economic). Expression of the three key principles was found in the following quotations:

1. Metaphysical: "The laws permit arms to be taken against an armed foe"
(Ovid)
2. Analytical: "War is merely the continuation of politics by other means"
(Clausewitz)
3. Humanistic: "War is the greatest plague that can afflict mankind"
(Luther)

At the entrance to the gallery, these quotations were

mounted, in the above order, immediately adjacent to the mourning/meditative officer figure of the frontispiece. They were mounted again at the end of the exhibit beneath a large photo-mural of the devastated landscape of Hiroshima in 1945; but this second time in reverse order.

Hopefully, the exhibit does some justice to the experience of those in and from Newfoundland who participated in and suffered through the wars of their generations. Hopefully it may also provide a historical perspective for the average museum-goer for whom thoughts on the issue are dominated by the "unthinkable" nuclear nightmare. "For King & Country" deals with a period, mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century, when war was a routine and feasible (if costly) instrument of state policy. The exhibit's final note is a suggestion that the instrument as traditionally used is now obsolescent and self-defeating – a challenge to find wider loyalties than those so dearly served throughout our past.

Bernard Ransom

Material Culture: A Research Guide

Thomas J. Schlereth (ed.). *Material Culture: A Research Guide*. Lawrence, Kan.: University of Kansas, 1985. 224 pp. Cloth \$25.00, ISBN 0-7006-0274-7. Paper \$9.95, ISBN 0-7006-0275-5.

In *Artifacts and the American Past* Thomas J. Schlereth suggested that museums had become our "major encounter with the past," profoundly influencing our sense of history and history as a way of knowing. In his latest book, *Material Culture, A Research Guide*, he has taken us that necessary step forward, providing an explanation and an explication of material culture as a means of acquiring a deeper and more complete sense of the past. The result is an exciting and exhilarating book.

Schlereth's own sensitive and perceptive mastery of the field of material culture studies pervades this impressive collection of essays. The book's inception was in response to a special issue of the *American Quarterly* in 1983 which surveyed the teaching, research and writings of American scholars for whom artifacts constituted important evidence in the documentation and interpretation of the American experience. Those essays have been revised and rewritten for this publication and the result is an invaluable guide to the field of material culture studies. Canadian readers will be glad to learn that despite the primary focus on American life, Canadian research is included and

placed in the context of the larger areas of study.

Each of the essays in this book sets an impressive standard of scholarship, highlighting the assumptions and concepts, directions and dimensions of research in diverse fields relating to material culture. While assessing the landmark studies, this collection of essays is equally concerned with the newly emergent subfields of research in material culture. The interdisciplinary nature of material culture studies is evident in the selection of essayists: Peirce Lewis is a cultural geographer; Dell Upton, an architectural historian; Carroll Purcell, a historian of technology; Kenneth Ames, a domestic arts scholar; and Simon Bonner, a folklorist. Interestingly, there is little overlap in either content or themes, testifying to the richness of the field as well as to the editor's skill. Not everyone will agree with the various points of view expressed in these essays, for the authors are always quick to point to flawed research or research still to be done. Although not a panegyric to material culture as the only form of historical inquiry, most authors would agree with Kenneth Ames when he suggests that "what we need are not more manifestos claiming objects are relevant, but more people showing how they are."

Schlereth's contributions to this book merit special comment. His preface is a finely tuned essay describing

the multidisciplinary and multifaceted perspectives of the book. Chapter 1, "Material Culture and Cultural Research," is a brilliant introduction to a field in which many of us tread warily. His essay, "Social History Scholarship and Material Culture Research," originally published in the *Journal of Social History*, is a seminal work, relating as it does the findings of material culture scholars to the burgeoning field of social history, thereby making both fields of enquiry more relevant to the human experience. Schlereth accomplishes this with an envious ease, devoid of cant or jargon. Lastly, drawing on his wide and remark-

able knowledge of the field, is "A Guide to Research Sources." Coupled with the extensive bibliographic references that accompany each chapter, this concluding essay makes this book an essential reference work for anyone in the fields of public history and social history. It would also be indispensable for anyone working in museums or in the area of preservation or local history, and it should be required reading for all of us trained in legal and constitutional history.

Kenneth McLaughlin

Glass of the British Military

Parks Canada Glass Glossary

Olive R. Jones and E. Ann Smith. *Glass of the British Military, ca. 1755-1820*. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History. Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1985. 143 pp., 137 ill. ISBN 0-660-11921-8. \$7.95 paper, \$9.55 outside Canada. En vente en français sous le titre: *La verrerie utilisée par l'armée britannique de 1755 à 1820*. ISBN 0-660-91591-X.

Olive Jones and Catherine Sullivan et al. *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary*. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History. Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1985. 185 pp., 152 ill. ISBN 0-660-11775-4. \$12.25 paper, \$14.70 outside Canada. En vente en français sous le titre: *Glossaire du verre de Parcs Canada*. ISBN 0-660-91430-1.

Reviewing these two publications together may be somewhat inappropriate as, despite a common research subject and similar composite authorship, each will appeal to a different audience. However, both stem from the same source: the hard-working archaeological researchers at Parks Canada in Ottawa, and anyone who is interested in the history of glass objects in this country should thank the patron saint of researchers that the Archaeological Research Division has been able to keep up its fine programme of research publications through these times of cut-backs and restraint.

Glass of the British Military is the more immediately accessible of the two books, with its cartoon cover of carousing redcoats and many illustrations of fine glassware. The glossary is far more the textbook, spiral-bound and obviously expecting constant handling, written in manual format and illustrated mainly with simple line drawings. Neither book is cheap in price or

quality, but neither are they expensive by today's standards. It is encouraging to see that Parks Canada has not eliminated its series of research-oriented publications in order to support high-priced "popular publications" for the more general reader. There is certainly a place for this type of glossy publication with lots of photographs and little technical detail; but the publication of more technical and scholarly reports is still the foundation of a research institution's reputation.

Using a catalogue format, Jones and Smith have produced a very informative study of the glassware used by the British forces in Canada as interpreted through everyday activities: eating, drinking, health care, grooming, etc. It makes for enlightening reading. The amount and variety of alcoholic beverages consumed by both officers and enlisted men would seem to be appalling by today's standards, although I suspect the average reader's shock would have more to do with a lack of understanding of long-standing military traditions rather than any contrast one could make with current levels of consumption among the armed forces. In any event, the subject here is not alcoholism as a social problem, but the variety of beverages consumed and types of vessels used to ship, store and serve them. The authors are most careful to differentiate between the habits of the officer and the common soldier. Inevitably, however, one obtains a more detailed picture of the life of those of the officer class, if only because their lives are more documented and it is their artifacts that have tended to survive. The glassware is nearly all English with only a few American or French examples used where appropriate. Several public and private collections have provided pieces to illustrate objects for which only archaeological evidence remains. The