

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
BULLETIN

Book Reviews

Edited by Sarah Simpkin

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by Derek Hayes

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by Rodolphe De Koninck, Pham Thanh Hai, and Marc Girard

Reviewed by Virginia Pow

Historical Atlas of Early Railways

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Hayes, Derek. *Historical Atlas of Early Railways*. Madeira Park, BC: Douglas and McIntyre, Ltd., 2017. 320p. \$49.95 CDN. ISBN 978-1-77162-175-5.

Derek Hayes' *Historical Atlas of Early Railways* is a bold tome, taking on a subject that has received similar attention in the past (see Brian Hollingsworth's *Atlas of the World's Railways*; O.S. Nock's *World Atlas of Railways*; and John Westwood's *Historical Atlas of World Railroads*; among others). However, Hayes' book has a fresh look, offering an overview of the history of rail travel beginning not with the Liverpool & Manchester Railway in 1830, but with wagons on rails dating back to the 15th century and earlier, including wooden and stone railways, as well as basic rutted tracks that served the same purpose: to keep a vehicle on a single track as it moved between destinations.

If this expanded idea of a railway makes you pause, Hayes will change your mind. Using historical maps coupled with contemporary art and images, as well as modern day photographs, he demonstrates the railways that were in use, the innovations that were used to overcome specific obstacles, and the development of the rail system into its modern form. While much of the focus is on Great Britain, Hayes' history spans from Mumbai (then Bombay), India to Pictou, Nova Scotia, and the work certainly presents as definitive a history of early railways as is possible at this moment.

As a text, Hayes' work walks the fine line between academic and popular non-fiction reading. It works, then, both for research purposes, offering historical insights into early railway use, as well

as for the avid railway reader looking to learn more. Hayes' writing is clear and concise, and remains interesting, even while discussing issues such as the taxation of horses in Wales or lime quarries at Ticknall. While it could not be called engrossing, it makes for a thoughtful and enlightening read, and I never found myself bored; any moments that could have been tedious were alleviated by the fine images included.

Derek Hayes brings a wealth of knowledge to the subject matter. His website (derekhayes.ca) notes that he trained as a geographer in England and British Columbia, and worked as a city planner with the Vancouver City Planning Department. He is an accomplished author of several related books, including *Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest*, *Historical Atlas of Canada*, and *Historical Atlas of the North America Railroad*.

The majority of the maps in the *Historical Atlas of Early Railways* are reproductions of historical maps. Each railway discussed also includes a small outline map with a single point showing the location. This is a simple and highly effective way to highlight the area being discussed, and each piece works together to strengthen the whole of the text.

The *Historical Atlas of Early Railways* is, overall, a beautifully-produced book with interesting, well-researched subject matter. It will appeal to many readers, and would make a fine addition to any map library.

Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps

Virginia Pow
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De Koninck, Rodolphe, Pham Thanh Hai, and Marc Girard. *Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps*. Singapore: NUS Press, 2017. 168p. 130 colour maps, 33 b/w images, 16 b/w maps. \$50 CND. ISBN 978-981-4722-35-3.

Telling the story of Singapore since it became a nation in 1965 has been done brilliantly through words, pictures and cartography in the work *Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps*. Often when maps are included into a work, they are used as an addition or an afterthought. This is not the case here, as the cartography has been wonderfully woven into the well-researched and written work and the maps create a beautiful visual impact on the pages. The book focuses on how Singapore has undergone a huge physical and social change over the last fifty years, with maps highlighting the changes in the relief and the hydrology of the island. As well, the maps show urban and rural areas, emphasizing that the changes have been vast and impactful across the island nation. The fifty very well done maps highlight such areas as the planning history of Singapore, geopolitics, ecology, demography, economics, social dynamics, and physical geography. One of my favorite maps was Map 6 - 'Stretching the Land' which highlights the extending coastline that has been reclaimed over a number of years. These changes can seem very small year to year, but are huge when highlighted over 50 years.

Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps is also an amazing collaboration both internationally between Canada and Vietnam, but also between the cartographers Pham Thanh Hai (Cartographer and GIS Specialist at the Institute of Geological Sciences, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology) and Marc Girard (Cartographer and GIS Specialist in the Department of Geography at the Université de Montreal) and Rodolphe De Koninck, a recently-retired Professor of Geography and Canada Chair of Asian Research at the Université de Montreal). The synthesis between the writing and the cartography is wonderfully done. I would recommend this book to all academic institutions, but would place a high need for it to be a part of cartography, Asian studies, urban planning and human geography collections.

From the Book Reviews Editor:

Thanks to those who submitted book reviews and to all who have expressed interest in reviewing! I'll continue to request review copies from publishers - but please let me know if you have read a book of interest to the ACMLA and would like to submit a review, and if you have any suggestions for titles/sources. Here are the review guidelines:

Review Format

1. Bibliographic Citation

This should include: author, title, edition, place of publication, publisher, date, number of pages, price (if known) and ISBN. Example:

Bussey, Ben and Spudis, Paul D. *The Clementine Atlas of the Moon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. 316p. \$80.00 US. ISBN 0-521-81528-2.

2. Content

The review should describe and critically evaluate the work. Typical review elements include: scope, purpose and content of the work; intended audience; writing style; background and authority of the author; how the work compares with other titles on the same subject; its usefulness as a research tool; any unique features; and its suitability for library collections.

The length of the review is at the reviewer's discretion, but should normally reflect the importance of the work. A typical review is about 500 words.

3. Your name, title, institutional affiliation, city and province/state

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in reviews are those of the reviewer, not of the ACMLA. The Reviews Editor may make minor edits, without communicating with the reviewer. Should the Editor determine that a major revision is required, she will contact the reviewer for discussion.

Sarah Simpkin
Reviews Editor