

cluding the Queen, a lumberjack, and a zoo. It is no surprise her choice for letter B is the beaver — “a Canadian national symbol” which she describes as “Canada’s largest rodent,” suggesting a country overrun with rodents of various sizes. Particularly startling is the statement under letter F for French heritage: “in many areas in Canada, the French influence is still strong.” This suggests complete lack of awareness of the cultural and political climate of this country. This book would certainly not entice one to further explore things Canadian.

Teacher and award-winning author Maxine Trottier presents a much livelier, enthusiastic view of Canada in her counting book *One is Canada*. She cleverly uses numbers as the method by which children are introduced to facts about our country — three oceans, five great lakes, ten provinces, the Group of Seven. The book is cumulative in style, making it a splendid read-aloud book that will be well used in primary classrooms. A useful “notes on Canada” section at the back elaborates on information introduced in the body of the book. Bill Slavin’s bright, bold paintings give the book stunning visual appeal. They cover a double-page spread with the number and corresponding phrases appearing in an overlay on the left side. There is even an illustration within the large number itself. Slavin ingeniously uses different perspectives to show us Canada from space, under the sea, or from the four points of the compass. He captures a wild sail on the Great Lakes and the beauty of monarch butterflies at Point Pelee. There is a fine harmony between Trottier’s words and Slavin’s paintings.

Anne McCambridge is a children’s librarian at the Children’s Library, London Public Library.

Superbly-Illustrated Lessons in Native Awareness

The Encyclopedia of the First Peoples of North America. Rayna Green with Melanie Fernandez. 1st Canadian ed. Groundwood, 1999. 212 pp. \$35.00 cloth. ISBN 0-88899-380-3.

The Encyclopedia of the First Peoples of North America is a visually rewarding foray into the history and current status of native North Americans from about 1,000 C.E. First published as *The British Encyclopedia of Native North America*, this first Canadian edition, released the same year, should prove an excellent reference work for upper elementary and secondary school students. In reading this book, I was struck first and foremost by the high quality and rarity of many of the illustrations, many of which will appeal to the young reader. Rich and vibrantly coloured pictures of Native material culture items, both past and present, as well as relevant photographs and coloured maps, are strategically placed throughout the book to keep the reader’s interest. This is not a traditional Eurocentric inventory of Native North American culture. I found the book refreshing in its perspective, which gave me pause to think about some of the biases inherent in traditional histories. For instance, on page 107 a picture of artist James Luna lying on his back in a museum case, complete with his diploma, music tapes, and family photos, confronts how non-Native North Americans, and especially archaeologists, focus on the minutiae

of Native culture without truly understanding it. There are many textual references to significant events in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Native North American history (such as those at Wounded Knee) but also of accomplished Native performers (such as the 1898 black-and-white photo of violinist Gertrude Simmons Bonnin), artists, and historical figures like Sequoyah, who developed a method of writing the Cherokee language.

There are a few weaknesses in this book, but I do not think they detract from its value. For instance, it is very difficult to track timelines for entries concerning different tribal groups without considerable prior knowledge of their histories. Introductory maps do show tribal areas, as well as culture areas as set out by North American anthropologists, but these do not look after the problem of time. With such an immense span — 1,000 years — covered by the book in only 212 pages, it is inevitable that much material is left out. For instance, some of the tribal groups shown in the introductory First Nations map, such as the Osage and Omaha, have no alphabetical entry. In some respects, the encyclopaedia appears intentionally organized in a more anecdotal fashion to give just a taste of what is actually available. The authors do provide three pages of references for additional reading at the end of the book, including individual tribal histories and an index for names, places, and things that do not have individual entries.

The information which is presented in *The Encyclopedia of the First Peoples of North America* is generally of great interest and highly informative. It is certain to spark interest among readers in looking up additional references. Reading this book cover to cover, as I am sure many will do, should give the interested young reader a rich background in Native history and in political activism. The authors, Rayna Green and Melanie Fernandez, are to be congratulated on presenting an alternative history sourcebook with intelligence, humour, and sophistication. I am sure that sales will reflect the broad appeal of this book.

Lawrence Jackson directs a small archaeological consulting firm and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario.

Sports Fables

Shut-Out. Camilla Reghelini Rivers. James Lorimer, 2000. 108 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-667-6. *Queen of the Court*. Michele Martin Bussley. James Lorimer, 2000. 108 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-702-8. *Offside*. Sandra Diersch. James Lorimer, 1999. 101 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-722-2. *Rookie Season*. Jacqueline Guest. James Lorimer, 2000. 115 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-724-9. *Alecia's Challenge*. Sandra Diersch. James Lorimer, 1999. 101 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-650-1. *Hockey Heroes*. John Danakas. James Lorimer, 1998. 95 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-596-3. *Brothers on Ice*. John Danakas. James Lorimer, 2001. 102 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-679-X. *Heads Up*. Dawn Hunter and Karen Hunter. James Lorimer, 2001. 85 pp. \$8.95 paper. ISBN 1-55028-718-4.

James Lorimer's *Sports Stories* series now includes over 45 titles. The genre, at least as defined by these eight books (my first encounter with the series), is the sports