

Of particular interest to journalism historians, Foletta provides a brief overview of American literary, political, and religious magazines of the early nineteenth century, from the Bostonian *Monthly Anthology* and the *United States Literary Gazette* to the Philadelphia-based *Christian Advocate* and the *Port Folio*.

Although he overstates his case at times, Foletta explores the second-generation Federalists' cultural and intellectual contributions to American society admirably. His historical synthesis of intellectual development in the Early Republic is an important contribution to the literature of the American conservative ideology.

Ralph Frasca, Marymount University

*PACIFIC PRESS: THE UNAUTHORIZED STORY OF
VANCOUVER'S NEWSPAPER MONOPOLY*

By Marc Edge. Vancouver: New Star Books, 2001. 450 pp.

This book is the published version of Marc Edge's doctoral dissertation, which received an AJHA award. In his expansively detailed study, Edge focuses on the press of Vancouver, British Columbia, and specifically the amalgamation of both the city's two daily newspaper rivals, the *Sun* and the *Province*, under the Pacific Press holding company. Edge believes that this move was a major factor in the continuing corporatization of the Canadian media in the later half of the twentieth century. In the Vancouver dailies, it led to managerial ineptitude, extensive labor unrest over technological and marketing innovations, and, Edge contends, a loss of journalistic integrity and stature for the newspapers involved.

Pacific Press (now Pacific Newspaper Group) was founded in 1957, following what the author argues was a technically illegal "equal partnership" deal between the Southam newspaper chain, which ran the floundering small-c conservative *Province*, and the Cromie family, which owned its relatively successful small-l liberal rival, the *Sun*. During this period, similar joint operating agreements were struck between American newspapers as well. The *Sun* was sold in succession to FP Publications, Thomson, and finally to Southam, which by the 1980s had both papers officially under its wing. It was, Edge points out, the worst example of a local daily newspaper monopoly in Canada at the time, one that the federal government chose to overlook from the beginning and the courts forgave in the end.

The *Sun-Province* partnership was never an easy one, and Edge documents its ups and downs over four decades. There were several damaging

executive power struggles and protracted strikes, while other business interests and even Pacific Press's unionized employees made unsuccessful or short-lived attempts to start rival newspapers to break its stranglehold on the Vancouver market. The combination of these and other unsettling economic forces resulted in a newspaper monopoly in which one successful afternoon newspaper, the *Sun*, financially supported its struggling morning "competition," the *Province*. As "disco journalism" and evening television news gradually and successfully wooed North American audiences away from the afternoon papers, Pacific Press management tried several makeovers and marketing strategies at both newspapers, with varying degrees of success. Eventually, the *Sun* published in the morning in direct competition with the *Province*, by that time a tabloid, to the advantage of neither publication nor their parent company.

Edge ends his main narrative at this point but adds that subsequent mergers have not served these or other newspapers well. He points to Hollinger's takeover of Southam in 1996, under the leadership of Conrad Black, and, a few years later, the decision to sell the parent company's interests to CanWest Global, owned by the Asper family. In both takeovers, Edge believes, company-appointed newsroom bureaucrats have toed the right wing political lines set down by their respective owners, with a detrimental impact on the concept of freedom of expression and journalists' morale.

The book is intended to be a business rather than journalism history, so it focuses on the moves of the major players and pays little attention to editorial issues or content, except where they intersect with economics or internal power struggles. Edge, who worked as a reporter and editor at the *Province* for a number of years, ostensibly strives for journalistic balance in his account of management and labor's trials and tribulations at Pacific Press. He profitably consulted the private papers of one of the *Sun's* previous publishers as well as a handful of other documents supplied by his few interviewees, mainly former Southam executives and editorial employees, including one executive member of the Newspaper Guild. Otherwise, most of his primary research is taken from the news and editorial pages of the two dailies concerned, business periodicals and, occasionally from a union or professional journalists' publication. While these sources are very well used, he could have made a stronger effort to use more company and union documents if possible and certainly more oral history, especially from the rank and file. According to Edge, the unions, especially those representing the crafts, did as much damage to Pacific Press's fortunes with their insistence on labor solidarity at all costs as did the company's misdirected management. But we don't see sufficient rebuttals or explanations from these labor leaders themselves.

While this study may, to American readers, seem too Canadian or “foreign” to be of interest, Edge raises important, universal questions about the political economy of the North American newspaper industry, and the impact of corporatization and bottom line thinking on dailies, journalists, other press workers, and readers. As Edge amply illustrates, what happened to Vancouver’s once proud newspapers is a legacy of this trend.

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THE PRESS AND RACE: MISSISSIPPI JOURNALISTS CONFRONT THE MOVEMENT

By David R. Davies, ed. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2001. 302 pp.

Facts alone do not topple injustice. The essays in David R. Davies’ book offer glimpses into the motivations and conditions that inspire ordinary folks to cling to evil notions that glorify them at the expense of others. Perhaps, most chillingly, these analyses of earnest journalists warn us that we, too, are human beings capable of inadvertent crimes against humanity. The writers transport us to Mississippi newspaper offices in the 1950s and 1960s.

Susan M. Weill sets the stage, deftly describing the “closed-society” social blueprint that guaranteed whites superiority by denying blacks economic, educational, and human rights. She examines how the daily press in the state reacted to three crises: *Brown v. the Board of Education*, James Meredith’s enrollment at Ole Miss, and Freedom Summer of 1964. Her vivid examples reveal that most editors shared their readers’ fears of equality. These scholars candidly depict real human beings caught in the turbulent tide of change. They separate legend from historical fact, often repeating the individual’s words. For example, while some of his contemporaries romanticized the publisher of the *Lexington Advertiser*, Hazel Brannon Smith, as a proponent of integration, Arthur Kaul points out that she opposed desegregation. Smith championed the Progressive mandate for justice and fairness regardless of color or social station.

Ginger Rudeseal Carter also quotes Hodding Carter, Jr., to show that he did not consider himself an integrationist. Nevertheless, he wrote fiery editorials about human rights. Both Smith and Carter won Pulitzer Prizes; she rebuked the police for abusing blacks; he decried the treatment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II.

While both Carter and Smith felt torn between loyalty to southern traditions and a call of conscience to denounce oppression, Ira B. Harkey felt compelled to crusade (in David L. Bennett’s words) for an end to “the

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