ever, some expansion of news volume was
clearly discernible as dramatic domestic
conflict and foreign strife caught the public
fancy and the larger number of reporters
searching for something to report, wrote
about it. The telegraph certainly helped in-
crease the volume of news from abroad—
especially about Africa, Persia, and India.
Such news was often reported from the fil-
ings of foreign reporters, not British, and
was accepted because there was nothing else
available.

It is useful for historians to be reminded
of this as they search the newspaper records
for perspective on events in the Victorian
era. The news was news, but its reporting
was not very accurate or probing. This is a
book about the infancy of modern mass cir-
culation journalism. It was an infancy, as
detailed in this book, of undistinguishable
individuals who all learned to walk about
the same time with the same props, and ex-
cept in some instances, were uninteresting.
They became more interesting as robust
adults in the twentieth century. But Brown’s
book is not about newspaper adulthood.

MICHAEL J. MOORE
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MacKay, David
In the Wake of Cook: Exploration,
Science and Empire, 1780–1801
New York: St. Martin’s Press
216 pp., $27.50, ISBN 0-312-41177-4
Publication Date: July 1985

The bicentenary of the epic voyages of Cap-
tain James Cook has occasioned a consider-
able outpouring of scholarly endeavor focus-
ing on the man and the implications of his
work, but the approach taken in the present
volume is among the most noteworthy of
these varied examinations. In it David Mac-
Kay, who is a senior lecturer in history at
Victoria University in Wellington, New Zea-
land, analyzes the impact Cook’s endeavors
had on subsequent exploration.

Geographically MacKay’s scope is vir-
tually world wide, although the northern
and southern Pacific receive particular at-
tention. Curiously, and it is a shortcoming
of the book, Africa and the pioneering ef-
forts of Mungo Park and others to pene-
trate the continent’s western interior receive
no mention. This is a significant oversight,
because the work of Joseph Banks and others
with the African Association was a splendid
eexample of the general exploratory thrust of
leading Englishmen in the Age of Reason.
This sin of omission aside, the book is a
solid one.

The book’s central theme—the impact
of Cook’s efforts in connection with ex-
panding scientific knowledge on those
who followed him and on imperial develop-
ments—are carefully delineated. As a result
we have a fuller understanding of important

and heretofore curiously neglected aspects
of imperial history in those vital decades
immediately following the loss of the Amer-
ican colonies. Readers of this book are cer-
tain to come away with new perspectives on
the formative states of the second British
Empire as a result.

Similarly, and what to this reviewer is the
book’s most notable contribution to knowl-
edge, MacKay offers considerable insight on
the manner in which science was promoted
with an ultimate eye to what scientific (and
geographical) discoveries could mean for the
empire. His findings suggest, though it is
nowhere expressed in precisely those terms,
that the period saw the emergence of a sort of
“imperialism of exploration.” The cover-
age of such issues, together with a careful
delineation of the shrewd eye for commer-
cial gain which likewise underlay explora-
tion, will be of considerable interest to
those specializing in British imperial history.

The book reads well, is solidly grounded
in archival and library research, and fea-
tures a fine bibliography. It belongs in all
research collections as well as any library
supporting studies on the British Empire.

JAMES A. CASADA
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Myers, J. N. L.
The English Settlements
University Press
Publication Date: January 1986

The story behind this book is a particularly
pleasant one. The first volume of the Ox-
ford History of England (OHE), covering
the beginnings of the tale in a magisterial

treatment by the philosopher-historian R.
G. Collingwood, appeared in 1936 entitled
Roman Britain, to which—because the
volume for Anglo-Saxon England per se
was thought not to impend for some years,
in the event, F. M. Stenton’s even more
magisterial work of that name was pub-
lished in 1943)—a rather brief appendix
called . . . and the English Settlements was
added by a young Oxford don. Fifty years
and a great mass of archaeological discover-
ies later, that same author, for many years
Bodley’s Librarian at Oxford and without
question the pre-eminent authority on
Anglo-Saxon pottery, has been able to ex-
pand and update his treatment in a self-
standing volume that is welcome in its own
right and as the sequel to Peter Salway’s
Roman Britain, which on its appearance in
1981 replaced Collingwood’s part of the old
OHE volume I.

As Myers explains in the extensive intro-
duction (which together with the biblio-
graphical essay at the end provide a useful
historiographical survey), his original em-
phasis on archaeological material both set
his treatment apart from Stenton’s stress on
documentary and place-name evidence and
rendered his own work quickly in need of
dramatic revision. That 1936 was three years
before the Sutton Hoo ship burial was even
discovered, let alone understood, demon-
strates the latter point adequately. This
does not mean that the present work should
be regarded as definitive; the nature of the
subject precludes such an accolade. But it is
of immense value to have Myers’s mature
reflections on some of the thorniest prob-
lems in all of English history, those con-
ected with the Anglo-Saxon invasions and
settlements.

The book’s structure makes the subject
as clear as perhaps it can be made. After
chapters on the nature of the evidence (both
literary and nonliterary) and on the contin-
tental and Romano-British backgrounds,
each of the major English areas, the South-
East, Wessex, and the North, is dealt with,
and there is a closing chapter of cautious
conclusions. The detailed table of contents
is a great help. The style is forthright and
authoritative, with an occasional endear-
ing growl, for example, on the “historical
Author.” “No figure on the borderline of
history and mythology has wasted more of
the historian’s time” (p. 16).

This is the finest and fullest treatment to
date of the English settlements, one to
which there is no rival. Intended for the
serious student (from very advanced under-
graduate to practicing scholar), and in that
sense giving no quarter, Myers’s book im-
mediately becomes in the most literal sense
of the sometimes hackneyed phrase the in-
dispensable starting point for further work
on its subject.

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at Chapel Hill

Cook, Ramsay
Regenerators: Social Criticism in Late
Victorian English Canada
Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press
291 pp., $15.95 paper, $32.50 cloth, ISBN
0-8020-6609-7 paper, ISBN 0-8020-5670-9 cloth
Publication Date: November 1985

Ramsay Cook, professor of history at York
University, Canada, is best known as one
of Canada’s major anglophone “windows”
on francophone Québec. This book repre-
sents a major effort in the quite opposite
direction—Protestant anglophone Canada.

Cook focuses on the fifty years (from the
1870s to the 1920s), when an explosion of
social criticism and reform effort reconfig-
ured the more optimistic and self-satisfied
years of the mid-nineteenth century. As in
his earlier work on Québec, Cook attempts
to understand the premises and presupposi-

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his earlier research, Ramsay Cook is clearly now in a position to offer a comparative perspective on this phenomenon. The Regenerators therefore promises to spark further research on this formative period of Canadian society. The book deserves a wide readership.

CHAD GAFFIELD
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Andrew, Christopher
Her Majesty's Secret Service: The Making of the British Intelligence Community
New York: Viking Press
Publication Date: February 1986

Published to critical acclaim in the United Kingdom in 1985, this book documents the growth of the modern British intelligence community from its haphazard origins prior to World War I to the astonishing successes of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) during World War II. Christopher Andrew is a fellow at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and editor of the Historical Journal, and author of four other books on twentieth-century history. His “warts and all” portrait of the British secret services complements F. H. Hinsley’s three-volume “official” history of British Intelligence in the Second World War (1979–).

The reader is constantly aware of an inherent tension in intelligence work. That is, how can covertly gathered intelligence be revealed for strategic advantage without compromising the technique? Andrew demonstrates how the cryptanalysts of “Room 40” in 1917 skilfully resolved the dilemma by the way in which the intercepted Zimmermann Telegram was revealed to the Americans (pp. 106–115). This is contrasted with the ineptitude of key British politicians who, outraged by Comintern interference in domestic politics, read out extracts of top-secret Soviet intercepts to Commons in 1927. As a result, the Russians changed their code and cipher systems, and Britain lost its most valuable peacetime intelligence source (pp. 326–338). It was not until World War II that the intelligence services regained the morale characteristic of the 1914–1918 period.

Much of the credit for the latter belongs to Winston Churchill. Faced by the cloak and dagger from his early adventures at the outposts of empire, Churchill followed the development of Ml5 (Security Service) while home secretary in 1910–1911. As first lord of the Admiralty in 1914 he was involved in the founding of “Room 40” and the revival of British code breaking. During the 1930s, Churchill was supplied with secret intelligence which he used to attack the defense policies of MacDonald, Baldwin, and Neville Chamberlain (p. 355). Once he became prime minister in 1940, “it was under his inspirational leadership and in the finest hour of his long career that the fragmented intelligence services acquired at last that degree of coordination which turned them into an intelligence community” (p. 486). By cracking Germany’s Enigma machine codes between 1940 and 1942, the newly recruited team of Anglo-American cryptanalysts assembled at Bletchley Park acquired access to German strategic intelligence—an essential factor in the development of the “double cross” system which insured the success of the Normandy invasion.

An epilogue summarizes developments since 1945. Andrew attributes the 1980s deterioration within the intelligence agencies to governmental neglect attendant upon excessive secrecy and the absence of agency accountability to Parliament. It is a warning that Americans, currently witnessing a series of spy scandals within their own security service, would do well to heed. The book, a compelling blend of rigorous scholarship, colorful characterization, and telling anecdote, can be read with profit by generalists and specialists alike.

WILLIAM I. SHORROCK
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Malcolm, Elizabeth
Ireland Sober, Ireland Free: Drink and Temperance in Nineteenth-Century Ireland
Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press
363 pp., $27.50, ISBN 0-8156-2366-6
Publication Date: May 1986

This is the sixteenth volume in the Irish studies series published by Syracuse University Press. The historical volumes in the series originate in most instances outside of North America and with commercial publishers. This is relevant because it explains why a book that should be a pleasure to read is very hard to get through. Two systems of documentary notes are simultaneously employed, apparently in an attempt to save money, and one of these involves littering the text with numbers that are set in bold face. The volume is physically painful to read and is one of the least successful efforts at book design I have seen in a decade.

That is a pity, for the topic is important and Elizabeth Malcolm is skilled. Alcohol is Ireland’s drug of choice. Recognizing this, Malcolm has made the intelligent decision to deal both with drink and with those who try to stay off it. Malcolm, an Australian, began her studies in Irish history with Patrick O’Farrell and continued with T. W. Moody at Trinity College, Dublin. This book is a revised version of her Trinity doctoral thesis.

The topics are complex and Dr. Malcolm has no single theme or hypothesis. She shows that the incidence of alcohol consumption varied greatly by class, locality,