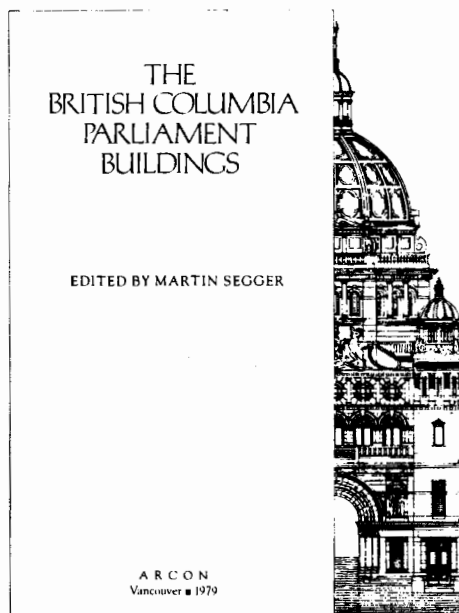


tural forces behind its design. The book also serves as a verbal and visual introduction to the building to potential visitors as well as a valuable memento for those who have visited.

Following a supportive preface by Premier William Bennett, the book describes the construction of the Victoria building within the Canadian architectural context of the period 1875 to 1915. Several other legislative buildings were erected at this time including those in Quebec, Ottawa, Edmonton, Regina, and Winnipeg. We are given not only a brief history and architectural description of the British Columbia building, which was designed by Francis Mawson Rattenbury in 1893, but also a sense of nineteenth century taste and aesthetics. Spaces were smaller. Detail was extravagant. We become aware of the American and British architectural precedents and influences upon this building which were very much appreciated upon its completion. We are given a rare opportunity to view the building through the eyes of a late nineteenth century newspaper reporter. The book reproduces in full an 1898 account of a tour through the building. All the interior spaces are described in detail with respect to their design and function. Factual explanatory notes are supplied in the margin by the editor.

The following chapter proceeds to explain some of the political history, form of government, and legislative assembly procedures in British Columbia. The remaining chapters describe concisely but thoroughly the history of the first government buildings in Victoria, the competition which was held to select a new design, the biography and architectural work of the chosen architect, and the many craftsmen who were selected to add to the building their metalwork, sculpture, carving, painting and glasswork. The book concludes with a brief description of the restoration work which was carried out in the building after 1973. Two appendices list the many competitors for the original design and describe objects and areas of interest on the surrounding grounds.

This small, compact but well organized book contains a wealth of information. Unfortunately for some, there are no footnotes. However, a very adequate bibliography is presented in a narrative format as acknowledgements. The high quality paper and large print make it easy to read. One of the highlights of the book is the forty excellent colour photographs. There are numerous other sepia toned historical photos and drawings, and several black and white photos. Unfortunately, the illustration captions are brief or non-existent. The book is available in hard and soft cover, the latter having a fairly durable binding.



Martin Segger, the editor, received his Master's degree in art history from The Warburg Institute, University of London. He now lectures in Renaissance and Baroque art and is Director of the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery at the University of Victoria. As one of Canada's leading architectural historians and an active preservationist, he has written several books and articles on British Columbia architects and architecture. Other contributors include George Giles, F.R.A.I.C., former Deputy Minister of Public Works for British Columbia; Douglas Franklin, an instructor in architectural history at Camosun College in Victoria; and

Robert Watt, Chief Curator, Vancouver Centennial Museum. By selecting and combining contributors with different viewpoints and areas of expertise, Mr. Segger has put together a well-rounded publication.

The British Columbia Building, as one of the more historically and architecturally significant buildings in Canada, deserves the thorough and beautifully illustrated treatment it has received in this book.

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Report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments, Document tabled in the Senate and House of Commons, July 17, 1980

Probably no parliamentary committee works harder and gets less publicity than the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments. Unlike other committees its workload is unrelated to the parliamentary timetable since the government continues to make regulations and orders-in-council whether Parliament is sitting or not. Most of these regulations are studied by the committee and its staff to make sure they are in keeping with criteria established for the scrutiny of delegated legislation. From time to time the Committee draws the attention of the House to a regulation which violates one or more of its criteria. On two occasions the Committee has presented extensive reports on the whole issue of parliamentary scrutiny of subordinate legislation. The first was presented in February 1977. This report covers much of the same ground and while it is perhaps repetitive for experts in the area it does give an overall view of the issues involved. This will be useful to the many new parliamentarians elected since the publication of the last report.

There are also some notable differences compared to the 1977 report. This report emphasizes that delegated legislation is not abnormal or confined to matter of detail. It is the ordinary and indispensable way of making the bulk of the non-common law of the land. Starting from this premise the report argues convincingly that procedures for making and controlling subordinate law must be regularized and brought into harmony with constitutional practices. The report gives more attention to questions that were merely touched upon in 1977 such as the need to scrutinize the merits of statutory instruments in addition to their form and legality. The report argues, at some length, that disallowance of subordinate legislation that has already been made and the affirmation of draft subordinate laws (commonly called negative and affirmative vote procedures) be established as regular and invariable parts of the Canadian system of subordinate law. The rules of both the Senate and the House of Commons should be amended to facilitate these procedures.

The Committee also expanded on certain issues fundamental to the problem of scrutinizing delegated legislation. It supported an Economic Council of Canada idea for a sixty-day notice and comment procedure for all new regulations which have a significant impact in terms of cost or impact on the distribution of income and are susceptible to cost-benefit analyses. In fact the Committee would extend the use of notice and comment to all new regulations. The Committee noted certain drafting practices which it claimed are inimicable to parliamentary scrutiny. This is ironic because Canada has a deservedly high reputation in the Commonwealth for the clarity of its parliamentary drafting and its advances in the skill or art of

drafting. Nevertheless it was apparent to the Committee that:

clarity of drafting and the relative ease with which a Canadian statute can be read have not been achieved without a price. Far too many statutes contain little or no indication of legislative policy and are neutral documents the object of which is merely to confer powers on the executive to act in certain vaguely defined fields. Moreover, these powers are granted in very broad terms so that little or no detail is given as to the content or type of delegated legislation that can be made.

As far as its own procedures are concerned the Committee concluded that in future it will report instruments to the House not merely to illustrate or draw attention to specific orders-in-council but also to instances where Ministers, Departments or Agencies have failed to honour an undertaking to amend or revoke a statutory instrument as requested by the Committee. Similarly promises by Departments to refrain from certain actions in the future will be scrutinized more carefully by the Committee.

The report contains many other interesting observations and recommendations. It concludes with an appendix showing the disposition of recommendations made in its landmark 1977 report. Unfortunately only a small percentage of those recommendations have been acted upon and not necessarily the most important ones. It remains to be seen if this report will fare any better.

The Editor

A SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

"Ministers and the administrative process", by Lord Boyle, **Public Administration**, vol. 58, (Spring, 1980)

"The state of the legislative process in Canada", by Robert Stanfield, **Policy Options**, vol. 1, (June/July, 1980)

"Executive power and constituency representation in United Kingdom politics", by Roy Gregory, **Political Studies**, vol. 28, (March, 1980)

"A tyro MP collides with the process", by Alex Jupp, **Executive**, vol. 22 (May, 1980)

"Must Parliament remain a male-dominated preserve?", by David Marquand, **Listener**, no. 103, (April, 1980)

"The qualifying age for candidature in British elections", by Philip Norton, **Public Law**, no. 1, (Spring, 1980)

"Executive power and committee autonomy in the Canadian House of Commons: leadership selection, 1968-1979", by Michael M. Atkinson and Kim Richard Nossal, **Canadian Journal of Political Science**, vol. 13, (June, 1980)

"The life and times of the Camp Commission (the Ontario Commission on the Legislature)", by Graham White, **Canadian Journal of Political Science**, vol. 13, (June, 1980)

"The Drury Report: Constitutional development for whom?", by Gurston Dacks, **Canadian Public Policy**, vol. 6, (Spring, 1980)

"Dossier exclusif: Faut-il financer les partis politiques?", by André Rossinot, **Revue politique et parlementaire**, no. 885, (March/April, 1980)