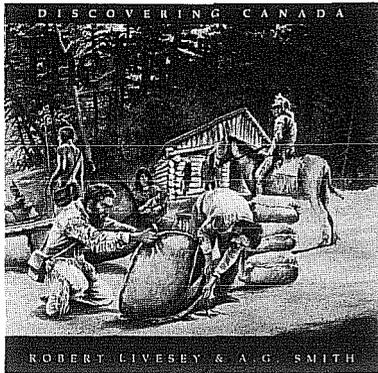


## MINI-REVIEWS

**The fur traders.** Robert Livesey and A.G. Smith. Stoddart, 1989. 96 pp., \$9.95 paper. ISBN 0-7737-53044.



This book is a useful addition to Stoddart's Discovering Canada series. The back cover invites the reader to "Learn History and Have Fun!" and the authors have struck a good balance between information and activities. The activities include making a birchbark basket, a beadware necklace, or a miniature canoe. A crossword puzzle and a *Voyageur* board game are included, and information on making maps. The informative side begins with an account of the habits of beavers, and then a general chapter on hunters pro-

vides a glossary of such terms as *entrepôt* and *pemmican*. Attention is given to the role of women in the fur trade, important figures like Pierre Radisson and David Thompson are discussed, and events such as the Seven Oaks Massacre are covered. The native tribes of the subarctic, Plains and Northwest are separately discussed.

A little more attention to the role of the fur trade in Canadian history might have been useful. While children need not be introduced to the intricacies of Harold Innis's Staple Thesis of Canadian development, there is more significance to the fur trade than the explorations of the LaVérendrye Brothers and Alexander Fraser. One other reservation: the profusion of activities impedes narrative flow. The abundant illustrations by A.G. Smith are adequate but not inspired. The index is subdivided helpfully into "Activities," "Illustrations," "Mini Facts" and "Personalities." It is rather anti-climactic for the work to end with a discussion of the personality of Archibald Belaney, "Grey Owl", who seems included less for his work on conservation than for his impersonation of an Indian. This is a serviceable book, rather than a brilliant one.

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**Wheniwasalittlegirl.** Rachna Gilmore. Illus. Sally J.K. Davies. Second Story Press, 1989. 24 pp., \$5.95 paper. ISBN 0-929005-01-5.

There is a touch of dreariness in the story of Wheniwasalittlegirl, the alter ego of the small girl narrator's mother. The title tells it all, almost. The mother