

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Great Plains Quarterly

Great Plains Studies, Center for

---

1987

## Foreign Investment in the American and Canadian West, 1870-1914: An Annotated Bibliography

Larry A. McFarlane

*Northern Arizona University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

---

McFarlane, Larry A., "Foreign Investment in the American and Canadian West, 1870-1914: An Annotated Bibliography" (1987). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 338.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/338>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

*Foreign Investment in the American and Canadian West, 1870-1914: An Annotated Bibliography.* By Anne T. Ostrye. Metuchen, N.J. & London: Scarecrow Press, 1986. Introduction, appendixes, indexes. viii + 192 pp. \$19.50.

Anne Ostrye, head of reference in the William Coe Library at the University of Wyoming, has compiled a useful annotated bibliography of foreign investment in the North American West. This region includes the tier of states from Texas through the Dakotas and westward to the Pacific (with some information from farther east) and those provinces from Manitoba through British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. The foreign investments identified are primarily British, although some Dutch, French, and German ventures are also noted (and after 1900 American investments in Canada).

The bibliography is organized under four categories. First, Ostrye lists the standard general works on foreign investment in North America. Next, a section on the American West surveys contemporary accounts in books and government documents, periodical articles from the historical era, and more recent scholarly books, articles, and theses on the topic. Third, the same types of sources are surveyed for the Canadian West, and lastly various manuscript collections in North America, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France are listed. Throughout the compilation Ostrye includes detailed annotations for all of the citations. Four useful appendixes list

the names of many of the British companies which operated in the West. Separate subject and author indexes at the back are also of great help to researchers.

Scholars using this helpful guide should be aware that it is not comprehensive. Examples of general works omitted are book-length studies by Peter L. Payne, D.C.M. Platt, and Matthew Simon. The section which includes foreign travelers' accounts misses a number of important sources as does the list of periodical articles from the era, thus emphasizing the need for comprehensive bibliographies on each of these topics. A number of specialized secondary works are also omitted, including important studies by Allan G. Bogue, W. G. Kerr, Homer E. Socolofsky, Oscar O. Winther, and others. The section on manuscript collections fails to mention the most important British archive for this topic, the London Stock Exchange and the *Stock Exchange Year-Book* and related publications. Nor does the guide note that important records on alien investment firms are located in the corporations sections of the secretaries of state offices in U.S. state capitals.

Scholars paging through the guide will readily discover a host of topics which need initial or additional research. It is hoped that Ostrye and other bibliographers will build on this significant 1986 compilation to publish a comprehensive guide to foreign investment in all regions of North (and South) America.

LARRY A. MCFARLANE  
Department of History  
Northern Arizona University