

have been called upon to deal with, including the IMF's struggle with the current breakdown of the Par-Value System. He also describes Canada's role in helping to bring the IMF into being and its ensuing relation with the Fund, where we had for a while the reputation of being something of a maverick in the foreign-exchange sector. He tells this part of his story engagingly and with many personal recollections, having been involved in Canadian relations with the IMF for many years.

Three Decades of Decision comes equipped with a particularly good series of statistical charts, graphs and reference tables, which add much to its value as a research tool.

Wynne Plumptre died last June. He had for some time been gathering material for three further volumes on Canada's postwar international economic policy. It

was his hope to be able to present a comprehensive analysis of this fundamental subject. The three volumes were to have dealt with trade, aid and economic relations with the United States, including American investments in Canada. He would also have analysed the origin and evolution of the multilateral trade, tariff and related institutions and arrangements, as well as Canada's role in helping to create them and its subsequent relations with them. Alas - it was not given to him to complete this work, the more's the pity. On the basis of the excellence of *Three Decades of Decision*, Canadian scholarship has suffered a severe loss.

Plumptre, A.F.W. *Three decades of decision: Canada and the World Monetary System, 1944-75*. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1977.

Book Review

Volume 12 of Documents on Canadian External Relations

By Alison Taylor Hardy

Volume 12 of *Documents on Canadian External Relations* was published by the Historical Division of the Department of External Affairs late in 1977. It covers the year 1946, and is the ninth volume to be published in the series. Volume 1 was edited within the department by a number of people. The experience with that volume, however, led to the decision that succeeding volumes should be edited by resident historians from the academic community. Donald M. Page came from the University of Saskatchewan several years ago to work on Volume 12. He has since joined the Department as Deputy Head of the Historical Division. Volume 9,

Miss Hardy recently retired from the Department of External Affairs, which she joined in 1945. During her years in the Department, she served in Rio de Janeiro, New York and Washington, as well as in Ottawa. The views expressed here are those of the author.

on the closing days of 1941 and on the period 1942-43, is expected to appear within a year. Volumes 10 and 11, on the events of 1944 and 1945, will be published later.

The editors of Volume 1 had noted in their introduction that source materials for that volume were more "fugitive and fragmentary than will later be the case". Material for the year 1946 was so extensive that it was decided that each subsequent year would probably require a volume to itself. Dr Page is now working on Volume 13, covering the year 1947.

The increase of the documentation in the immediate postwar period reflects the rapid growth of the Department of External Affairs. The amount would undoubtedly have been larger if several factors had not influenced developments. One was the establishment of the United Nations organization in New York, a proximity that made the use of the telephone or short visits feasible. Another was the similarity in their thinking of the senior officials, particularly