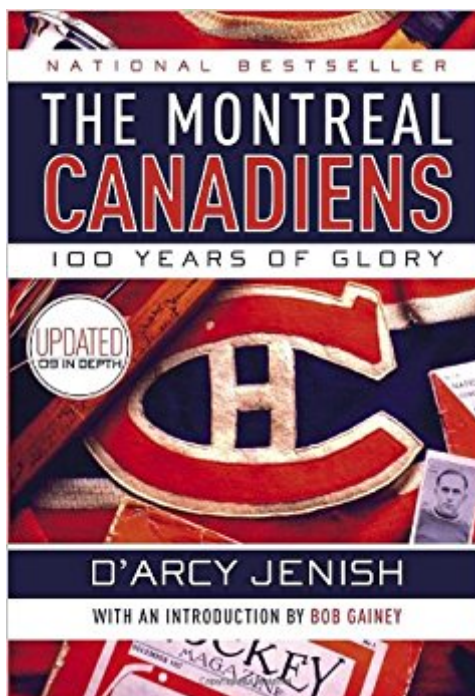


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The Montreal Canadiens: 100 Years Of Glory



Synopsis

National Bestseller The definitive history of the Montreal Canadiens – now updated with the inside story of the tumultuous 2009 season. Before there were slapshots, Foster Hewitt, or even an NHL, there were the Canadiens. Founded on December 4, 1909, the team won its first Stanley Cup in 1916. Since then, the Canadiens have won 23 more championships, making them the most successful hockey team in the world. The team has survived two wars, the Great Depression, NHL expansion, and countless other upheavals, thanks largely to the loyalty of fans and an extraordinary cast of players, coaches, owners, and managers. The Montreal Canadiens captures the full glory of this saga. It weaves the personalities, triumphs, heartaches, and hysteria into a compelling narrative with a surprise on every page. It sheds new light on old questions – how the team colours were chosen, how the Canadiens came to be known as the Habitants – and goes behind the scenes of tumultuous recent events still awaiting thorough examination: why Scotty Bowman was passed over as general manager after Sam Pollock resigned; why Pollock’s successor, Irving Grunman, failed; why Serge Savard was dumped as GM so hastily despite his record. Colourful and controversial, The Montreal Canadiens is the history of a team that has been making news for 100 years – and continues to do so with the return of legendary player Bob Gainey as general manager, determined to bring the Stanley Cup back to Montreal.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Anchor Canada (October 20, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385663250

ISBN-13: 978-0385663250

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #515,288 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional Canada](#) #142 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey](#) #323 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Winter Sports](#)

Customer Reviews

“A fascinating, necessary read for any Canadiens fan or hockey historian.”
The Gazette (Montreal) From the Hardcover edition.

D'Arcy Jenish is the author of *Epic Wanderer: David Thompson and the Mapping of the Canadian West*, the award-winning *Indian Fall: The Last Great Days of the Plains Cree and the Blackfoot Confederacy*, and the bestselling *The Stanley Cup: A Hundred Years of Hockey at its Best*. From the Hardcover edition.

The book is a monument to the art of digging through microfilm to retrieve newspaper stories. Digging through microfilm is a difficult task often carried out on rickety old tables in stuffy library rooms. Somebody had to do it to get the story of the Montreal Canadiens, and D'Arcy Jenish does it well, performing a major service for fans of this great, proud team. (I would argue that the Canadiens eclipse the New York Yankees as the greatest and proudest team in the history of North American sports.) The book is often quite good, as when, for example, we catch a glimpse of Steve Shutt after the team was eliminated in the Stanley Cup playoffs, sitting in his car (a vintage Bentley), drinking a case of beer, listening to the radio, and muttering all night about how he hates to lose. (I'd like to know what kind of music he listened to, but apparently no one has ever asked him that.) Jenish offers the occasional nice anecdote like that, and is good at putting together a basic factual narrative, but he's very inconsistent (to be polite) at capturing the glory and grandeur of the team, the sheer visceral tribal excitement generated by Rocket Richard, Guy Lafleur, or Yvan Cournoyer racing down the right wing, or Dickie Moore, Frank Mahovlich, or Aurele Joliat down the left, as a deep-throated roar came up from the fans. An example - his description of the epic 1951 Stanley Cup final between Montreal and Toronto, a tribal war if ever there was one, is very brief and just really sort of...."meh." Another example - with the Canadiens a few seconds away from elimination in the 1979 playoffs against the Bruins, Lafleur scored a magnificent goal to tie the game and send it into overtime, one of the truly stirring moments in the history of the game, worthy of a detailed description - a beautiful pass by Jacques Lemaire straddling the blue line, a stunningly perfect shot by Lafleur, it's the moment he was born for, the moment he rehearsed for during long, cold winter afternoons in the shadows of the paper mills of Thurso (population 2,000). With his deed done on this spring day in 1979 and the crowd cheering like mad, the Flower sort of acts shy and reserved, like a little boy back in Thurso, but then he looks up and makes it a point to make proud eye contact with Larry (Big Bird) Robinson, his one true peer on the team. I find stuff like that fascinating, revealing of lots of stuff about the '70s Canadiens. Jenish apparently doesn't because he fails to mention the goal. (A video clip of the goal is available on youtube. Do a Google search for "youtube canadiens goal lafleur bruins 1979." If youtube has the video today, then Jenish should

have been able to find the clip somewhere while he was researching the book in 2006 and '07. Jenish would have been well served by deconstructing a few key moments like this - this would have added a lot to his effort.) My other big problem with the book is, the photo section is weak. Three photos of Maurice Richard but none of Howie Morenz (voted best hockey player of the first half of the 20th century by the Canadian press) or Doug Harvey (probably the best defenseman of his era)? No shots of the exterior of the old Forum, the most important building in hockey history, as central to hockey history as Yankee Stadium was to baseball? (The Forum was "a veritable shrine to hockey fans everywhere," says Wikipedia.) Photos of goalies Ken Dryden and Jacques Plante but not of goalies George Hainsworth and Patrick Roy? Is there no photo in existence of Boom Boom Geoffrion delivering a slap shot? If there isn't, Jenish should tell us that; if there is, he should find it and get it in his book. (Contrary to legend, Geoffrion didn't invent the slap shot [Jenish notes this fact] but he advanced the art considerably [Bobby Hull perfected it].) We get to see four cool old drawings from newspapers in the early days - just enough to whet our appetite - we should get 10 or 12. These and other art omissions are glaring, lazy, and absurd. I will say, I don't know if the author is to blame for this aspect of the book, I would be more inclined to cite the publisher, Anchor Canada, for failing to come up with an extra few thousand bucks to buy photo rights. So. This is good book, a useful book, worth buying, that could have been great. To get a feel for the true meaning of hockey in Montreal (and in Canada overall) check out "The Game" by Ken Dryden and "The Greatest Game: The Montreal Canadiens, the Red Army, and the Night That Saved Hockey" by Todd Denault.

My grandson is a goalie-LOVES this team He said it was a great book

Reading it, I found the author jumped over more recent and important parts to their history, such as the merger of the WHA and the NHL and its impact upon the Canadiens. Also, This is the type of book that should be filled with pictures Canadian players and their history. Unfortunately there are a few pictures included.

Very good, but did not answer the question for which I bought the book. Did Michael John O'Brien sell the Haileybury Rockets to George Kennedy in 1910 and what proof is there that he did not. Thank You very much. Guy Malenfant.

My father is Canadian and a HUGE Habs fan and he is devouring this book!

gift

This joins a select group of Canadiens team histories along with volumes by Brian MacFarlane, Dick Irvin, Claude Mouton, and the editors of "Sports Illustrated." Jenish does a great job plumbing the depths of the club's early years and helps fans understand that success was not instantaneous...most forget that the Forum was built for the rival Maroons and not the Canadiens. The narrative really starts rolling from the forties onwards as we are given some new perspective on familiar characters. Donat Raymond is given his just due as is the great Dick Irvin. I especially liked this book because it is written as straight history as opposed to the hagiography that constitutes most sports histories. This is an excellent treatment of hockey's most important club and is worthy of the subject. Merci beaucoup.

This well written book does an excellent job of covering the history of the Montreal Canadiens hockey organization, including it's owners, managers, coaches and players. It follows the team from it's inception through World War One, the Great Depression, World War Two, and the evolution of hockey expansion, up to today. Hockey in Montreal isn't just another sport, and the Montreal Canadiens are not just another hockey team. Hockey is ingrained in the hearts of Montrealers, and the Montreal Canadiens are their team. This book would be a good read for any hockey addict, but it is a GREAT read for any ardent longtime Montreal Canadiens fan. Thoroughly enjoyable.

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