

Preface

In 1970 the first *BC Studies* special issue on archaeology was published. Titled "Archaeology in British Columbia — New Discoveries" and edited by Roy Carlson, that volume illustrated some of the developments that occurred in British Columbia archaeology in the late 1960s. In this second special issue the hope is to update and complement the original work and present archaeological research trends current in the first half of the 1970s. The seven chapters of this volume cover some areas of space and time not represented in the earlier work and display the work of archaeologists who, with the exception of myself, were not contributors to the 1970 publication.

The original impetus for this volume arose from a UBC Extension course on B.C. archaeology that I chaired in the spring of 1975. Some of the present contributors participated in that lecture series, but for the most part the papers presented here are complete revisions or involve wholly new topics from those of the original course schedule. All submissions were in by the end of 1976, but chapters by Choquette, Fladmark, MacDonald and Inglis, and Matson were completely revised in 1980. The chapter by Mitchell remains essentially unchanged from the original submission received in late 1975, while the chapter by McMillan was revised late in 1976. The volume has been essentially ready for publication for several years, awaiting only sufficient time on my part to complete the final details. I apologize for this delay to the contributors, who have been remarkably patient over the years, but hasten to add that in my opinion it has not lowered the value of their work in any significant way. Little, if any, of the principal substance or conclusions of the papers presented in this volume, most of which are based on field-work carried out in 1974 and 1975, has been significantly supplanted or invalidated by more current research. Some possible reasons for this admittedly surprising situation, given the usually very dynamic nature of archaeological knowledge, will be discussed in the first chapter.

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