Book Reviews

Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition, edited by John Hayman. Vancouver: University of Britsh Columbia Press, 1989. Pp. xi, 228, illus. $29.95.

With this eighth volume of the recollections of the pioneers of British Columbia, the University of British Columbia Press has made another relatively unused primary source available to a wider public. Although the Scotsman Robert Brown, whose journal of the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition of 1864 constitutes most of the book, did not remain in the colony to become a pioneer, his observant eye, keen ear, and knowledge of history make him a reputable chronicler of the island scene during the mid-1860s.

Twenty-one-year-old Brown arrived on Vancouver Island in 1863 as a botanical seed collector for the British Columbia Botanical Association of Edinburgh. Unhappy with that task and ambitious for more prestige and higher pay, he ingratiated himself with the local establishment and became a natural choice for the commander of the expedition established by Governor Arthur Kennedy.

The journal is valuable for its descriptions of the island as far north as Comox, its sympathetic treatment of the native Indians, and its forecast of the economic potential of the land and its resources. Drawings by artist Frederick Whymper, also published together here for the first time, enhance the text. Like many educated European newcomers to North America, Brown thought of himself as a gentleman experiencing the wilderness. It comes as no surprise to find his journal infused with the spirit of the romantic explorer pushing back the frontiers of knowledge as well as coping with adventure and danger. With him also came an aesthetic perception which caused him to seek out the beautiful, natural, park-like open spaces with which he was familiar and to dislike the wet, dense underbrush of the coastal forests.

In common with many resource surveyors of this era, those involved with the survey on Vancouver Island sought to reveal the basis of future progress and greatness for the region. Although Brown saw possibilities in coal, turpentine manufactured from resin, and even oil from dogfish, his emphasis was on the more traditional sources of wealth. First among those in importance was agriculture. Every advance from wilderness desert to potato patch or grain field was noted, with the stress placed upon the few months or years involved in the great leap forward. Second in importance, possibly because of the terrain through which the expedition journeyed, was forestry. Brown generally limited future possibilities to spars and knees for ships and stressed the amount of unusable timber in the resource. With all of the recent gold rushes, however, it was this resource which preoccupied the expedition. Every streak of black sand was noted, every stream panned.

Brown displayed a deep anthropological interest in the native Indians of the island. The editor includes in the appendices an account of a potlatch and studies of Indian mythology. In these writings Brown reveals a familiarity with the ancient legends of the world. Yet there is an ambivalence in his attitude towards the Indian. Although he attempted to understand their mythology in an international framework, sympathized with their plight of poverty and unsuccessful land claims, and admired their talents with the canoe and in finding drinking water, in his descriptions of individuals he maintains an ethnocentric distance with the use of terms such as "savagery" and "barbarism." Such phrases as "lazy set," "loafing," and "war-like" appear frequently. Brown seemed unable to accept the Indians' time-honoured desires to take part in their annual harvest of food if that meant that they would be unwilling to work for the expedition irrespective of the wages offered. His romance searched for war-like savages in their natural environment, but the message which emerges from the pages most clearly for the modern reader is that of a dying and doomed race.

The editing by Professor John Hayman is thorough, and, with the exception of recent coal-mining history, accurate. Details surrounding Fort Rupert, Nanaimo, and Cumberland contain some factual errors as well as a lack of historical context. While the journal has been meticulously related to other contemporary documents and information, it has not been placed in the intellectual context of the mid-nineteenth century. We are not told why there was a British Columbia Botanical Association in Edinburgh, nor is Brown placed in a context of the inventory science of the day. The Linnean and Jussieuean systems of botanical classification are mentioned

but not explained. Recent Canadian and British works on aesthetic perception would do much to set Brown in a proper context and to help the reader understand his journal. Hayman has made more solid anthropological connection but, even here, the reader is left without sufficient insights into the emerging discipline.

Irrespective of these criticisms, this is an attractive volume, carefully edited and deserving of a wide readership. Too few books of substance have been published about Vancouver Island. This one is a significant addition.

Malaspina College CLARENCE KARR

The Journals of George M. Dawson: British Columbia, 1875-1878, edited by Douglas Cole and Bradley Lockner. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1989.

The transfer of the North West to Canada in 1870 and the addition of British Columbia the next year opened a vast new region that was, from a geological perspective, largely unexplored. The result was that over the next quarter century Canadian geologists and surveyors faced a task that was both daunting and challenging: the investigation of thousands and thousands of square miles of territory. The men of the survey became well-known public figures whose reports were awaited by government officials, railway magnates, and land promoters. The geologists themselves worked under arduous conditions, travelling vast distances under often adverse conditions. It was the "heroic age" of Canadian geological work.

This high profile and the sense of newness about their work meant that many felt it worthwhile to publish diaries, notebooks, sketches, or anything else that they might have. In some instances the works quickly became standards of travel narrative. Typical was George Munro Grant's well-written celebration of the potential of the North West, *Ocean to Ocean* (1873), written after he accompanied railway engineer Sandford Fleming across the west. In other instances, as in John Macoun's *Manitoba and the Great Northwest* (1882), spontaneity and enthusiasm spilled over into outrageous hyperbole. In between there were works from the mundane to the ridiculous.

One individual who was neither outrageous nor ridiculous was George Mercer Dawson. This young man (he was in his twenties when these diaries were written) was the well-brought-up son of the famous J. W. Dawson, principal of McGill University. Meticulous in geology and experienced

through his earlier work on the Boundary Commission, George Dawson set out in these seasons to record something of the geological nature and resource potential of British Columbia. For him nature was something to be observed in a careful, detached manner. Conclusions must await evidence, and opinion was secondary to observation. As the editors themselves note, "Dawson's personality and temperament emerge only vaguely from the field letters and journals" (23). The result is that many of the entries in the diary are fairly straightforward comments on local terrain, geological formations and weather. Typical is this one in the Shuswap area written in June 1877: "Left Camp at 7 Am. and was soon overtaken by packs, as discovering a fossil in black shales associated with problematical green igneous series" (328). It is not exactly the material of poetry.

Such straightforward writing means that Dawson's diaries will never become as widely read as some other travel accounts. This excellently produced work will be used primarily as a research tool rather than as a piece of travel literature. Yet the diaries as put together here do contain more than careful geological observation. Dawson was a complex individual who was aware of his own inability to overcome his quiet, even repressed, nature. "I don't know how it is but when I sit down to write my thoughts never flow freely enough," he wrote home at one point (109). Yet the quiet scientist had other facets that surface from time to time and deviate sharply from the normal careful observations. He was, for example, increasingly fascinated by Indian folklore and customs, and sets down in some detail stories recounted to him by local natives.

The editors have maximized the human face of Dawson by including his letters home. These not only enrich the travelogue but give more opportunity for the reader to see Dawson's personality as he writes about the country, the people, and the nature of what he has seen. Even in his inhibitions he is revealing. He converses with his father, a person with strong geological interests, only about geological matters, and the impression is given of a friendly but basically distant relationship. With his sisters he is friendly but stoutly resists any attempts to be guided emotionally.

When he does open up, it is even more revealing. Incongruous bits of melancholy poetry are scattered throughout his work and seem to reinforce the belief of the editors that he has been deeply affected by an unrequited love. There are also moments when, in letters and in the diary, he comes out for a moment from his quiet demeanour to express strong opinions on the country, the natives, or colleagues. When the mood struck him he could write passages with the humour and insight of some of the best of the era's travellers. California, to give one brief example, causes him to turn to bibli-

cal citation. It is the place "where every prospect pleases but only man is vile" (305).

The editors are to be congratulated on the meticulous job they have done. Their work is impressive in its annotation, handling of the text, and the thorough and complete Introduction. I do have one small quibble from the perspective of the researcher. The editors decided to leave Dawson's numerous spelling mistakes, grammatical slips, and other such quirks unchanged and unnoted. This makes sense, but it is difficult for the researcher to be absolutely sure that every mistake he runs across is really Dawson's. Typographical errors have been known to occur. Still, there would have been no easy way around the problem. As a whole, the work is of such a high standard that it could serve as a model to others engaged in similar ventures.

University of Alberta DOUG OWRAM

They Call Me Father: Memoirs of Father Nicolas Coccola, edited by Margaret Whitehead. Recollections of the Pioneers of British Columbia, Vol. 7. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1988. Pp. 231. $29.95 cloth.

By editing the memoirs of Father Nicolas Coccola on the 1880s to 1930s, Margaret Whitehead has presented students of British Columbia history with a valuable primary source. This priest of the Roman Catholic Oblate order laboured briefly in the Fraser Valley, Kamloops, Nicola, Okanagan, and CPR construction camps; then for eighteen years in the Kootenays; and, after that, for over thirty in the northern interior. As Whitehead's preface indicates, Coccola's memoirs were not written to defend or burnish his own image. He composed them at the request of his superior. For this reason, she argues, they throw "more light on Indian/white relations than the exceptional lives of the 'great men' of mission history." Coccola's memoirs shed light, too, on other neglected areas of British Columbia history such as the multicultural population of frontier communities and the territory outside coastal urban industrial development. His work and his recollections were limited by the missionary's paternalism toward native peoples. But, as Whitehead comments, "Indians always have determined their religious future. . . . while some native peoples have bitter memories of some missionaries and certain aspects of their schooling, they have affectionate and grateful memories of others." They called Coccola "Father."

Whitehead provides a fairly comprehensive introduction for this historical document. She outlines Coccola's biography from his youth in Corsica to his retirement in Smithers and then discusses some of the major themes and issues in his memoirs. Interpretations follow her previous research on the Oblate Cariboo mission and interviews for the Sound Heritage Series. She tells how the Oblate order, established in France in the early 1800s, had, by the 1840s, sent missionaries to central Canada, the Red River country, and the Oregon territory. She explains traditional Roman Catholic practices in her text or in references. She notes the interdenominational rivalry and the intradenominational rivalry of missionaries on the Pacific slope in the late nineteenth century. Also explored is the Indian response to missionary work, including conflict over lands and resources — such as Coccola's position regarding Kootenay lands and mines and the Fort George Indian reserve. As regards Indian residential schools, such as those Coccola founded at St. Eugene's and Lejac, standard interpretations are synthesized. Whitehead breaks new ground, however, by posing questions about the role of religion and religious leaders like Coccola in the history of railway and resource industry labour.

Coccola's memoirs raise more questions about the historical interpretations on British Columbia. First, why did Coccola's superior, Bishop Bunoz of Prince Rupert, not authorize publication of his memoirs in the 1930s? Economics and the politics of the bicultural Oblate administration in Canada played their parts. Bunoz was also reluctant to publish documents which did not directly promote Bishop Paul Durieu as a saintly man and the founder of the Oblate mission system in British Columbia. Was Bunoz pleased that Coccola referred to Alberta's Father Lacombe as a mentor and to American Jesuit missions as models? Did he like allusions to conflicts between Oblates and problems with Indian missions?

Like Coccola's 1930s superiors, some historians will be troubled by the contradiction between the assimilationist goals of Oblate missions and the field Oblate practice of syncretism or allowance of native and Catholic traditions together. In Coccola's recollections natives accepted Roman Catholic ceremonials as complementary to their own, persisting in traditions such as Kutenai feasts "in plain air" at the Catholic Christmas gathering at St. Eugene's. Coccola's use of English-language residential schools as centres for tribal catechesis in native languages fits neither the missionary nor the secular version of residential school history.

Perhaps there are other troubling aspects of Coccola's memoirs for scholars. Those who apply the label "Jansenist" to early Oblate missionaries may be disconcerted by Coccola's frequent distribution of the eucharist to native

communities and his emphasis on devotional practices such as Christmas crib scenes.

Of even greater concern to religious or secular historians of British Columbia would be the possible use of Coccola's memoirs to reconstruct a day in the life of an ordinary Oblate priest in the field. When we do try to reconstruct one, we find that priest working on a roof or on a farm, or healing the sick, or travelling by horseback as often as we see him actually evangelizing. And when Coccola did evangelize he often ministered to immigrants such as Ukrainians, attempting to give them services in their own language, a practice discouraged by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the 1930s; or he preached to Kutenai along the border or in the United States. The Kutenai might be seeking a change from Jesuit Rocky Mountain missions or continuing their freedom to move as they wished in their own territory.

The most intriguing question raised by the memoirs of Coccola is their omission of Leon Fouquet, his predecessor in the Kootenays, and A.-G. Morice, his predecessor at Stuart's Lake. As their contemporary and as a member of the Oblate provincial council, Coccola had "the goods" on both. Yet on Fouquet he says little directly and on Morice almost nothing. He does not tell us that Fouquet left British Columbia for Alberta owing to disputes with Bishop Durieu in 1887 and did not return until after Durieu's death in 1899. On Morice, the self-advertised great Catholic missionary of New Caledonia, Coccola provides damning condemnation of neglect of duties from translation of prayers through repair of churches. Nor had Morice provided English-language schools as the Carrier requested. It was Coccola who brought the nuns who would do the major work of Catholic mission schools and hospitals.

The comparison of the genial, semi-retired Coccola writing his memoirs from his post as chaplain for the hospital in Smithers while receiving regular visits from natives and settlers, and the exiled savant Morice publishing his histories himself from his house in Winnipeg with only the occasional caller from British Columbia, is one Bishop Bunoz did not want explored. It is one historians have not yet been able to explore. Margaret Whitehead's edition of these recollections provides a basis for comparison of the ordinary and the exceptional pioneer Oblate missionary.

Douglas College JACQUELINE GRESKO

The Canadian Pacific Railway and the Development of Western Canada 1896-1914, by John A. Eagle. Kingston, Montreal, and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1989. Pp. xvi, 325; illus.; maps.

This is the third book devoted to the activities of the Canadian Pacific in western Canada to appear in recent years. First came *The CPR West*, edited by Hugh Dempsey, which printed most of the papers presented at a conference sponsored by the Glenbow Museum to celebrate the centenary of the arrival of steel at Calgary. This was followed by Robert Turner's *West of the Great Divide*, a detailed and lavishly illustrated history of the physical aspects of the railway in British Columbia. Now comes this third volume, a general history that complements the earlier studies, either by giving additional details or by dealing with matters that did not fall within their schemes of things.

Its most interesting contribution is its account of the circumstances and negotiations that resulted in the historic Crowsnest Pass agreement of 1897 and the twenty-year battle with James J. Hill and his Great Northern Railroad that followed. Other major themes are Canadian Pacific's policies regarding land sales and settlement, and the expansion of the rail system and its equipment with amenities to attract the tourist and traveller. All this took place during a long period of virtually unbroken prosperity in Canada, which happened to coincide in great part with Thomas Shaughnessy's years as president of Canadian Pacific (1899-1918).

As early as 1891, Sir William Van Horne, Shaughnessy's predecessor, had warned Sir John Macdonald that he could "hardly imagine anything more dangerous to the interests of the Dominion . . . than the granting of a charter through the Crow's Nest Pass to any company that may by any possibility come under American control." Two years previously Hill had formed the Great Northern Railroad and expressed his intention of building it to the west coast; by 1893 he had completed the line.

Van Horne was convinced that Hill intended to build branch lines northward into Canada, especially in the Kootenays, where mines were opening and traffic was offering. In so doing he enjoyed two considerable advantages: his main line was much nearer the Canadian mines and smelters than was that of the Canadian Pacific, and he could build his branches up valleys which in general ran north and south. By contrast, Canadian Pacific could not hope to counter this invasion effectively unless it built a difficult and expensive line westward from the Crowsnest across the mountain ranges that divided the valleys. The GN-CP battle for traffic lasted for the better part of twenty years, in the course of which the Great

Northern or its subsidiaries pushed across the Canadian border at no fewer than eleven points between Vancouver and the Alberta border. It began to cool down when the two companies co-operated in the completion of the Kettle Valley line in 1916, the year of Hill's death. It had been to a considerable measure a personal matter on Hill's part, and relations improved after his passing.

Eagle contends that the basic aim of Canadian Pacific's land policies was "to maximize profits," not to encourage settlement that would "generate more traffic for the railway." To this reviewer at least, the case is not proven. True, the company made every effort to secure revenue from its lands, but the profit motive alone cannot explain such things as the assistance given to promising settlers who for one reason or another were in danger of forfeiting their holdings. Capital payments were postponed; overdue interest was cancelled. An empty country would produce no traffic, and permanent settlement was what the company had in view. The history of the vast Bow River irrigation scheme is instructive in this respect. Eagle's narrative stops short at a time when profits seemed in prospect, but Canadian Pacific was to emerge from the project twenty years later a good many millions in the red. As Mitchner remarks in *The CPR West*, "The company lost financially, but it had bestowed a profound long-term benefit on the agricultural industry in Alberta."

Shaughnessy's first preoccupation was with the railway itself. During his presidency the system doubled its mileage in only fifteen years and made such major improvements as the construction of the Lethbridge viaduct, the Spiral Tunnels and the Connaught Tunnel. It faced competition not only from American lines to the south but also from the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific from the north. Shaughnessy continued Van Horne's efforts to make travel attractive and therefore profitable: he added new first-class hotels and improved rolling stock. There were interesting differences in artistic taste between the two presidents. The chateau style that Van Horne had introduced in the Chateau Frontenac made its last appearance in the Empress Hotel in Victoria; it had no part in the design of the first rebuilding of Hotel Vancouver or the new first-class hotels built in Winnipeg and Calgary. Van Horne had taken a keen personal delight in the elaborate decorations that had become characteristic of Canadian Pacific's first-class sleeping cars; Shaughnessy found their "lack of taste and comfort . . . absolutely disgusting."

As the fifty pages of notes suggest, the narrative is carefully documented, but a bibliography would have been helpful. One must often hunt for details of references, especially to unpublished sources such as theses.

Eagle tells us that the book was originally conceived as a biography of Shaughnessy, a project that was abandoned because personal sources were found to be inadequate. This is a pity, as the glimpses of Shaughnessy one catches in this corporate narrative indicate that his was a complicated and fascinating personality.

Vancouver W. KAYE LAMB

The Letters of Malcolm Lowry and Gerald Noxon, 1940-1952, edited by Paul Tiessen with Nancy Strobel. Vancouver: UBC Press, 1988. Pp. 182; one illus. $22.95.

The Letters of Malcolm Lowry and Gerald Noxon, 1940-1952 starts with a chronology that highlights the various stages of Lowry's and Noxon's lives, as well as their mutual interests. Paul Tiessen's ensuing introduction about the writers, text, and the sources provides a valuable key to the correspondence. The correspondence itself is divided into blocks arranged according to biographical periods. A short introductory paragraph, often quoting related material by Noxon, aids the reader in placing these blocks as well as the single letters. The letters are not, however, annotated, which at times makes it difficult to comprehend references to persons or works of art not generally known. A good index in some measure compensates for this shortcoming.

By far the largest of these blocks is the one covering the period from the summer of 1941 to May 1944. In these twenty-one letters criticism by the Lowrys and Noxon of each other's work is at the centre of interest. The letters on Noxon's poetry and on his novel *Teresina Maria* give testimony to Margerie and Malcolm Lowry's ability to issue creative and productive critiques of their friend's work. Margerie's novel *Horse in the Sky* is in its turn subject to Malcolm's and Noxon's criticism. Unfortunately, Lowry's work, especially *Under the Volcano*, which he rewrote in this period, is not discussed in the letters. There are, however, a few short passages in the correspondence which hint at Noxon's influence in reshaping it. These permit Tiessen to infer the existence of a "small writer's guild" (8) which, he suggests, was of much help to Lowry as he did his work. Indeed, writes Tiessen, "[Lowry's] correspondence with Noxon makes clear how incorrect it is to regard him as having burst in 1940-44 beyond the limited artistic range of the earlier (1936-40) drafts of the novel with the help only from Margerie. Gerald Noxon also was periodically on hand . . ." (3). In my

mind, such a statement minimizes Lowry's own influence on his achievement and opens to unlimited guesswork the question of who exerted the decisive influence on him.

One wonders, too, about the fact that there is no discussion of film and politics. A great passion of the Lowrys was to go to the latest movies as well as the classics of German, French, and Russian film. Noxon, according to the chronology at the beginning of the book, attended the Sorbonne in Paris in order to increase his knowledge of German, French, and Russian film, and was one of the founding members of a film guild in Cambridge. It is therefore astonishing to me that there are no discussions or recommendations of films in the letters.

Politics, also, are let aside, though both Lowry and Noxon seem to have been antifascist. One could infer a profound antifascist attitude from Lowry's *Under the Volcano*, while Noxon quit a job in an Italian film institute in Rome as the result of a dispute over Mussolini's political use of the institute. Yet the letters offer not a trace of a profound, or even superficial, discussion of what was happening in these countries.

A hint as to why these topics did not find their way into this correspondence — and, to my knowledge, any other Lowry correspondence — is perhaps provided by the fact that in Lowry's world there was simply no room for World War II or much else beyond his immediate circumstances. Indeed, his lack of interest in important contemporary events makes it easy to "remythologize" Lowry as the "vile hermit" (5) who is actively concerned only with his own limited world. The letters do reveal some charming everyday aspects of the Lowrys' household at Dollarton. Yet this is hardly the "demythologization" (3) Tiessen hopes this correspondence can achieve. What it achieves, in my opinion, is to throw light on a side of Lowry that thus far has not been sufficiently taken into account.

To conclude, this correspondence is well worth reading by everyone who is interested in Lowry. The letters to Gerald Noxon lead into Lowry's private existence as only the letters to a dear friend can. As Tiessen correctly observes: "These letters are a testimony to Lowry's and Noxon's friendship" (19).

University of British Columbia STEFAN HAAG

A Bibliography of Local Government in British Columbia, by Diane Crossley. Victoria: B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Culture, 1989. Pp. 68; index.

Diane Crossley's objective in creating this bibliography, under the sponsorship of the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, was to bring together a variety of works relating to local government in British Columbia. It is, however, much more than the usual list, or even a list organized by subject.

The bibliography is organized to cover general Canadian texts on local government, general works on B.C. local government, and then the specialized areas of history, politics, structure and administration, law, finance, service provision, planning, economic development, social services and social issues, single industry towns, regional districts and metropolitan government, special purpose districts, native government, and additional general sources. Each section contains a brief introductory essay indicating its major themes and limitations. Subsequently, each of the sections on specialized areas provides a limited list of general Canadian works followed by a list of B.C. works. Some of the entries are annotated, especially when a generally titled work focuses on a specific B.C. city or has a specific useful theme. The entire bibliography is then indexed by author at the end.

Because of the introductory essays, this is a bibliography that can be read instead of just put on the shelf for future reference. Reading it provides an overview of the variety of writing on B.C. local government, and is bound to reveal sources to follow up on.

Ms. Crossley is careful to point out that the bibliography concentrates on standard journal and published sources with no attempt to include consulting reports and municipal documents, although many such documents are included. My impression is that Ms. Crossley searched for all of the relevant material she could find, but could never be sure that all fugitive documents were identified.

Compiling a bibliography is not an easy task, nor is it the kind of task which provides academic or financial rewards. Yet it is an exceptionally useful one. Diane Crossley and the Policy and Research Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs are owed a great deal of thanks for their efforts.

University of Victoria ROBERT L. BISH

The Washington 89, by George H. Tweney. Seattle: The Book Club of Washington, 16660 Marine View Drive Southwest, Seattle, WN 98166, 1989. Pp. xvii, 98. US$32.50, plus $2.00 postage (available from the author; ISBN 0-930704-27-4).

The literary treasures of Washington state in particular and the Pacific Northwest in general are carefully selected and well described in this important guide for book collectors, historians, and librarians. George Tweney, well-known Seattle bibliophile, acting for the 1982-chartered Book Club of Washington, has carried out in exemplary fashion the mandate of the charter members: to furnish a long-needed bibliographical and critical guide to a selection of highly significant books that trace the rise and progress of Washington state from pioneer days to centenarian. This book is not the first endeavour to describe and evaluate the literary historical treasures of the Pacific Northwest: Charles Smith's *Checklist of Books and Pamphlets Relating to the History of the Pacific Northwest to be Found in Representative Libraries of that Region* (Olympia, 1909) constituted the first functional approach to locating key works in what was then a book-poor region. A third edition of his work, revised and extended, was published in 1950. In 1960 Peter Decker compiled the descriptive checklist of some 7,500 items of Western Americana in the George W. Soliday collection, thought to be the greatest collection of such works ever compiled. This checklist was published by the Antiquarian Press of New York in 1960. My late friend R. D. Hilton Smith compiled *Northwestern Approaches: The First Century of Books*, and published it out of his Victoria, B.C., bookshop, The Adelphi, in 1969. It remains my favourite as a part historical and part literary feast of works about Northwest Coast voyaging, perhaps only rivalled in that genre by Edward Eberstadt and Sons' *The Northwest Coast: A Century of Personal Narratives of Discovery, Conquest and Exploration ... 1741-1841* Catalogue 119 (New York, 1941). Neither Hilton Smith nor Eberstadt aimed at total inclusion of all the works; rather they described with loving admiration the works of their collection possibly offered for sale. Moreover, the three-volume guide to publications relating to the area that is now British Columbia (Gloria Strathern, 1970; Barbara Lowther, 1968; Margaret Edwards and John Lort, 1975) cover the British Columbiana to 1950. Other guides to books are available since that time, while the G. H. Hall *Catalogue of the Library of the British Columbia Archives* will provide more listings than anyone might possibly wish to know.

The Book Club of Washington and the author of *Washington 89* have correctly had a more definite object. What constitute the eighty-nine most important, most sought-after pamphlets and books relating to the history of Washington state, proclaimed a state of the union in 1889? There are some incredible surprises here listed, some very rich treasures indeed. Take for instance the rarest of all Washington Territorial imprints, the only known copy of which (like so many in this list) is in the Beinecke Library at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut: *Gold Hunting in the Cascade Mountains: A Full and Complete History of the Gold Discoveries in the Cascade Mountains; Notes of Travel, etc.* It was written under the pseudonym Loo-Wit Lat-Kla, the Indian name for Mt. St. Helens. Another treasure listed here is Charles Prosch's *Reminiscences of Washington Territory: Scenes, Incidents and Reflections of the Pioneer Period of Puget Sound.* Privately printed, this 1904 work is from the pen of one of the earliest settlers. Prosch arrived at Steilacoom in 1858. His reminiscences include discussions about early land speculations, defying the Hudson's Bay Company, comments on the rise and fall of Whatcom (later Bellingham), the San Juan dispute, and, not least, hints that local residents were already defending their beloved Pacific Northwest against slurs about the seemingly incessant rain. A third "find" must be mentioned: Click Relander's *Drummers and Dreamers*, published in Caldwell, Idaho, in 1956. This work tells of nearly extinct Wanapum Indians of the Columbia and others of the area including the little-known Palouses. It also has useful material on the unsung northern Chief Moses and the Indian agent, the Reverend James Wilbur. Relander, city editor of the Yakima *Daily Republic*, was a serious student of Indian life and ways, and, as Frederick Webb Hodge notes in his foreword, this ranks as a highly important book, now quite scarce.

Among the more familiar titles given in the last are Lewis and Clark's first edition, Hall J. Kelley's immigration promotion guide regarding Oregon settlement, and Paul Kane's *Wanderings of an Artist.* Lawrence Kip's *Army Life on the Pacific* (1859) is included; this work recounts the expedition against the "Coeur d'Alenes, Spokans, and Pelouzes" (his spellings). I am happy to say that Murray Morgan's *Skid Road, an Informal Portrait of Seattle*, first published in New York by the Viking Press in 1951, is on the list. It has always been a first-rate book, though the work was a publisher's flop at the outset. But *Skid Road* has survived and gone into numerous editions, and is now a must on any collector's shelves.

Lastly it may be said that this work, limited to 890 copies, is proof positive that the fine art of book production still exists: fine design, typesetting, layout, stock and cover materials, and superb craftsmanship combine to

make this a most handsome book. The printer (Sagebrush Press) and the binder (Bela Blau) are to be commended, and the book is a credit to the many valuable works that it describes. George Tweney and the Book Club of Washington are to be congratulated on this very fine and valuable book, which for many years will serve as a reference to the rarest and the best that the book collector, working historian, librarian, and even browser will want to consult.

Wilfrid Laurier University BARRY GOUGH