Book Reviews

Regenerating British Columbia's Forests, edited by D. P. Lavender, et al. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 387. Illus. $25.95 paper.

"Regenerating British Columbia's Forests," the brain-child of Prof. Lavender, head of the Department of Forest Sciences at UBC, brings together in one volume virtually all the scientific and technical knowledge and experience that is applied in the regeneration of B.C. forests. The list of fifty-eight contributors, all but two from B.C., is a virtual "who's who" of regeneration experts in the province. Twenty two chapters organized in five major sections deal with all aspects of regeneration from the social context, and the underlying ecological and physiological principles, to the actual procedures of planning and executing the process.

Section One describes the social context and provides the physiological and ecological background to regeneration procedures. Section Two deals with planning and monitoring procedures. The third section provides descriptions of natural regeneration and of site preparation. The fourth is allotted to a discussion of seedling production and the planting process, with a few pages devoted to direct seeding. The final section deals with pests such as competing vegetation, insects, diseases, and mammals.

The book is attractively produced, with many clear illustrations and tables. It brings together a wealth of information for practitioners and, in fact, for anyone interested in this crucial issue in the management of B.C. forests. A comprehensive set of references is provided, and the index is reasonable. Overall, it is well worth the price. If this volume does no more than help to integrate all the various aspects of regeneration, it will no doubt improve practice, and the effort to produce it will have been well worth while.

However, the volume very much reflects the current mindset of the community charged with the regeneration of forests in B.C. Throughout, the silvicultural system of clearcutting is assumed as the norm, the question

being how to achieve desired regeneration within that system. Other silvicultural systems such as the selection and shelterwood systems get about a page of text — hardly a critical evaluation. Furthermore, there is little serious consideration of regeneration systems and technologies used elsewhere in northern forests; rather, the emphasis is on the recent tinkering to improve the procedures and systems that have been developed locally over the last several decades.

Perhaps the greatest omission is the lack of any assessment of how well we are doing. A substantial chapter on monitoring regeneration programs is largely a plea to make such assessments systematically: it does not contain a single table describing the actual performance of the procedures currently in use. Perhaps this is not surprising. Data on seedling production and areas planted are readily available in great detail. However, a simple and easily applied test of seedling quality does not exist, leaving one to wonder how often poor quality or even virtually dead stock is the cause of failure. Similarly, the final success of the process in regenerating well stocked thrifty forests remains largely undocumented. We know that there is great variation in the degree of success from region to region, but the details are not easily available, and one suspects that in many cases the required information simply doesn't exist. This is a serious lack. Recognition of the occasional or sometimes widespread failure may be unpleasant, but no matter how good our science, if the recommended procedures aren't properly monitored and evaluated on a regular basis and under a variety of field conditions, we won't advance.

University of British Columbia BART J. VAN DER KAMP

The Same as Yesterday: The Lillooet Chronicle the Theft of their Lands and Resources, by Joanne Drake-Terry. Lillooet: Lillooet Tribal Council, 1989. Pp. xviii, 341. Illus.; maps. $29.95.

Much of the native history of British Columbia, especially as written by historians rather than anthropologists, has been general in approach: dealing with "the Indians of British Columbia" rather than with single groups. That history has also been almost uniformly written by white people. The history of an individual tribe written by one of its members is therefore doubly welcome. Joanne Drake-Terry and the Lillooet Tribal Council are to be commended for writing and publishing *The Same As Yesterday.*

Both the tone and the point of this book are indicated by the subtitle, *The Lillooet Chronicle the Theft of Their Land and Resources.* It covers this story from European contact through to the Lillooet Declaration of 1911. It presents an understandably negative account of the treatment of the Lillooet by white fur traders, miners, settlers, missionaries, and government officials. With the continuing pressure on Indian land, particularly from the McBride government of British Columbia, the 1911 Declaration by the Lillooet chiefs was an assertion of Indian title and a demand for a settlement of the land question. The government's response to such native initiatives was the McKenna-McBride commission of 1913-1916, which further depleted Indian reserves and ignored the question of aboriginal title. The subsequent history of Lillooet efforts to get redress on the land issue is covered in a brief chronological epilogue.

The intention behind this book is to "reconstruct the past from the point of view of the Lillooet" (304). I am not in a position to assess whether that objective has been met. I assume that it has, though I would also be surprised if there were not a variety of views among the Lillooet about the past, just as there is among white people. I am able to assess this book from the point of view of a white, academic historian, and I do so in the understanding that different people from different cultures will see history differently.

In order to present the Lillooet perspective on the past, the author "had first of all to contend with the prevailing distortions in the literature" (304). Unfortunately she has also added distortions of her own. There are matters of fact that are incorrect. For example, Clifford Sifton could not both have been minister of the interior from 1896 to 1910 (196) and also have been replaced by Frank Oliver in 1905 (230). More substantially, the "American-Indian wars south of the 49th parallel" were not settled with treaties and the laying out of reserves (96); rather, many of the wars in Washington and Oregon were caused by the treaties. On the fur trade period, the author misrepresents my *Contact and Conflict* when she asserts that the Hudson's Bay Company decided in 1821 to deplete all the fur reserves in the Columbia and New Caledonia area. This would have been a self-defeating policy for a company that depended on a continuing supply of furs. The tactic was, as I point out, adopted in the Snake country specifically to create a buffer zone between company traders and American trappers, but certainly not throughout the company's territories west of the Rockies. Other claims are made without much substantiation. For instance, one would like to know what evidence there is for the Hudson's Bay Company depleting the salmon stocks in the interior to the point that it created

widespread starvation among the Indians prior to 1858 (27). Indeed, the entire argument that Indians "could be ruthlessly manipulated by the company" is very different from the interpretation of most fur trade historians. One could go on and on, for these are not isolated examples.

I make these points, not just to engage in academic nit-picking, but in order to come to a more substantial issue. The distortions in this book add up to a one-sided view of the past. Perhaps it is understandable, but the view of Europeans in *The Same as Yesterday* is not much different from the negative stereotypes that settlers had of Indians in the nineteenth century. This book is really a history of Indian-European relations from an Indian point of view. The writers of such histories cannot be from both cultures and it is necessary, whether they be native or white, to understand the other people and deal accurately and fairly with their history. Such understanding is particularly needed now if we are to move beyond anger to deal with the consequences of our mutual history.

Simon Fraser University ROBIN FISHER

Revolutionaries, Monarchists, and Chinatowns: Chinese Politics in the Americas and the 1911 Revolution, by L. Eve Armentrout Ma. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990. Pp. (12) + 227. Illus.; index. $28.00 cloth

There is a Chinese adage: "Winners become princes, and losers bandits." Nowhere was this better illustrated than in the interpretation of modern Chinese history. Since the accession of the Kuomintang to power in China, there has been systematic deification of party leader Sun Yat-sen and exaggeration of the role played by the party and its progenitors, the Revolutionaries. Correspondingly, there was vilification of political rivals. So effective was this propaganda that few Chinese today are cognizant of the important role once played by the Revolutionaries' chief rival, the Chinese Empire Reform Association, in the overseas Chinese communities.

This book was revised from the author's 1977 doctoral dissertation, and augmented with documentary materials made available in recent years. In spite of the term "Americas" in the title, the work covers principally events in continental North America and Hawaii during the first decade of the twentieth century. The emphasis is on the ebb and flow of the struggle between the K'ang Yu-wei led Reformers and the Sun Yat-sen led Revolutionaries as they fought for the support of the Chinese populace, with

each group actively courting the powerful Chih-kung t'ang to be an ally. It tells how the changing political situation in China as well as internal developments in the groups themselves eventually eroded the Reformers' earlier political dominance and allowed the ascendency of the Revolutionary Party.

Using a wealth of English and Chinese language sources, the author drew a lucid and coherent picture of the complex, fast-moving events during the first decade of this century and put it in an objective historical perspective. As such, the book fills a gap in the scholarship on political developments during this period when the Chinese communities were beginning to modernize. However, in making sweeping deductions and bold extrapolations the author also offers some interpretations of historical materials which may be controversial. For one, she postulates a Chih-kung t'ang federation (24) which consisted of (a) Triads, (b) split-off from the Triads, (c) secret societies similar to the Triads in membership requirements, (d) secret societies with membership limited to certain localities or clans, (e) secret societies with membership limited to certain occupations. This appears to be an over-simplification of the complex relations among groups in the Chinese communities of the period. Although secret societies in categories (b) and (c) above generally respected the Chih-kung t'ang as the elder statesmen of the secret societies, the historical record fails to show much co-ordinated activities which would have inferred existence of such a federation. Also, eleven out of thirty groups listed in this federation (Appendix B) belong to category (d) above (for some reason only one out of the numerous fighting groups connected with specific clans are considered part of the federation). Groups in this category were associated with their respective hui-kuan and surname associations and have an entirely different basis for membership than the Triads. The assertion that other lodges in the federation were organized along occupational lines also appears to be questionable (28). Occupational guilds had existed in traditional Chinese society and provided at least in part the model for workers' guilds in America. Although many workers were probably secret society members, these organizations had not been considered to be secret societies.

The author also accepts the disputed claim that Sun Yat-sen was Hakka, citing as proof the fact that he was accepted into the "Hakka" Ket On Society in Hawaii (17). However, membership in the Ket On Society was only predominantly, but not exclusively, Hakka; for example, Wong Min Hoong, prominant Punti merchant and Reform Association leader in Hawaii, was its president in the 1920s.

There are a few errors in the Chinese terms: e.g. Ts'ao-ch'ing (肇慶) should be Chao-ch'ing (Table 2); Jung-yang t'ang (榮陽堂) should be Ying-yang t'ang (滎陽堂) (Appendix A); K'en-ch'in kung-so (懇親公所) should be either Tun-tsung kung-so (敦宗公所) or Lung-hsi t'ang (隴西堂) (Appendix A); Tsu-ying t'ang (卒英堂) should be Ts'ui-ying t'ang (萃英堂) (Appendix B), etc. There are also factual inaccuracies such as the following: Hsiang-shan people should be considered Punti, not as a group separate from the Punti (9, 10); Hsiang-shan people are not considered Szu-i (15); Hsin-ning district was part of Guang-chou prefecture, not Chao-ch'ing prefecture (Table 2); Szu-i hui-kuan no longer existed during the period 1893-1911 since it had changed its name to Kang-chou hui-kuan in 1867 (Table 2); Chinese Six Companies came into existence in 1862, not the late fifties, because it was only then that the sixth company, Ho-ho hui-kuan, came into existence (17); the presidency of the Chinese Six Companies was rotated among five companies from winter 1901 to winter 1902, not monopolized by two hui-kuan as stated in the text (19); hui-kuan did not stop importing presidents from China and began electing local merchants to their presidencies until 1927 (153).

Some of these facts do affect details of the author's interpretation of events although they do not materially affect the basic overview. Despite these blemishes, however, this reviewer feels that the book remains an important contribution to understanding the history of the Chinese communities in the Americas and Hawaii during a crucial period in their development.

San Francisco H. M. Lai

The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History, by Carlos A. Schwantes. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1989. Pp. xxi, 427. Illus.; maps.

Although he notes that some definitions of the Pacific Northwest have included "western Montana and *even* British Columbia and Alaska" (p. 1, my emphasis), Carlos Schwantes confines his history to the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. *The Pacific Northwest* is apparently the first single-author book-length history treating these three states as a discrete region. Schwantes synthesizes what has already been examined and published: he does not extensively investigate archival sources for new perspectives, and only relatively seldom does he identify the specific sources for particular ideas and facts. In thus addressing an interested general audience rather than academic historians, he speaks to a reader such as I am. For

someone whose approach to the Northwest has been mainly through poetry, fiction, essays, and native mythology, *The Pacific Northwest* engages attention for the themes and means by which Schwantes builds a regional identity (the "interpretation" proposed in the subtitle). Writing about these constructions in *BC Studies* naturally suggests some potential comparisons and contrasts with British Columbia.

Among the broad themes which Schwantes' method of "responsible reductionism" (xix) proposes, the primary one, not surprisingly, is the psychology of hinterland. The economics of supplying raw materials to the industrial heartland reinforces the Northwest's physical and imaginative remoteness from "the centers of economic and political power" (2). This metaphor, equally familiar to readers of British Columbia history, usually carries with it the mythology of a predominantly male brute struggle against rock and tree. Schwantes sets out to resist this "heroic nature-heroic men approach to Pacific Northwest history" (xix). Central to this attempt is his introducing each of his five chronological stages of development with a character portrait intended to define and represent the era. Captain James Cook, for example, expresses the essence of "Isolation and Empire." Less predictably, and more revelant to his unsettling the culture of heroic men, Eliza Spalding and Narcissa Whitman, Protestant missionaries, summarize the good intentions, ethnocentric ignorance, and religious jealousies Schwantes chooses to represent in "The Pioneer's Northwest" (from the 1840s to 1880s). Part IV, despite its evocation of the myth of "progress" (which Schwantes distrusts, but essentially adopts as a structural feature) is anchored by a portrait of May Arkwright Hutton, mining camp cook and author. Her anti-management, pro-worker lobbying (particularly by means of a novel, *The Coeur d'Alenes*, published in 1900) during the Coeur d'Alene mining wars provides a nicely jaundiced female perspective on the rise of a wage labour economy, and the inability of emerging political systems to deal with social injustice.

The impact of a large and militant labour movement, with a prominent female presence, may be one theme that Schwantes' Northwest shares with British Columbia. Other close parallels to the British Columbia narrative would be found in the completion of a transcontinental railway, the economics of the salmon fishery, the culture of the potlatch, and the extensive involvement of Asian immigrants in economic development (and the attendant racist hostility). On the other hand, Manifest Destiny, anti-black legislation, and Washington state's massive military infrastructure have little presence in the B.C. story.

One of Schwantes' most interesting attempts at finding a theme common to the entire region — rain forest or desert — is his argument that all of his Northwest lies "in the mountains' shadow" (7). Climate throughout the region is determined by mountains, and views to the mountains are found almost everywhere. Schwantes detects a psychology of impending wilderness, and notes that transportation systems and economic structures derive from an encounter with mountains. This suggestion of a Northwest mindscape provides a counter to the tendency to conceive of the Northwest in two distinct zones — coastal and interior — but Schwantes is not quite enough of a humanistic geographer to develop and sustain the notion beyond his prefatory chapter.

The "Oregon Territory" once included much of present-day British Columbia, and remained, almost freakishly, "open" to both Americans and British from 1787 to 1846. Although most of Schwantes' dozen and a half references to Canada and British Columbia are incidental and pasing, this history of shared occupation (with its shared interest in, and appropriation of native cultures) provides a dimension of regional definition which Schwantes might have profitably pursued. The historical logic that Washington state might have, by virtue of Hudson's Bay Company occupation, become part of Canada may be sustained in the current growth of trans-border regional economic associations based on common interests in Pacific Rim links.

Equally certainly, a British Columbia historian could *not* introduce the last section ("Coming of Age") of a provincial history with a portrait of a premier, such as Oregon's Governor Tom McCall (1967-75), whose anti-pollution crusades pushed over one hundred environmental protection measures through the state legislature during his first 4½ years in office.

Schwantes' style is not always equal to the interest of his material. Fortunately a tendency to banal phrasing is somewhat alleviated by engaging tangential items and perspectives. In framed boxes, which complement the main text, the reader gets glimpses of Oregon separatism, or of the evolution of Oregon's government from early "wolf meetings" called to organize against predators. I discovered Northwest flour is "soft" and mainly processed in Asia for noodles, and confirmed that utopian communes are a fixture of the Northwest, as of British Columbia.

But because of his "reductionist" format, Schwantes' anecdotes of the bizarre never move quite far enough to turn a glimpse into a tell-tale story. His summaries are so succinct that the most intriguing elements fade in the mist. But Schwantes argues for the populist spirit of his Northwest, especially in the " 'Oregon System' of direct legislation — the initiative,

referendum and recall — measures" which were largely adopted in Washington and Idaho, and in other states (268), and in many other pieces of socially responsible legislation first introduced in the Northwest and widely imitated elsewhere. Maybe it is in the spirit of this populism that Schwantes answers with a history which is widely accessible and well priced and which will likely reinforce in the Northwest the traditions he sees as central.

Where Schwantes detects a history of Northwest environmental activism, I sense another connection in 1990s political fashion. Certainly several of the notions of Ecotopia (in Joel Garreau's *Nine Nations of North America*; in poet Gary Snyder's concept of the Ish nation; in occasional uses of the label Cascadia) necessarily include British Columbia.

University of British Columbia LAURIE RICOU

Winter Sports in the West, edited by E. A. Corbet and A. W. Rasporich. Calgary: The Historical Society of Alberta, 1990. Pp. 148. Illus. $11.95 paper.

To celebrate the eightieth anniversary of its founding, the Historical Society of Alberta combined resources with the University of Calgary to organize a pre-Olympic symposium whose general theme was the history of sports in western Canada. A published record of its proceedings, co-edited by E. A. Corbet and E. W. Rasporich of the University of Calgary, and containing ten of the papers presented during the conference, is currently available.

Greg Thomas's essay "Sports and Leisure in the Nineteenth Century Fur Trade" leads off the proceedings. Well written and researched, this essay alone makes the book worth the purchase price. Thomas uses a combination of fact and poetry to evoke for the reader a view of how fur traders used their leisure hours. As one might expect, he notes that snowshoeing, canoeing, horseracing, and dancing were all favourite pastimes. However, he offers some surprises as well. Football, referred to by John McDougall as the "national game of the North-west," was being played as early as 1734 at Churchill. The first recorded game was held on New Year's Day and inaugurated a tradition of holiday football at various forts and settlements in the west. The most interesting section of Thomas's essay evokes the boisterous and reeling swirl of activity that accompanied such colourful local dances as the York Factory Breakdown, the Hudson Bay Jig, and the Polar Bear Walk. Thomas also alludes to the games and dances

of the region's indigenous peoples in a later section of his thoughtfully prepared text and thereby sets the stage for Fraser Pake's essay: "Skill to Do Comes of Doing."

Pake centres his piece around the following analogy: "If the Battle of Waterloo was indeed won on the playing fields of Eton then we might be tempted to say that intertribal battles on the Plains were won in the play areas of the Indian Camps." When his essay remains within this territory Pake is both enlightening and stimulating, but a tendency to treat Alberta as though it provided the framework for sporting activity even before 1905 sometimes leads him astray. Prior to that year the province simply didn't exist, and certainly didn't boast a sporting tradition. Turner Valley and the early oil exploration, together with the proud ranching tradition of early Alberta, provided the economic security necessary to provincial sporting pride, but it was not until Leduc Number One blew in following World War Two that Alberta surged ahead of her prairie sisters Manitoba and Saskatchewan and began to make sporting gains on British Columbia, still the leader of the west in most endeavours of an athletic nature.

Curling was one activity dominated by the prairie provinces. Redmonds' well-documented work traces the growth of the "roarin game" in the curling rinks of the west. His earlier research, presented in his book *The Sporting Scots of Nineteenth-Century Canada*, provided the necessary background for this presentation. The essay published here shows how the game spread through the prairies to the Kootenays, where in 1898 Rossland hosted the first bonspiel in British Columbia. Curling truly found a home in the west, and it was fitting that it should be selected as a demonstration sport at the Calgary Games.

The glamour sport of today's winter scene is skiing. The scenic beauty of the Canadian Rockies has attracted skiers since the turn of the century. Bill Yeo of the Canadian Parks Services gives a rambling anecdotal presentation on the development of skiing in the Banff area. His carelessness concerning dates and the names of founding enthusiasts leaves this topic open for further research, especially on the introduction of skiing into the mountain parks of the west. Jorgen Dahlie limits his topic to the tradition of Scandinavian skiing in the Pacific Northwest, but despite its limitations, his contribution gives fascinating insight into the lives of the Scandinavian settlers in the Kootenay and the Cariboo. These men from Norway, Sweden, and Finland were in many ways the fathers of Canadian skiing simply because of their passion for the sport, an enthusiasm captured by Dahlie in a quotation taken from a Norwegian immigrant named Kaare Hegseth: "mining is our bread, and skiing is our soul."

The contributions of sporting women in the period between the wars is acknowledged in two essays. One, by Elaine Chalus, highlights the legendary Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball team. In a class by itself in the period that began in 1915 and closed in 1940, the team was described by James Naismith, Canada's inventor of the game of basketball, as the finest team ever to lace on sneakers.

Doreen Ryan presents another picture of women's sports in her excellent speedskating memoirs. Ryan, former Head of Athletes' Village at the Calgary Winter Olympics, is fondly remembered by all those Edmontonians who braved sub-zero temperatures to marvel at her speed and beauty as she sped to western glory on the speedskating oval located on "the Flats" below McDougall Hill. As the holder of fourteen Canadian championships, Ryan's personal observations of the world of speed skating in the 40s, 50s, and 60s are intriguing.

Morris Mott, a former National Team and NHL hockey player, now teaches in the History department at Brandon University. His essay deals with several dimensions of hockey history in Manitoba: the tensions between rural and urban communities, the entry of the working class into the sporting world, and the conflicts that arose between the proponents of athletic amateurism and athletic professionalism. He also debunks the thinking that differentiated the gentleman amateur from the professional by pointing out that amateurism was current at a time when Winnipeg and numerous smaller Manitoba towns were production centres for professional hockey players in the decades before and following the first great war.

Throughout the history of western Canada, sport has occupied a special place in the lives of its people. The volume under review makes a worthy start in examining the significance of that place, but much interesting and exciting historical information is still awaiting attention by serious scholars. However, like many non-traditional areas of study, sports history is suspect in the eyes of conservative academics who believe there is little to be learned from this, at present, sub-sub-discipline of historical studies. The editors and writers of *Winter Sports in the West* have bravely ventured to correct these misapprehensions and have added a valuable piece to the small body of literature concerned with leisure and sport. For this they should be commended.

University of Saskatchewan JOHN DEWAR

The Sinking of the Princess Sophia: Taking the North Down with Her, by Ken Coates and Bill Morrison. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1990. Pp. xviii, 216. Illus.; maps. $16.95.

In Thornton Wilder's famous novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, Brother Juniper, a Franciscan priest who had witnessed the collapse of the bridge, delved into the lives of the five victims in the hope that this would throw some light on the tragedy. Ken Coates and Bill Morrison have adopted a somewhat similar approach to their study of the sinking of the CPR steamer *Princess Sophia* in Alaskan waters in 1918 — the worst marine disaster in the history of the Pacific Northwest.

The loss of all on board, probably 353 in number, was a severe blow to the society and economy of the Yukon, which had been declining ever since the gold rush of the 1890s had subsided. The depression in the years before the First World War and the war itself had taken a heavy toll. The office of Commissioner of the Yukon had just been abolished and the Territorial Council reduced from ten members to three. What remained was "a society with shallow roots . . . most northern residents were either single men or husbands and fathers who left their families in the south." The "essential pattern of northern life" was therefore characterized by a seasonal exodus when "the *Sophia* and other ships took a sizeable portion of the North's non-native population down south with them." The authors feel that this trying period in the history of the Yukon has been largely overlooked, and the stated purpose of their book is to direct attention to it and to place the impact of the loss of the *Sophia* in proper perspective.

To investigate the lives of the 353 victims was a daunting enterprise, but sources proved to be remarkably informative. In some instances friends and relatives were still living. Newspapers, particularly those in Dawson and Juneau, yielded many details. The voluminous records of an unsuccessful action for damages against the CPR, which dragged on in the American courts until 1932, were a major source, for at one time the court had required "testimony on the lives, careers, employment history, health, and spending habits" of each of the 225 victims that the claimants represented. There were no famous people on board, but the passenger list reflected almost every aspect of northern activity, and justifies the book's sub-title. Hardest hit was the White Pass & Yukon Route, whose river steamers had just been laid up for the winter; more than 80 crewmen were passengers on the *Sophia*.

Two aspects of the disaster still arouse controversy: why did the *Princess* impale herself on Vanderbilt Reef, in the Lynn Canal, and would it have

been possible to rescue any or all of those on board before she sank, some forty hours later? The evidence, here presented in considerable detail, answers both questions convincingly.

Snow had turned to rain and the barometer was rising when the *Sophia* left Skagway, late in the evening, but when she reached the full width of Lynn Canal Captain Locke, who had navigated its waters scores of times, found himself running before a blizzard, coupled with a blinding snowstorm that reduced visibility to zero. Radar was far in the future, and the falling snow killed the whistle echoes that might have helped him to judge his position. Vanderbilt Reef is a pinnacle near the middle of a deep channel nearly seven miles wide, and instead of passing east of it, the *Sophia* wandered off course just sufficiently far to crash upon it. She was not being driven recklessly; at most her speed cannot have been more than a sedate 11 knots.

Weather conditions were so bad that any rescue attempt would almost certainly have involved serious loss of life. The *Princess* was firmly ashore — she was almost high and dry at low tide — and only a few hours before she sank Captain Locke was still convinced that she was in no immediate danger and that the proper course was to wait for the tempestuous weather to improve. But instead of improving it worsened. Even the largest of the would-be rescue craft, the U.S. lighthouse tender *Cedar*, was forced to run for shelter. Presently the *Sophia* was driven across the reef, broke free from it, and sank into the depths. Weather throughout had been the villain in the piece.

Appendices provide such details as lists of the passengers (and the fare each had paid) and crew, payments made to the relatives of the crew under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the amounts paid by the CPR for the recovery and burial of bodies. This is as nearly a definitive account of the loss of the *Sophia* as we are likely to get.

Alaskans had been agitating for years for better aids to navigation, and it is ironical that a lighted buoy to mark Vanderbilt Reef, which might have warned the *Sophia* of her peril, was in the hold of the *Cedar* as she hovered nearby, and was installed within a few weeks. And the *Princess Alice*, which the CPR had sent north to pick up those on the *Sophia*, stole quietly into Vancouver harbour with 156 bodies on board, on the evening of November 11 — Armistice Day — when the city was given over to rejoicing, not mourning.

Vancouver W. Kaye Lamb

The Sea is at Our Gates: The History of the Canadian Navy, by Tony German. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1990. Illus. with photos and maps. Pp. 360. $39.95 cloth.

In the past decade, a growing number of Canadian scholars and writers have turned their attention to naval history. The result has been a bountiful harvest of books and articles on aspects of Canadian naval history. Understandably, many of these studies have concentrated on the RCN's contribution to the Allied cause during the Second World War, especially in the Battle of the Atlantic, the "U-boat" war. Marc Milner's *North Atlantic Run*, Michael Hadley's *U-Boats Against Canada*, both published in 1985, and, more recently, David Zimmerman's *The Great Naval Battle of Ottawa* (1989) have not only added significantly to our knowledge of the RCN in wartime but have also stimulated interest in the history of our naval forces.

Two collections of essays, *RCN in Retrospect, 1910-1968* (1982) and *RCN in Transition, 1910-1985* (1988), edited by James Boutilier and W. A. B. Douglas respectively, cover a wide range of subjects and together constitute an excellent contribution to Canadian naval historiography. *Salty Dips*, memoirs and reminiscences published in three volumes by the Ottawa Branch of Naval Officers Association of Canada between 1983 and 1988 and the many sea stories related by Hal Lawrence and James Lamb in a number of fine books are further evidence of interest in matters naval. The fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War has stimulated more general interest among ex-sailors of all stripes and, since virtually all of the extant RCN records from 1910 to unification in 1968 are now in the custody of the National Archives or at the Directorate of History, National Defence, there is every indication that this interest will continue to grow in the years ahead. Appropriately enough, National Defence's staff historians have embarked on a three-volume official history of the RCN.

These studies aside, however, only G. N. Tucker, the navy's one-time official historian, attempted a broader synthesis of naval history, but his two volumes, published in 1952, fall short of a complete story. Tony German, ex-RCN, is the first writer to take the long view of RCN history. In a very skilful manner, and relying heavily on the growing bibliography of RCN publications, German has produced a first-rate, popular account of the navy from its modest inception in 1910 to the end of the Cold War in 1989.

German's first four chapters summarize the origins of the RCN, its very limited role in the First World War and the sluggish but gradual growth

during the interwar years. The high water mark in the history of the RCN is, of course, the Battle of the Atlantic, and German is a great booster of the navy and its accomplishments at sea. He is not blind, however, to a variety of problems that plagued the navy from equipment deficiencies, lack of training, poor ship maintenance, and a higher command that sometimes seemed to forget that a war was going on in the North Atlantic. Much of this was due to inexperience and the rush of events but, in spite of this, the navy's accomplishments represented a solid contribution to the Allied victory. German's account of the war years is vivid and convincing, and well it should be, since he himself participated in some of the events.

The final third of the book is devoted to the RCN since the Second World War. German looks at the lows — mutinies — and the highs — Canadian naval efforts in the Korean War. He describes a navy that found a place for itself in the postwar uncertainties of the Cold War and was becoming more experienced and efficient at every turn. The development of naval aviation, improvements in anti-submarine warfare, and professional leadership of the highest quality made the Canadian navy a valued member of the NATO alliance. This is borne out in German's excellent account of naval participation in the Cuban missile crisis. By the early 1960s, the RCN was a highly efficient and confident navy.

The years that followed were not nearly so kind. In 1964 Paul Hellyer, Defence minister in Lester Pearson's Liberal government, began tinkering with the Armed forces — tinkering that would ultimately lead first to integration and finally to unification of the Armed Forces. The RCN was especially hard hit, and German's account of the navy's resistance to the changes forced upon it is equally hard hitting at the politicians. Hellyer "savaged" the Navy, in German's opinion, and the retrenchment which followed during the Trudeau years simply reduced the navy "to a shadow of its lusty self" (292).

German also examines a number of issues affecting the navy in recent years: the role of women in the navy, the impact of bilingualism, the rank structure, and so on. If nothing else, German establishes the benchmarks that future historians of the navy will have to take into account.

Tony German laments for the navy that once was, and might still be if it had not been for over-zealous, budget-paring politicians. In spite of all its trials and tribulations, however, the navy carries on in the best of naval traditions. That German feels Canada needs a strong and efficient navy goes without saying; the "sea at our gates" is an excellent image that underlines the fact that we are a maritime nation with ocean on three sides.

With Tony German, no holds are barred. He states his opinions clearly and pointedly and he can tell a good yarn. He has done an enormous amount of research in archival and published sources, and the result is an excellent synthesis of eighty years of naval history in Canada, a book that will surely serve as a starting point for any future historian of Canada's navy.

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