Book Reviews

Pacific Salmon Life Histories, edited by C. Groot and L. Margolis. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1991. xv, 564 pp. Maps, plates, tables. $65.00 cloth.

Since the retreat of the glaciers 9,000 years ago, the five species of Pacific salmon in North America, and the same five plus two additional species in Asia, have been at the heart of North Pacific coastal cultures. The coming of extra-continental immigrants to North America in the middle of the last century did not change this basic truth, although it certainly added several new dimensions to it. Despite the changes, the lives of British Columbians continued to be inextricably bound up with the fluctuating tide of prosperity moving up the rivers each year from the ocean. One of the more enlightened new dimensions, albeit slow to take form initially, was the intensive study of the salmon's natural history, its life cycle and migration pattern, and the factors controlling these processes. The important change was that salmon came to be viewed by the naturalist as an entity to be studied in its own right and not merely as an adjunct to man. The unravelling of the complex life histories of these incredible creatures is due to the dedicated life work of countless men and women. As a result of contributions from individuals and agencies in all the countries concerned (frequently spearheaded by British Columbian institutions), as well as the expenditure of many millions of research dollars, an immense amount of information has been accumulated. This accumulated knowledge of the life-history of the various species has been distilled and reduced to order in this landmark treatise.

The work is accessible to anyone with a very basic knowledge of biology. It is completely straightforward and factual and unencumbered by technical jargon. Each of the seven species is treated by individual authors, and both editors and authors are to be congratulated on maintaining a uniformly high standard throughout. Each aspect of life is dealt with in detail, from geographical distribution, through spawning and incubation,

early life in freshwater, migration, life in the open ocean, and the return to freshwater to spawn. This scarcely makes for easy reading, for the detail is encyclopaedic and to be fully assimilated only through long-term study. *Pacific Salmon Life Histories* thus provides an invaluable platform from which to launch new investigations, although, as with most works of this kind, it inevitably reports only on work carried out several years prior to the date of publication. Like the Britannica, an annual year-book is almost essential to keep the publication up to date if it is to be of immediate use to managers and others interested in the most recent trends.

It is certainly required reading for all interested in salmon life-history, but a word of caution to those who might expect to find a discussion of the current problems of the fishing industry, or the effect of environmental change on salmon populations. Neither does the book deal with other aspects of salmon biology, except in passing reference, such as physiology, genetics or the "enhancement" of runs through hatchery incubation and rearing, fertilization and stream improvement. It is strictly concerned, as it clearly states in the title, with "life histories." However, the book does provide the immense factual background of variation and variability within and between species, between years and between regions, against which all managerial and political problems must be resolved.

If the job of science is to "extract the essential features from the clutter of detail in the unhappily stochastic real world" as Paul Erlich suggests, then the book is somewhat less satisfactory. A section treating the salmons as a genus in which species differences and similarities are discussed would have been most welcome and of great assistance in bringing everything into clearer focus. What is remarkable about the salmon as a genus is its luxuriance or plenteousness; its burgeoning vitality as life is continually renewed in one of the most extravagant and abundant forms known, only to end in death when the short allotted life-span runs out. Many of the facets distinguishing individual species are variations on a theme with considerable overlap in detail, and the genus as a whole seems to be well fitted to the job of vacuuming up as much as possible of the annual production of small creatures such as copepods, shrimps and shrimp-like organisms, squids, swimming shell-less molluscs, and small fishes. Coho, for example, feed preferentially on fish but also eat invertebrates, whereas in pinks and sockeye the reverse is true. Throughout the North Pacific the species intermingle in their migrations as they comb the vast area of ocean north of 40 N. latitude leaving no swirl or gyre unexplored. They then segregate to their individual birthing streams with undeviating precision, where again

the various species, each with somewhat different requirements, explore the total potential.

In view of all the different nuances in behaviour and physiology, why, one wonders, would not a single variable species have sufficed equally well to do the same job? However, the job of biologists is not to redesign nature, rather it is to try and understand her as we find her. In a world context one is reminded of the "species swarms" of Cichlid fishes in the African Great Lakes, which feed mainly on very similar diets for most of the year, although displaying great differences in morphology. The question is, how are resources apportioned between species and are there critical resources which have determined speciation? Strict interpretation of the concept of "one species-one niche" begins to look a little tattered around the edges, for there appears to be a degree of mutual tolerance between the species that allows the genus to function as an effective whole, rather than as a group of competing species.

The other great enigmas of the genus are the great fluctuations in abundance, as for example, between odd and even years in pinks, or the four-year cycle of the sockeye, and secondly the death of all species following a fixed life span. We can only stand in awe of the sheer profligacy of a nature which destroys her handiwork at the peak of its abundance. Only the may-flies and cicadas work on a similar fixed schedule of increasing biomass, mass reproduction and then death. Why? Is such a fluctuating and determinant life history geared to maximizing production in an open system? Such life history may be contrasted with the trend toward equilibrium shown by fish in more confined waters with their long indeterminant life-span and high, relatively constant biomass? Could it be that lessons for our growth-oriented industrial society nestle within the basic biology of ecological systems?

Sidney, B.C. LIONEL JOHNSON

Water in Sustainable Development: Exploring Our Common Future in the Fraser River Basin (Vol. 2), edited by Anthony H. J. Dorcey and Julian R. Griggs. Vancouver: Westwater Research Centre, Research Program on Water in Sustainable Development, University of British Columbia, 1992. xvii, 288 pp. $25.00 paper.

Many people look forward to the publication of another monograph by the Westwater Research Centre of the University of British Columbia. The monographs always combine the theoretical with the practical, make

generalizations that remain loyal to the available data, and nudge both scholar and informed layperson into reassessing their understanding of the problems and solutions of water and the environment. Many people had a special reason to look forward to this particular monograph. It is the second volume in a two-volume series dedicated to understanding sustainable development in water management in the Fraser River Basin. Volume 1 was published in early 1991 and previously reviewed in *BC Studies* by this author. Volume 2 was published at the end of 1991. The editor of both volumes is Anthony H. J. Dorcey, who also has the responsibility of writing the introductory overview and concluding summary chapters. One detects also his influence in the format, issues, and conclusions of the individual chapters. This is apparent in the ten chapters of Volume 2, written by Westwater staff and associates. It was also evident in the 22 chapters of Volume 1, most of which were written by UBC academics who have less direct links with the Centre.

Water in Sustainable Development is organized into four parts. Part I is an introductory chapter by Dorcey. He reviews the general principles of sustainable development and indicates how subsequent chapters will address these principles for water management in the Fraser Basin. This chapter and the conclusion are at pains to point out the dominance of the Fraser system, and the human and nonhuman activities in the system, in British Columbia's development.

Part II deals with "Natural Systems and Interactions with Human Systems" and consists of four chapters. Daniel Moore writes on hydrology and water supply, and provides some novel conclusions about water management on the basis of evidence about climate and hydrology in various sub-basins of the Fraser. Indeed, many of the chapters in the book offer different information and conclusions by examining regional and sub-basin variations in the Fraser. Kenneth Hall, Hans Schreier, and Sandra Brown co-author the next two chapters on "Water Quality . . ." and "The Land-Water Interface . . . ," a division of chapters that seems motivated by number of pages as much as intellectual considerations. These are superb chapters in reviewing and commenting upon the relationships between, on the one hand, climatic conditions, geological conditions, and human uses of the Basin and, on the other hand, water quality conditions. The human uses include agriculture, forestry, mining, urban sewage and storm water disposal, and pulp mill effluents. Again there is an emphasis on sub-basin evidence as well as evidence for the entire system. Thomas Northcote and Michael D. Burwash conclude this Part with a chapter on "Fish and Fish Habitats . . ." This chapter reviews evidence on fish popula-

tions and on fisheries — commercial, sports, and Native. To this author, its value lies in synthesizing (the limited) material on non-salmonid fishes in the various rivers and lakes that comprise the Fraser Basin. The chapter ends with some very odd comments about immigration, population growth, and their likely effects on fish habitat.

Part III is called "Human Systems and Interactions with Natural Systems" and is a much more disappointing set of chapters. Some important human uses of the Basin, such as commercial shipping and log-transportation, are ignored. Other relationships are crudely drawn and simply assumed to be self-evident. This is the case in the massive review of the institutional arrangements for the governance of aquatic resources in Chapter 8, in which it is assumed that formal arrangements have a one-to-one operational effect on water uses and their development. It is also the case in Chapter 9 in which environmental non-government organizations, and their roles and strategies, are discussed solely on the basis of (albeit new) interview data. The chapters on "Human Settlement and Development . . ." and "Water Use . . . ," both by Ian Boeckh, Victoria Christie, Anthony Dorcey, and Harriet Rueggeberg, are useful descriptive overviews of these topics.

The final Part, "Challenges and Innovations," consists of a concluding chapter by Anthony Dorcey called "Sustaining the Greater Fraser River Basin." This chapter reviews the conclusions of previous chapters and arrays the resource use conflicts that are evident in the Basin through the interdependence of human uses and the environment. It then takes eight questions or criteria about sustainable development that are discussed in Chapter 1 and reviews the weaknesses in the Fraser system against these criteria. It finally goes into great detail about how to develop a viable "Greater Fraser River Basin Management Program" out of the lessons learned from the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan. This should, one infers, be the basis of the "Action Plan" for the Fraser that is a possible part of the Federal Green Plan. The variety of prescriptions made in this chapter stray a long way from the evidence provided in the study of the book. This is particularly the case with the responses to the eight questions raised by the sustainable development concept.

In sum, the book varies in the quality and value of its chapters. It does not push our understanding of sustainable development very far. This being said, it remains a major and valuable overview of the Fraser, its resources, economy, and development. It will be an important reference tool for elected and appointed officials, academics and the informed lay-

person. It could provide an extremely useful text in undergraduate courses in resources management or B.C. studies. It is a pity we do not have comparable texts for other parts of Canada.

As a final comment, it must be emphasized that this is, quite literally, a beautiful book to read. It is the product of desk-top publishing and small printing company, and it contains superb colour graphics, tables, summary boxes, and clear text. It puts university and commercial presses to shame. It is also only $25.00.

McMaster University MARK SPROULE-JONES

A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State, ed. Robin K. Wright. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992. 248 pp. Illus. $55.00 U.S. cloth; $29.95 U.S. paper.

In 1989 Washington celebrated 100 years of statehood by sponsoring projects which brought local history and cultures into focus. Perhaps the most significant of these was an exhibit at the Burke Museum in Seattle which recognized the First Nations in the state. Several years of consultation between the museum staff and the Native community went into creating this exhibit. *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State* was prepared in part as a catalogue of the exhibit of the same name, but is much more. The volume contains valuable material about the history of collections of artefacts from the state, including the often overlooked early period. Other chapters detail continuing practices of Native people, including story-telling, canoe racing, craft production, and oration. Somehow all of this hangs together to form a most interesting volume.

In fact, the volume succeeds admirably in a number of important ways and is inexpensive as well. First, the book is organized in an unusual manner. Discussions of the Coast Salish people of western Washington and the Interior Salish of the high Plateau of the eastern portion of the state are included together, and one is able to gain a sense of the great importance of these peoples to one another. The usual method of placing the Coast Salish within the anthropological tradition of the Northwest Coast culture area has had the effect of slighting Coast Salish achievements and obscuring their connections with those east of the mountains.

Second, by including the commentary of both Native authorities and

non-Native academics, this volume achieves the collaboration many believe is essential. Native people have contributed both short descriptions of artefacts and complete chapters. Consequently, *A Time of Gathering* bridges the gap between archival and personal knowledge of artefacts and Indian culture, as Wright hoped it would. A nice example of this concerns a nineteenth century D-adze, pictured on page 104, used by Quinault leader Captain Mason to make canoes. Oliver Mason, his great-grandson, comments that "the little figure represents the spirit that helped care for the canoes. He was a helper and when they'd get tired, he'd help them keep going."

Third, the volume is wonderful in its emphasis on the context of the construction, meaning, and uses of the artefacts depicted in the book. For this reason, the text is helpful in understanding gender, social class, and social change and shows why collections of material artefacts can be important in understanding local identity and affiliation as well as the operations of regional systems. For example, commentary on hats and baskets includes information on how they serve as ethnic boundary markers and what is thought locally to constitute virtuosity. Wright clarifies how objects made in the nineteenth century have been regarded and used by their Native owners in the intervening years. The volume repeatedly points out how goods have moved throughout the region via trade and other means.

Although the heart of the book is Wright's chapter entitled "Masterworks of Washington Native Art," notable chapters include those written by Lynette Miller on basketry styles, Wayne Suttles on shed-roof houses, and Vi Hilbert on Lushootseed heritage. Miller uses a single object, the corn-husk bag, to illustrate post-contact changes in Plateau culture and technology and give a sense of the big issues facing the Plateau people. Suttles writes that the so-called "inferior" shed-roof design employed by Coast Salish communities was not simply the result of imperfect mastery of Northwest Coast architecture, as T. T. Waterman argued in the early part of the century. Rather, this design developed in place and is related to local social organization and values. Hilbert, a noted Upper Skagit elder, provides a short chapter describing post-contact experiences of her ancestors, relatives, and friends as she has recorded them over the last forty years.

Although it is not intended to be just this, *A Time of Gathering* is visually stimulating. The artefacts depicted are beautiful and helpful in understanding the people who made them. Problems with the book are minor: Makah culture is relatively over-represented; a chapter on bead-

work on the Plateau is little more than a catalogue of techniques and motifs; it is difficult to connect the text and the associated photographs; there is no commentary on the illustrative photographs, some of which are themselves historic. Far more important is the contribution the volume makes.

University of British Columbia BRUCE MILLER

The Voyage of Sutil and Mexicana, 1792: The Last Spanish Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America, translated and introduced by John Kendrick. Northwest Historical Series, XVI. Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1991. 260 pp. Maps, illus. $38.25 cloth.

In March 1792, two small ships, *Sutil*, under the command of Dionisio Alcalá Galiano, and *Mexicana*, commanded by Cayetano Valdés, sailed from the port of Acapulco on the west coast of New Spain in search of the Northwest Passage. Their objective was to examine the area beyond the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Nootka Sound south and around Vancouver Island, which had not been propertly charted, for the entrance to such a passage. British seaman George Vancouver collaborated with this Spanish expedition.

Relations between Spain and England were not so cordial in the late 1780s. Following Spain's push into California after 1769, European rivals Russia and England challenged its claim on a monopoly to trade there. A war was narrowly averted in 1789 when a Spanish commander jailed several British mariners and captured their vessels. After much diplomatic wrangling, this event, which came to be known as the Nootka Sound Controversy, eventually led to Spain's loss of its territories in the Pacific Northwest.

Against this backdrop of international dispute, Spain conducted one of its most important scientific expeditions, which sailed under the command of Alejandro Malaspina and José Bustamante. The *Descubierta* and *Atrevida* visited the region in the summer of 1791 as part of a five-year mission. The following year, *Sutil* and *Mexicana* returned to complete the investigations. After looping north out in the Pacific and carrying out their orders, they sailed back down the California coast, stopping at Monterey, and then on to San Blas.

The journal of this expedition records some of the earliest descriptions of sections of the coast of British Columbia as well as observations on the

indigenous inhabitants encountered at such places as Nootka, Monterey, and Núñez Gaona. Illustrations of native peoples by expedition artist José Cardero preserve significant ethnohistorical information.

Royal authorities wanted to prevent their rivals from benefiting from exploration carried out at Spain's expense and that might assist them in their designs on Spanish lands. Vancouver's publication of *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World, 1791-1795* in 1798 foiled this strategy. Still, the findings of the Alcalá Galiano expedition were not published until 1802. This initial edition of the journal, including a narrative and maps, was incomplete and often at variance with manuscript versions. It was translated into English three times; Cecil Jane published one rendering in 1930, but all were marred by inaccuracies.

In the introduction to his edition, Kendrick discusses the complicated process by which he determined the version that constituted the original text, the one he chose to translate and annotate. His position is closely argued, though this hardly seems necessary. The author has provided a fresh, competent translation and insightful annotation of one of a number of manuscripts dealing with the same voyage. He based his work on MS 619 from the Museo Naval in Madrid, which traces the expedition from Acapulco to Nootka to San Blas. Two crucial supporting documents are included: the instruction from Alejandro Malaspina and Viceroy Revillagigedo to Alcalá Galiano and Valdés.

The narrative of the voyage takes up approximately three-fourths of the book. Modern maps enable the reader to follow closely the progress of the ships. A judicious selection from Cardero's portfolio illustrates the journal. Capsule biographies of the five leading figures are included, as is a very useful glossary of place-names as they appear in the narrative with their modern equivalent. An appendix consisting of a four-letter exchange between Viceroy Revillagigedo and Alcalá Galiano offers a glimpse into the process of editing the narrative and its delivery to Spain. Of no less interest is the ship's manifest of *Sutil*, a second appendix.

The writer credits Dr. Donald Cutter for his assistance with the research for this book and in commenting on the manuscript. This invites comparison with Cutter's recent work on this same subject. In 1990, the University of Oklahoma published his *California in 1792: A Spanish Naval Visit.* Whereas Kendrick's aim was to present the narrative of the voyage in its entirety and based on the original, Cutter focused on that portion of the journey dealing specifically with the Northwest Pacific coast and particularly with California, omitting the text of the voyage out to Nootka and

summarizing the trip from Monterey to San Blas. Cutter, a leading authority on eighteenth-century California, devoted most of his volume to an essay on that region and a fuller biographical study of the participants on the Alcalá Galiano expedition. His text is drawn from MS 1060 from the Museo Naval, a version that intercalates much pertinent material from Miguel Venegas's 1757 *Noticia de California*. Yet, Alcalá Galiano and Malaspina apparently made corrections on this manuscript too, so it is difficult to argue that it was not another, different original. This poses the classic dilemma all documentary editors face: When confronting multiple versions, does one rely on the first version or the last one the authors corrected? There is no consensus on this question, nor is there likely to be.

Kendrick's may well be the definitive edition of the complete narrative. Readers with a primary interest in the exploration of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Spanish version of the encounter with George Vancouver, and the area near the city bearing his name will want to turn first to this work. Those wishing to learn more about California in the early 1790s will be better served by Cutter's book.

University of New Mexico RICK HENDRICKS

Demon Rum or Easy Money: Government Control of Liquor in British Columbia from Prohibition to Privatization, by Robert A. Campbell. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1991. x, 218 pp. $14.95 paper.

Robert Campbell's book on the history of government regulation of liquor in British Columbia is a major contribution to the literature. Not only does the author demonstrate a clear historical understanding of the subject matter, he also offers a number of critical insights on how interest group politics, ideology, patronage, federal-provincial jurisdictional relations, party politics, culture, and other institutional and environmental factors have shaped policy over time. By approaching the study of liquor control in British Columbia from both a historical and theoretical perspective, Campbell offers a systematic case-study on the trials and tribulations of government regulation in a market-based economy.

Campbell's aim is to examine critically the many factors which influenced the role of the provincial state in the area of liquor regulation. Hence, he focuses on an assessment of the impact that profound institutional and socio-economic changes had on decision-making as various governments attempted to work through the many contradictions and ambiguities in a

highly volatile area of public policy. In doing so, the author provides an interesting and well-organized case-study on the politics of incremental decision-making. Recognizing how difficult it was to strike a balance between promotion and regulation, Campbell traces the evolution of the public/private system and explains why it was so resistant to change.

Part of the explanation had to do with the fact that reaching a consensus was not easy, and once the system was established, there was little reason for change. While the public/private system generally served the needs of government, at the same time, the system also benefited the members of the policy community. The hotel and brewing industries, in particular, had a vested interest in preserving the status quo. Given the volatility of the issue and the benefits of doing nothing, there was little incentive to open up old wounds. Another factor was leadership. Until the 1970s, neither the Social Credit government nor the NDP opposition showed much interest in liberalizing the system. Yet, as noted by Campbell, the history of struggle over liquor regulation does not support the view that leadership was the most important factor. In the 1980s, even with the strong commitment of Bill Bennett's government to deregulation, and the many pressures coming from society for fundamental change, the campaign to dismantle the system of government control failed. In the view of Campbell, the system survived mainly because the vested liquor interests and moderation forces within society successfully defended the view that there was still a need for government regulation of liquor.

To conclude, Robert Campbell's *Demon Rum or Easy Money* is essential reading for anyone interested in assessing the key factors that shaped the history of government control of liquor in British Columbia. Welcomed by both academics and non-academics alike, the book is well written, insightful, and offers an intriguing case-study on the politics of incremental decision-making.

Memorial University of Newfoundland STEPHEN G. TOMBLIN

The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry, edited and introduced by Kathleen Scherf. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1992. xxviii, 418 pp. $60.00 cloth.

This edition has been eagerly awaited by Lowry readers because, since 1965 when *Selected Letters of Malcolm Lowry* was published, we have had only slight and meagre evidence for Lowry's repeated claim that he

was "first and foremost" a poet. The material gathered by Kathleen Scherf in *The Collected Poetry* may not convince everyone that Lowry was a great poet, but it provides incontrovertible evidence that he could write good poems and that he was always thinking, and writing, in verse.

Scherf has collected 479 poems for this volume. Among them are Lowry's earliest extant poems from 1925, many polished and previously published poems, a large number of uncollected poems from the thirties, forties and early fifties, and a representative sampling of short love poems to Margerie Bonner Lowry, song lyrics and various fragments, all of which appear in Appendices. The main body of poetry has been meticulously edited to show dates of composition, sigla, and editorial emendations. Not every reader will choose to examine the sigla and emendations in detail, but their very presence and length demonstrate the pains Lowry took with each poem and the supreme importance to him of language.

The Collected Poetry is further supplemented with other useful information. Scherf has written concise, factual introductions to the volume and to each grouping of poems, and she has provided several interesting appendices. The most fascinating of these, for me, is "Appendix E: Marginalia," which contains four illustrations of Lowry manuscripts (one with a Lowry sketch in the margin) and one typescript; each of these captures Lowry's compositional methods in a way mere description cannot do. Chris Ackerley, who together with Lawrence J. Clipper annotated *Under the Volcano*, has provided "Explanatory Annotations" that reveal the depth, range, and complexity of Lowry's allusions and contexts.

In preparing her edition, Kathleen Scherf combed through every available manuscript. In addition to the poems clearly gathered and catalogued in the UBC Lowry Archive, she found materials in such places as the Huntington Library in San Marino and the Houghton Library at Harvard. At UBC she examined all Lowry's manuscripts and found drafts of poems on the versos of prose manuscripts or typescripts, on scraps of paper, and even on a menu. From these drafts, usually undated and often undatable, she determined a copy-text for each poem — a project that represents a real feat of scholarly sleuthing, skill, and patience. When a poem originally appeared in a letter or *as* a letter she wisely added it to the collection, thereby highlighting the degree to which Lowry ignored genre boundaries or distinctions in his writing.

It is difficult to say in a brief review of such a recent publication just what its long-term impact will be, but I will hazard some predictions and speculations nonetheless. *The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry* will not drastically alter the general view of Lowry as a major writer of this

century. It will, however, add significantly to our appreciation and understanding of his work. This volume is simply crammed with factual details, background information and, most importantly, primary evidence of Lowry's skill with language. His domain was that of the word — not metre, rhyme, poetic form — and in bringing us his poetry Kathleen Scherf is to be applauded for making a major contribution to Lowry's *oeuvre* and our knowledge. This volume is a gift of literary scholarship for which we should be grateful, a collection to be savoured and consulted again and again: I know that I am — and will.

University of British Columbia SHERRILL GRACE

Vancouver's Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980, by Kay J. Anderson. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991. x, 323 pp. $34.95 cloth.

Like her earlier Ph.D. dissertation, Kay J. Anderson's *Vancouver's Chinatown: Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980* adopts the perspective that "race" categories, rather than being naturally occurring or biological divisions of the human species, are socially and historically constructed. This perspective, largely derived from the British sociologist Robert Miles, allows her to move beyond previous studies of white attitudes and prejudices in British Columbia to examine "racialization," the definite historical process which divided the population of British Columbia into different "races." If for no other reason than that *Vancouver's Chinatown* is the first original book-length Canadian historical monograph to adopt this perspective, it is a significant contribution which deserves to be closely studied.

Anderson argues that the notion of a distinct and readily identifiable "Chinese" district has been a key ingredient in the racialization of people of Chinese origins. She pursues this argument with reference to Vancouver's Chinatown. As she explains (p. 30), "'Chinatown' was not a neutral term, referring somehow unproblematically to the physical presence of people from China in Vancouver. Rather it was an evaluative term, ascribed by Europeans no matter how the residents of that territory might have defined themselves." Thus her study is not of "Chinatown" *per se*, but rather of the idea of such an area created and perpetuated by people of European origins.

This focus on "Chinatown" has several advantages for a study of "race" categories over time. Most importantly, it keeps the task of tracing the racializing discourse to manageable proportions. After all, few statements by Euro-Canadians in British Columbia about themselves or other people were not in some way part of such discourse. By focusing on "Chinatown," Anderson is able to canvass thoroughly a variety of sources, including civic and national archives. The result, in contrast to many other theoretically informed works, is a study which is refreshingly grounded in primary sources. The focus on "Chinatown" also allows Anderson to establish disturbing continuities in the racializing discourse over time. The turn-of-the-century notions of "Chinatown" as the "vice-ridden" antithesis of polite European society and today's more familiar notion of the area as a "quaint" or "exotic" corner of the city, one worthy of being highlighted by tourist promotions, have more in common than one might initially think. Anderson is particularly successful in finding continuities in the efforts of civic officials to vilify the area, whether in the activities of crusading turn-of-the-century chiefs of police or in the more recent efforts of health officials to police the storage of barbecue pork.

In large part, these continuities emerge from Anderson's position that the "state" has been the chief agent in racializing the Chinese. Restrictive laws and regulations, in conjunction with the public relations battles waged by government officials, fixed and lent weight to what otherwise might have been general, amorphous, and possibly impotent prejudices. Not surprisingly, therefore, the work is most successful in documenting the efforts of civic, provincial, and federal officials to police and reform "Chinatown."

However, like any pioneering effort, *Vancouver's Chinatown* raises a number of issues which warrant further consideration. For all that Anderson's work is grounded in a knowledge of theory, her treatment of "the state" is disappointing. She tends to restrict her discussion to government officials and their activities. Consequently she de-emphasizes the role of broader ideological projects and their relationship to government activities. She tends to assume an automatic connection between official activities and broader social attitudes, rather than exploring the exact relationship between the two. Her discussion of "race" categories could also have been expanded. While Anderson is careful to note that few British Columbians were rigorous in their usage of racial terminology, her study does not really come to grips with the shift in the contents of "race" concepts which occur over time. It is not at all clear that usages in the 1870s, for example, included the biological content that they do now.

Vancouver's Chinatown also has more in common with previous studies of European prejudices and nativism than might initially be expected for a work which is attempting to move beyond them. Like the earlier studies, *Vancouver's Chinatown* has not succeeded in incorporating the objects of the racializing discourse, in this case the "Chinese" people of British Columbia, as actors within it. As a consequence, Anderson is not as successful in documenting the creation and operation of European dominance as she might have been. At times there is even a certain ambivalence as to whether the work is a study of the physical area of Chinatown, itself, or of the European discourse about the area. While Anderson insists that she is only documenting European conceptions, she sometimes falls into language which suggests that she is in position to "know" Chinese activities as well. In fact, it is doubtful that she is in a position to render some of the judgements that she does about the "Chinese." Even her claim that European constructions of "Chinatown" were distinct from "Chinese" ones is problematic in this regard. They may well have been, but she has insufficient evidence to establish the claim.

The problem here is one of sources. Anderson has had to rely upon the English-language historical record. Although she has been careful to incorporate into her account the statements of Chinese spokespeople as they appear within that record, she has not been able to come to terms with Chinese activities. In part this is because those English-language sources on the Chinese which she has consulted do not provide an adequate picture of the community. This includes the English-language *Chinatown News* for the 1960s and 1970s and, for the 1920s and 1930s, the translations found in the Chinese Canadian Research Collection of the UBC Library's Special Collections Branch of the Chinese-language daily, *The Chinese Times*. Instead of being a newspaper devoted to covering the Chinese community, *Chinatown News* tends to be an advertising sheet aimed at second and third generation Chinese Canadians who do not live in the area. The Chinese Canadian Research Collection is an extremely valuable compilation of materials on the Chinese communities of Britsh Columbia, but the selective and sometimes uneven translations of the *Chinese Times* suggest that they are best used as a table of contents for the paper. Studying the internal dynamics of the Chinese community requires consultation of the original Chinese. The result, ironically, is that like the earlier studies it is seeking to replace, *Vancouver's Chinatown* underestimates the activity of the members of the Chinese community in challenging the dominant discourse, since their activities generally go unacknowledged by English-language sources.

This is most striking in the later chapters of the work dealing with the 1960s and 1970s. For example, Anderson argues that Chinatown was able to survive the slum-clearing efforts of the 1960s only after "a new image of Chinatown was forged by a non-Chinese reform lobby in Vancouver sympathetic in outlook to the Trudeau government" (p. 210). It seems likely that this reform lobby would not have been mobilized, or for that matter the Trudeau government would not have adopted a more sympathetic attitude towards "Chinatown," without the efforts of the residents of Chinatown-Strathcona to forestall urban renewal at the expense of their community. Nor would it have occurred without the efforts of Chinese Canadians over the preceding one hundred years to participate on equal terms within government institutions. One also suspects that appeals from Parliament had very little influence on the decision of the CTV television network to apologize for the racist portrayal of Chinese Canadians in W-5's 1979 "Campus Giveaway" program. Both the parliamentary resolution, and the apology, took place after Chinese Canadians across Canada achieved an unprecedented level of mobilization and organization, and had begun to discuss boycotting the program's sponsors.

Thus in the end, Anderson's work points to the need to incorporate non-Euro-Canadian sources and activities into British Columbia's historical record. *Vancouver's Chinatown* has gone a long way in moving the study of the history of racism in British Columbia from examinations of Anglo-European attitudes to consideration of Anglo-European activities, but it has not gone far enough in recognizing that others, including the "Chinese" people of British Columbia, have also been actors within our history.

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British Columbia Local Histories: A Bibliography, eds. Linda L. Hale and Jean Barman. Victoria: British Columbia Heritage Trust, 1991. 196 pp. $20.00 loose-leaf binder.

At first glance no one could be critical of this bibliography of 1,044 local histories of British Columbia communities. And this is not a phantom bibliography. Every listing is publicly accessible; no item was included "unless it could be physically located where it could be consulted by the general public." (n.p.) The body of the bibliography is an alphabetical

list by author, but it also offers three indexes: by place (both particular communities and ten geographical regions), by author, and by title. The bibliography is packaged in an easy-to-use loose-leaf binder, and, according to the promotional flyer, British Columbia Heritage Trust has donated it to "principal libraries" across British Columbia.

While the editors and Heritage Trust deserve much praise, a more careful examination reveals some problems with this bibliography. In particular, the editors do not give a clear definition of just what comprises local history and what distinguishes it from urban history. In the Introduction the editors state that local histories are about the province's outlying "communities," and "most focus on a particular population centre but others have as their organizing principle a geographical area framed by a valley, body of water, trail or even a park." The editors add that the contributions of people from these communities have been obscured by the focus on the cities of Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster, and Vancouver.

The implication is that local histories are, or should be, distinct from histories of the urban areas, yet over two dozen of the listings pertain to the province's metropolitan communities. To add to the confusion, the bibliography includes such works as *Distant Neighbors*, Norbert MacDonald's scholarly, 250-page comparison of Vancouver and Seattle. One has to question the conceptual framework of a bibliography that puts MacDonald's work in the same list as two-page centennial pamphlet on Fort Yale. MacDonald's work is urban history, a subdivision of scholarly history, written by a trained academic for an audience interested in analytical questions with a metropolitan perspective. In his work he draws some general, comparative conclusions about the development of Vancouver and Seattle, which stress the differences between the cities despite their geographical, climatic, and economic similarities.

What needs to be made more clear in the Introduction is that local history is popular history — that is, of the people, and often of the people of the community under examination. The size of the community is not the most important variable. Local history implies the search for the particular, the familiar, and the unique. More often than not they are labours of love and stress pride of place. As the editors note, local histories are rarely critical, especially of the people of the community. Familiarity does not often breed contempt, and local historians tend to shy away from unpleasant or controversial subjects. In Sally Carswell's praiseworthy *The Story of Lions Gate Hospital*, which unfortunately is not included in this bibliography, she ignores both the abortion controversy and labour disputes, both of which have been prominent in that hospital's history.

In general, local histories are written by people who have not been trained in data gathering and analysis. They tend to be anecdotal and narrative, and they rarely provide any large context for their stories. Many rely on folk wisdom, and the worst are a long list of names and a hodgepodge of significant and insignificant events. They often lack source citations, bibliographies, even pagination. Quite correctly, the editors caution that local histories are often more useful to scholars for the perceptions they offer, rather than for their factual accuracy or interpretive insights.

With endnotes, appendices, and an index, *Lions Gate Hospital* is an exception among local histories. More typical is J. Rodger Burnes, *Echoes of the Ferries: A History of the North Vancouver Ferry Service*. This book (which is also missing from the bibliography) lists no publisher or publication date, and half of its pages — which fortunately are numbered — are printed upside down. The book opens with the comment that "it has been well reported by others that the first ferry to operate between the north and south sides of Burrard Inlet was by a row boat. The writer can not vouch for this. So let us assume that this was correct." (p. 1) At least *Echoes* is full of wonderful ferry stories.

This bibliography is a useful collection of works that are often ignored by professional historians. But more effort should have been made with the Introduction, which lacks a clear conceptual framework. The Introduction also lacks page numbers, which is taking identification with one's subject a little too far.

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