

He asserts that “the Xwelitem arrived in Stó:lō territory and started taking possession of Stó:lō and resources” (54). Such an assertion could have implications for land claims. The Xwelitem in fact started excluding each other, but there is no documentation in Stó:lō (or any other) records of Stó:lō land and resources being ceded. The Stó:lō people, from historical times to the present, resist the appropriation of their land and resources, to which they still assert title, as is evident in Carlson’s own documentation (as well as in the recent news). The centrepiece photograph (75-6) provides a graphic example of recognition of title and rights from the Indigenous perspective.

Overall, I commend Carlson for his presentation, especially his chronicle of smallpox and his presentation of Cheam’s history. He has compiled his work meticulously and thoroughly, although he still measures Stó:lō history as a response to colonialism, thus echoing European values. He cites Stó:lō history as though it were relevant only to the past and speaks of Stó:lō people as though they were objects of the past. Perhaps, with the continued participation of the Stó:lō Nation, he will be able to assist in defining the Stó:lō people as a living part of – as participating subjects in – Canada’s future history and to view Canada as part of Stó:lō history.

*“Boston Men” on the Northwest Coast:
The American Maritime Fur Trade, 1788-1844*

Mary Malloy

Kingston, Ontario, and Fairbanks, Alaska: Limestone, 1998.
232 pp. US\$28 cloth.

By Jim Delgado

Vancouver Maritime Museum

THE MARITIME FUR TRADE of the Northwest Coast has been the subject of a number of works in both the United States and Canada over the last century. Recent studies include James R. Gibson’s *Otter Skins, Boston Ships, and China Goods* (1992), Richard Somerset Mackie’s *Trading Beyond the Mountains: The British Fur Trade on the Pacific, 1793-1843* (1997), and *Fur Traders from New England: The Boston Men in the North Pacific, 1787-1800* (1997), edited by Briton C. Busch and Barry M. Gough, which presents one of the first

histories of the trade, written by mariner William Dane Phelps just a few decades after the events he recorded.

Mary Malloy’s *“Boston Men”* is a focused, detailed study that examines the nature of American involvement in the trade. It builds on a number of earlier works, integrating new scholarship, a detailed examination of a number of original ship’s logs and journals, and an anthropological perspective on the nature of American shipboard society, Native societies, and their interactions. The maritime fur trade was characterized as dangerous

and violent in American popular culture of the nineteenth century; Malloy assesses this perception and finds that it unfairly colours the real nature of the trade as a mercantile venture plagued more by an uncertain market for trade goods among the Native peoples than by vessel seizure and attack.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part offers a historiographical review of the literature in the introduction, "In the Wake of the Boston Men," which is followed by Chapters 1 and 2, "Boston Trade on the Northwest Coast" and "Shipboard Society and Northwest Coast Indian Society," respectively. In Chapter 2, Malloy's long association with the maritime world (as a scholar, educator, and museum professional) enables her to provide the reader with an understanding of the nuances and realities of shipboard life, routine, discipline, and technology. She shows how these things influenced the sailors, their officers, and the people with whom they traded.

The second part of the book offers an encyclopaedic listing of American vessels engaged in the trade and a gazetteer of Native villages, landmarks, and trade centres. There are a few minor errors, such as the assertion that the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Taku in 1811, fourteen years before it established any presence on the Coast. But these are quibbles and do not interfere with the value of the work. The second part, due to its sheer page count (63-204), dominates the book. It represents significant research and a considerable contribution to the historiography of the maritime fur trade, building on F.W. Howay's landmark *A List of Fur Trading Vessels in the Maritime Fur Trade, 1785-1825*, edited by Richard A. Pierce and republished by Limestone Press in 1973.

Malloy's insights, and the encyclopaedic nature of the book, make "Boston Men" a worthy addition to the literature and a must for the scholar's library.

Fraser Gold 1858!
The Founding of British Columbia

Netta Sterne

Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1998.
187 pp. Illus., maps. US\$19.95 paper.

By Daniel P. Marshall
University of British Columbia

AT LONG LAST a book has been written about the most cataclysmic event ever to have occurred in British Columbia's history – the Fraser River gold rush and the massive invasion of non-Native miners

(in excess of 30,000) into the traditional lands of First Nations peoples. As a descendant of Cornish miners who joined in the 1858 rush, I have always found it puzzling that the Fraser rush has received so little attention, con-