

try to forecast what would have occurred if Mackenzie's recommendations had been listened to and implemented, if the three Pacific posts he envisaged had all been established. One can easily come to the conclusion that the territory which became the American states of Washington and Oregon would now be part of Canada." He is on more solid ground in contending that Sir Alexander's work helped to ensure the existence of British Columbia as a colony by drawing public and governmental attention to the area. Professor Daniells also suggests that the Arctic voyage led the way for fur trading and prospecting activity which did much to define the present border between Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

Aside from its major conclusions and theories, *Alexander Mackenzie and the North West* has much to recommend it to the general reader. It provides an interesting introductory sketch of the fur trade in Canada. There are good accounts (often quoted directly from contemporary sources) of canoe construction, voyaging, and the logistics of the trade, as well as insights into life at interior posts. Furthermore, the author writes with a fine sense of place, so that we feel the grandeur of the Bella Coola valley and the stormy reaches of Great Slave Lake — places invested with the spirit of Mackenzie.

It is Professor Daniell's fascination with this intangible presence, with the archetypal, heroic, and legendary qualities of Alexander Mackenzie which lends this well-written book its distinctive flavour.

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BRUCE M. LITTELJOHN

*Navigations, traffiques & discoveries, 1774-1848: a guide to publications relating to the area now British Columbia*, Gloria M. Strathern, comp. Victoria, Social Sciences Research Centre, University of Victoria, 1970. xv, 417 pp. \$18.50.

This, the second volume in a series of bibliographies published by the University of Victoria, covers works relating to the years 1774-1848 which have been published up to 1968. Volume I, which related to the years 1849-1899 was compiled by Mrs. Barbara Lowther, who recently received an award from the Canadian Historical Association for her compilation. Since the coverage of the present volume includes general histories of the province it must necessarily overlap somewhat with the Lowther bibliography. The area covered is described as "the area which is now the

province of British Columbia," which includes a large part of what was the Oregon Territory; consequently there is listed relevant material on the Oregon question and on the fur trade as far south as Fort Astoria and Fort Vancouver. The bibliography is intended specifically as a reference guide for research workers and for librarians, but it will also be invaluable to collectors, book-dealers and advanced students.

The bibliography includes "all published monographic works that could be identified . . . together with information on later editions in translation." Also included are the major regional historical journals, stating their scope. The compiler has omitted general collections of voyages and general histories of exploration. Captain Cook and Washington Irving are well covered elsewhere, and for this reason the compiler has been very selective in her choice of listings.

The entries are alphabetical by author, or by title if there is no author. There is an excellent index with subject headings clearly in capitals, and with titles and added name entries in lower case. There are many cross-references and the index is easy to use providing that the reader remembers that, as in the Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories, the entries in the main body of the book are not repeated in the index. The entries are clear and concise and the compiler seems to have a flair for being able to give a complete thumb-nail sketch of each work, which often tends to be quite pithy. Mrs. Strathern seems to be a stickler for detail and as a recently arrived New Zealander has acquainted herself so thoroughly with the work she has undertaken that she is able to assess objectively the particular slant of many secondary works.

Of the five appendices I would like to draw attention to two lists which might not be normally expected. One is a list of major ships to visit the northwest coast, including their captains, country of origin and purpose of the voyage. The other is a chronological index of all first editions appearing in the bibliography, which I have already found particularly useful.

It is a credit to the University of Victoria to have given Mrs. Strathern the opportunity to visit no less than sixteen major libraries in Canada and the United States, a fact which is evident in her work. Her list of principal works consulted is in itself a very useful bibliography of bibliographies.

The choice of a standard size is well made; the book is easy to handle and will fit any standard bookshelf. Morriss Printing Company Ltd. are to be congratulated for their usual good design, and the Arrowsmith map on the end papers is appropriate. Every review should have at least one

carping criticism, and the only one that I can find is in Item No. 62, entitled *Friendly Cover* by Irving Brant, which is too obvious to miss.

To sum up, there is no doubt that this bibliography fills a long felt need in its field, and that it will be regarded as a bible covering its period. It is hoped that a third shining star will soon appear, to complete the bibliographical coverage of our province.

*Special Collections*

*University of British Columbia Library*

ANNE YANDLE

The Editors, BC STUDIES:

I read with pleasure Bill Ross's balanced review of Cecily Lyons, *Salmon: Our Heritage* (BC STUDIES, No. 8, Winter, 1970-71). I have only one criticism. Mr. Ross does not attempt to assess the role of B.C. Packers in the publication of the book. Yet the company's investment must have been considerable. The writing may have been a labour of love for Miss Lyons, but she had research and editorial assistance. The book is handsomely printed and lavishly illustrated. The foreword by John Buchanan, retired chief executive of B.C. Packers, the company's role as publisher and the wide distribution of complimentary copies all indicate generous support.

It is, however, too bad that the company was not better advised in this project. Writing business history is a specialized field, the practitioner needing to combine the insights of both economist and historian. Fishing is an important British Columbia resource industry; B.C. Packers is a major firm in that industry. In the hands of a professional scholar a history of their interrelations could have been a fine contribution to the economic history of the province.

A book has nevertheless been completed, and the company may see no further need to preserve the rich documentation on which it was based. But the present work is not definitive, and the material is still vital for future researchers. Could I suggest therefore that it find a place alongside the records of Anglo-British Columbia Packing and J. H. Todd in the manuscript section of Special Collections at U.B.C.

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