

more personable than the census. The Victoria contributors have established a strong precedent for other explorers of the Canadian city.

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The Development of the Fraser River Salmon Canning Industry, 1885 to 1913, by David J. Reid. Vancouver, Economics and Sociology Unit, Northern Operations Branch, Fisheries and Marine Service, Pacific region, Department of the Environment, 1973. (NOB/ECON 4-73). vii, 87 pp., biblio.

One of the problems in studying British Columbia is the comparative paucity of reliable secondary works. The difficulties this can cause are neatly illustrated by the work under review. This study, which is basically an essay with extensive appendices, is a revision of a paper given at the 1973 Canadian Historical Association annual meeting.

Reid sets out to analyse mergers among firms engaged in salmon canning on the Fraser River in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His argument is based on two tables which he has compiled and which appear in an appendix — “Exit and Entry of Companies into the Fraser River Salmon Canning Industry, 1870-1909” and “Directory of Companies involved in the Fraser River Salmon Canning Industry, 1870-1909.” These tables are used to graph the incidence of mergers. From the results, Reid argues that the peaks of mergers on the Fraser River reflect the peaks in a general merger movement in the United Kingdom and the United States. He also contends that the mergers were motivated by a desire for “monopsony power” rather than for economies of scale, and that they resulted by 1902 in the industry passing out of local control.

Unfortunately for these elaborate compilations, there is no way that even moderately reliable lists of this type can be produced from secondary sources; the files of the British Columbia provincial registrar of companies and of contemporary newspapers are essential. Reid, however, seems to have depended on Cicely Lyons, *Salmon: our heritage*, Vancouver, British Columbia Packers Limited and Mitchell Press, 1969, which he calls “an excellent source of statistical material.” But Lyons, in spite of an over-generous review in *BC Studies*, no. 8, pp. 56-8, is a work of piety rather than scholarship, and its treatment of the early years of the Fraser River canning industry is riddled with factual errors. Consequently Reid’s “Directory” is wildly inaccurate before 1890 (not one of the first 25 items

is completely free from error and several pioneer operations are omitted) and is not to be trusted after that date. These inaccuracies probably don't in themselves vitiate his argument about mergers since the major mergers can be easily identified without use of his top-heavy apparatus; the biggest hazard is to the unwary user who expects a higher standard of reliability from a government department.

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"Haida Burial Practices: Three Archaeological Examples; The Gust Island Burial Shelter; The Skungo Cave, North Island; Mass Burials from Tanu," by George F. MacDonald and "The Gust Island Burial Shelter: Physical Anthropology," by Jerome S. Cybulski. *Archaeological Survey of Canada Mercury Series*, Paper No. 9. Ottawa: National Museum of Man, 1973. 113 pp. \$2.00.

As its name indicates, the National Museum's Mercury Series, of which these two contributions comprise Paper No. 9, is specially designed to provide prompt publication of the results of Museum-sponsored research. In the light of this object, MacDonald's report is understandably preliminary in scope and Cybulski's is surprisingly complete.

MacDonald provides a useful though very brief review of Haida mortuary practices as depicted in ethnographic and ethnohistoric sources. He then presents the results of investigations at three archaeological sites where the dead had been deposited in a rock shelter (Gust Island), a cave (Skungo Cave), and plank-covered pits (Tanu). Short descriptions and some illustrations of the burials, boxes, and such associated material as cedar-bark matting, labrets, and copper ornaments constitute the bulk of the report. MacDonald feels that the Gust Island rock shelter was in use at least during the eighteenth century and probably until about the middle of the nineteenth century. The burial cave, he reasons, was used between about 1765 and 1865, and the Tanu pit burials likely represent mass interments following one or more of the 1860-1880 epidemics.

Cybulski has provided us with a very workmanlike description of the Gust Island skeletal material. Considering that MacDonald's estimates place these remains in a period of marked decline in Haida population, Cybulski's observations on early mortality and skeletal pathology are particularly interesting. Over 80 per cent of those individuals whose age could be calculated died before their thirtieth year; and close to 30 per