

the point of tedium and on occasion needlessly repetitive, but for the most part entirely satisfying.

The photographs which make up a major portion of the book are outstanding and compensate for any deficiencies Smith has as a writer. They are mostly colour plates, admirably augmented by ink drawings done by Carl Chaplin, and reproduced to great effect. Obviously printers have mastered the art of colour reproduction for some time, it is nevertheless a delight to turn to page after page of photographs that are superb representations of their subject. Smith has chosen the plates well, they never fail to expand the subject and urge even the most sedentary to contemplate a week with a packboard invading the last untouched wilderness on Vancouver Island.

Although he is clearly on the side of the conservationists, Ian Smith seems to have more faith in the ultimate regenerative powers of nature than some of his more shrill colleagues. He is no apologist for the timber industry and the mines, but he does seem to have discovered a sense of the inexorable dominance of the landscape, especially in those cases where man has been able to exercise even the most modest amount of intelligence.

The Unknown Island is no lament for the lost innocence of the land. It is rather a testament to the majesty of Vancouver Island, tinged with rue for those parts that will not return to what they once were, but in the main charged with a recognition that change has been the pattern from the beginning, whether man intervened or not.

One need never go to Cape Scott or to the forest of the Tsitika watershed to get from this book some sense of excitement and grandeur of these places, but in all likelihood some of us will be led to strike out to see what it was like before it all began.

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Bowen Island 1872-1972, by Irene Howard, for the Bowen Island Historians. Victoria: Morriss, 1973. 190 pp., illus., \$7.95.

"This book is about the real island, and the island of the mind. It will tell the story of the people who have lived on one or the other, and of those who have tried to live on both."

With these words, Mrs. Howard introduces us to her approach to the history of Bowen. As the book unfolds, it is clear that she has been as

fascinated by the idea that islands have a distinct and unusual effect on the personalities of those living on them as she has been by the general march of events.

It is perhaps not surprising that the stories of individuals form so large a part of this history, for it may be argued that islands attract more than their share of interesting personalities and in small populations their special gifts and eccentricities seem more prominent than they might elsewhere. Undoubtedly also, the particular circumstances surrounding the writing of this book play a significant role in its final shape.

The publisher's foreword notes that the initial inspiration for writing the history of the Island rests with the Bowen Island Historians, a group of residents incorporated in 1969 to further their efforts to draw together material on the early history of Bowen. Concerned, in his words, to "make some permanent and useful contribution" with the masses of information collected, they approached Mrs. Howard in 1971 and she agreed to accept their commission. Undoubtedly she was fortunate in having the enthusiasm and energy of this collecting and fund-raising group to support her in her work, but certainly the materials she received must have leaned heavily in the direction of personal reminiscences and anecdotal social history.

Whatever the reasons for the emphases in this volume, it is local social history first and only incidentally a political, economic study of the Island's story. Within her chosen framework, Mrs. Howard gives us some very fine descriptions of individual characters, their families and island customs. Particularly good are the sections dealing with the George Cowan settlement at Cowan's Point and the story of Lieben, a home built by Einar Neilson and his wife Muriel, which provided shelter and solitude for quite a number of notable B.C. writers and artists. This latter passage may prove to be a very significant footnote to the understanding of some of the work of these artists, including Earle Birney, Lister Sinclair and Malcolm Lowry.

It would be unfair, however, to leave the impression that this is a series of unconnected anecdotes about individuals who had only a geographical location in common. Perhaps because she was very conscious that this was the first full length treatment of Bowen's history, Mrs. Howard does attempt to link the story of Bowen with events nearby on the mainland. Considerable attention is also paid to some of the more widely significant events in Bowen's history, notably the pattern of land settlement, resource exploitation, and above all, development of the Island as a summer resort for nearby Vancouverites. Chapter Four, entitled "Captain Cates and the

Terminal Steamship Company," is a very concise and very readable summation of this development, describing the establishment of the resort near Snug Cove that was to be the setting recalled with pleasure by thousands of Vancouverites of another generation as "the spot" for a good time in the summer.

Mixed with these achievements are a number of irritations which must be mentioned. Having made the decision to dispense almost entirely with footnotes, it is annoying and puzzling to find direct quotations such as the one near the end of the first paragraph on page 45 and others, that appear without any direct indication about their source. This same paragraph provides us with another persistent problem in this book, the non-sentence. Surely a more rigorous proof reading of the text would have caught this, and other grammatical errors.

A more serious difficulty involves what seems to be a tendency for the book to separate into sections with rather artificial transitions. This, despite the intention of the author that everything included in the book be held together by a good relationship with the central theme. If the quotation presented at the beginning of this review is paraphrased so that we realize the book will deal with events as they happened on Bowen as well as the effect of island living on a number of individuals, the difficulty is apparent. In essence, there are two themes. Their marriage, in this volume, is not always comfortable.

In spite of this, the final note must be a positive one. The usefulness of this history is enhanced by the addition of several appendices including one of brief biographies of additional Island personalities as well as a comprehensive guide to the sources. The guide could easily be the starting point for other local historians who may wish to delve more deeply into one or other of the aspects introduced by Mrs. Howard in this pensive account of Bowen's first hundred years.

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Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians, by Hilary Stewart. Saanichton: Hancock House, 1973; illus., \$12.95.

While archaeologists are struggling to keep ahead of the bulldozers and looters, they are continually hampered by an increasing number of amateur publications which directly or indirectly encourage the destruction of British Columbia's cultural heritage. Hilary Stewart's book is a wel-