

and dancing made clear to the audience his right to that particular configuration and expression.

Secondly, that songs are sung at gatherings of primarily Indian people does not imply that the audience should be taping these songs, nor that they are encouraged to, nor that such behaviour is even welcomed by the Indian participants. Some field researchers have noted that behaviour such as taping, tolerated in a native observer, is frowned upon in a non-native, and sometimes subtly or openly commented on or even actively discouraged. That no one stopped Stuart from taping could also mean that native people did not overtly dissuade her or that she did not pick up the cues which might have been presented to her.

Thirdly, Stuart treats superficially the most complex issue of "power," leading to the conclusion that it would dissipate should the song be sung in public. There is no evidence that this is the case. To the contrary: as mentioned above, public validation is often a necessary concomitant of the individual's possession of power.

For the proper cultural background for the gambling games, the reader would do better to look to other sources of information. Lynn Maranda's M.A. Thesis, "Coast Salish Gambling Games" (University of British Columbia, 1972) concentrates on a full description of the slehel game plus a discussion of the "power" concept, while Wayne Suttles' dissertation "Economic Life of the Coast Salish of Haro and Rosario Straits" (University of Washington, 1951) and J. E. M. Kew's "Coast Salish Ceremonial Life: Status and Identity in a Modern Village" (University of Washington, 1970) provide a detailed picture of the cultural setting, both historical and contemporary, in which the slehel game functions.

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*Themes on Pacific Lands*, M.C.R. Edgell and B. H. Farrell, eds. Western Geographical Series, Volume 10. Harold D. Foster, series editor. Victoria, B.C.: University of Victoria, 1974. xvii and 311 pp.

*Themes on Pacific Lands* is the tenth in an attractively produced paperback series from the Department of Geography, University of Victoria. It contains eight articles, all written by present or former members of the department. Three deal with British Columbia: Michael Edgell compares social demands on the forest environments of coastal B.C. and Victoria, Australia; Malcolm Micklewright looks at government involve-

ment in the west coast fisheries; and Charles Forward examines Vancouver's trade with the western Pacific.

In Forward's paper a short historical account, from the 1860s to the present day, is followed by a more detailed regional survey of recent trade and a glance at prospects. In this reviewer's opinion the paper is an admirable example of compact, informative description, clearly written and appropriately illustrated. One might criticize only for omission: the reader is stimulated to hope for rather more extensive analysis.

Edgell's paper evidently arose from familiarity with both environments and interest in the common pressure for multiple forest use. B.C. readers may find the discussion of Australian problems interesting for its own sake, but the value of comparison is questionable. The forests involved are very different ecologically and administratively, and the evolution of multiple use is at an early stage in both, so the experience of one area has little to offer the other. Victoria, Australia, might perhaps be compared more profitably with California, and the B.C. coast with parts of northern Europe.

The article by Micklewright is much the shortest in the book, and probably too short to deal adequately with its complex subject matter. It does indicate quite clearly the fishing industry's most fundamental problems, and provides a handy reference to the principal government measures, but it would have been thoughtful to refer the interested reader to some of the more extensive sources available.

Both Edgell's and Micklewright's papers discuss very briefly problems on which local readers could find out a good deal more without exceptional effort. While this detracts from their appeal locally, it must be remembered that the Western Geographical Series circulates to a wider audience. Some of the five articles not on B.C. probably hold more interest for B.C. readers, providing background on places where many are likely to vacation and do business.

Rudolph Wikkramatileke's articles on Singapore and Malaysia are broad surveys of physical conditions and historical development. Both are models of their type: Wikkramatileke has a facility for integrating physical-geographic, economic and social elements into a readable, evocative prose which contrasts happily with much of today's more "scientific" geography.

Bryan Farrell's two papers and that by Chuen-Yan David Lai are narrower in scope and more academic in style: a thoughtful study of land relationships in Fiji, which successfully illustrates the tensions arising from varying perceptions of and attitudes towards land, when people of three

cultures have to share a limited resource; an account of how tourist accommodation has developed in Hawaii — well worth reading by any prospective purchaser of a condominium there; and a detailed study of crowding in Hong Kong, with particular reference to one of the government's early housing projects.

By and large the papers stand on their own merits, especially as compact, good-quality source material for teachers, but the volume as a whole invites criticism which has been foreseen by the editors: "The reviewer choosing to commence 'the volume is disappointingly uneven in content and style' will certainly have a field day . . ." (p. v). Their attempt to head it off at the pass is not really satisfactory: ". . . hopefully those searching more deeply will also find the excursion rewarding . . . The chapters have common threads providing a human connection and a coherence, albeit one which is not defined in black and white." (pp. v, iv). The Pacific is large, its population and environments diverse. Something more than a regional name is needed to give "coherence" — a rock on which many college area-studies programmes have come to grief. As it happens, almost all the papers in this volume are linked by an underlying topical theme — disturbingly rapid growth in the size, mobility, and demands of population, bringing pressure on human relationships, institutions and natural resources. Dispelling the escapists' visions of the South Seas, this book finds nowhere in the Pacific immune from such problems, and behind its deceptively factual approach lies much food for thought on human responses to pressure.

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