

A Bibliography of British Columbia. Victoria, Social Sciences Research Council, University of Victoria, 1968-1975. 3 v.

[v. 1] *Navigations, traffiques & discoveries 1774-1848: a guide to publications relating to the area now British Columbia*; compiled by Gloria M. Strathern with the assistance of Margaret H. Edwards. 1970. xv, pp. 417. \$18.50 ISBN 9690418-2-9.

[v. 2] *A Bibliography of British Columbia: Laying the foundations, 1849-1899*; compiled by Barbara J. Lowther with the assistance of Muriel Laing. 1968. xii, pp. 328. \$18.50.

[v. 3] *A Bibliography of British Columbia: Years of Growth 1900-1950* [compiled] by Margaret H. Edwards and John C. R. Lort. 1975. x, pp. 446. \$30.00 ISBN 0-9690418-3-7.

The Centennial Committee of the University of Victoria celebrated the tenth anniversary of its grand project with the release of its third and final volume of *A Bibliography of British Columbia*. The committee, formed in 1964, agreed in the following year "to sponsor the preparation and publication of a bibliography of British Columbia." In the words of Lowther, whose work was the first to be published:

It was apparent that the number of items to be included were far greater than at first expected. As a result it was suggested that the bibliography should consist of three volumes. One would cover the period from the early discoveries to 1848, one would deal with the 1849-1899 era and the third would include those works relating to this century. (p. v)

The committee decided that the first volume should have as its subject commencement date the year 1849, the beginning of settlement on Vancouver Island, and should cover the first fifty years of the province's history. (p. vii)

It is an indication of the increase in material written about British Columbia that the single volume covering the 1900-1950 period required the same amount of time to produce as both the earlier volumes together, even though the coverage has been much more selective.

The compilers' views of the purpose of the bibliography appear to have changed slightly over the years. According to Lowther (p. vii): "Although librarians, book dealers and private collectors undoubtedly will make use of the bibliography, it was envisaged as being primarily for the use of the student doing research at the independent level." Strathern's volume reflects her opinion (p. x) that "the bibliography is intended primarily as a reference guide for research workers and for librarians."

Edward's view (p. vii) is narrower, feeling that the bibliography "is intended for the use of the historical researcher and librarian."

The format of the three companion volumes varies in each case and appears to reflect more the differences in opinions of the various compilers and committee members than the needs of the users, whether student, researcher or librarian. The Lowther volume, designed by E. W. Harrison and printed by Evergreen Press, Vancouver, attempts to emulate the impressive but unwieldy Lande bibliography. The Strathern volume is more practical, with physical size reduced from 11¼ x 8½ inches to 9½ x 6¼ inches and the pages altered from double to single-column layout. The entries are enhanced by references to other bibliographies and catalogues as well as locating the copy examined. This volume was designed and printed by Morriss Printing Company Ltd., Victoria. The series title, *A Bibliography of British Columbia*, is not used for this volume. The Edward's volume, like the Lowther, is printed by Evergreen Press, and returns to the larger-sized double-column format. Fortunately, the use of varied size and density of type face makes the entries easier to read. None of the three volumes is numbered, which means libraries may catalogue them separately, losing the continuity.

Although the bibliography was clearly planned as a unit, each volume is complete in itself.

The first volume, Strathern,¹ covers the period 1774-1848 and includes publications up to 1968. Besides the general index, there are five appendices: A. Institutions cited in bibliography; B. Abbreviations used; C. List of the more important ships to visit the British Columbia coast, 1774-1848; D. Principal works consulted; E. Chronological index of first editions. The bibliography includes "all published monographic works that could be identified . . . together with information on later editions and translations"; general histories of the province and books containing relevant chapters or sections; major regional historical journals; publications of the Association de la Propagation de la Foi; some offprints found catalogued as separates; government publications (excluding serial publications). Excluded are: general collections of voyages and histories of exploration; collected editions, abridgements and translations of Cook; purely cartographic works; newspapers; manuscripts and archival material; unpublished theses; photoreproductions; articles and serial publications; northwest and Alaska boundaries and Puget Sound Agricultural

¹ Reviewed in: *BC Studies*, No. 9 (Spring 1971), pp. 63-65; Bibliography Society of Canada, *Papers*, v. 10 (1970), pp. 64-66.

[v. 1] Strathern 1774-1848
publications to 1968

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
monographs editions translations general histories & books with chapters or sections on B.C. Oregon boundary fur trade official & eye-witness accounts of Cook facsimile reprints major regional historical journals Assoc. de la Prop. de la Foi some offprints government publications treaties conventions	general collections voyages explorations collected editions, abridgements & translations of Cook cartographic works newspapers manuscripts & archival material unpublished theses photo-reproductions articles serial publications Northwest boundary Alaska boundary Puget Sound Agricultural Company
all located editions given in entry	
biographical notes (minimum)	
5 appendices	
Alphabetical arrangement Morriss Printing	

[v. 2] Lowther 1849-1899
publications to 1964

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
monographs books with chapters or sections on B.C. serials pre-1900 mimeographed works microforms trials B.C. imprints government publications to 1871 fiction poetry drama offprints Royal Society of Canada transactions catalogued separately Alaska boundary Northwest boundary Puget Sound Agricultural Company Indian languages & anthropology to 1900	programmes playbills menus government publications after 1871 B.C. writers Geological Survey of Canada publications Canada Sessional Papers articles in religious, anthropological, geographical & geological journals most C.P.R. & Klondike material
locates only copy examined, or where most information found	
biographical notes in index	
Chronological arrangement Evergreen Press	

[v. 3] Edwards & Lort 1900-1950
publications to 1974

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
English language monographs pamphlets books with chapters or sections programmes if additional information if B.C. information or B.C. life selected B.C. imprints B.C. authors fiction poetry drama Alaska boundary Tribunal Bering Sea Convention	manuscripts serials company prospectuses unpublished briefs & theses directories juvenile literature school texts maps technical publications B.C. imprints <i>per se</i> general ephemera government publications most fiction, poetry & drama articles
locates only copy seen, or where information found	
biographical information minimum	
Alphabetical arrangement Evergreen Press	

Company, which are in Lowther. Biographical notes have been kept to a minimum.

The second volume, Lowther,² covers the period 1849-1899, and includes publications up to 1964. There are no appendices, but the index has useful biographical notes. Besides monographs, the bibliography includes books with relevant chapters or sections; pre-1900 serials; mimeographed works; microforms; trials; B.C. imprints, 1858-1899; government publications up to 1871, and later if acquired by the Provincial Archives after 1950 and therefore not in Holmes;³ fiction, poetry and drama; offprints of periodical articles; Royal Society of Canada transactions if found catalogued separately; Alaska Boundary Dispute; works in Indian languages and publications dealing with anthropology if published before 1900; selected CPR and Klondike material; and a few maps. Excluded are: programmes, playbills and menus; B.C. writers; Geological Survey of Canada; Canadian Sessional Papers; articles in religious, anthropological, geological and geographical journals. Entries are arranged chronologically.

The third and final volume, Edwards and Lort, covers the period 1900-1950 and includes publications up to 1974, in English. The arrangement is alphabetical, with a general index. Little biographical information is given. Besides the monographs and books with relevant chapters or sections, the bibliography includes: pamphlets; programmes, if additional material is given; B.C. imprints, B.C. authors, fiction, poetry and drama if they depict B.C. life. Excluded are: manuscripts, including unpublished briefs and theses; serials; company prospectuses; directories; juvenile literature and school texts; maps; technical bulletins; B.C. imprints *per se*; general ephemera; government publications; fiction, poetry, drama; and articles. General references are made in the Introduction to other sources of information which help to fill in the gaps.

Some of the final selection in the Edwards volume appears to be rather arbitrary, such as the exclusion of popular books on wild flowers of British Columbia. The classification of some books as "juvenile literature" is debatable. Many books are used as school texts which were never intended as such. As the earlier volumes include books published after 1900, it is sometimes difficult to know in which volume a book will appear. Most of the publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition were published after 1900, but they appear in Lowther, not Edwards.

² Reviewed in *BC Studies*, No. 1 (Winter 1968-69), pp. 54-56.

³ Marjorie Holmes, *Publications of the Government of British Columbia, 1871-1947* (Victoria, 1950) and *Royal Commissions...* (Victoria, 1945).

The University of Victoria Social Sciences Research Centre is to be congratulated on the "completion" of their ambitious and much-needed project. However, the job is not finished. Many areas were excluded from each volume, with more excluded from the third volume than was included, making it that much less useful. With the ten-year time-span of the project, much has appeared about the pre-1900 period which could be included in a supplement. It would have been preferable, perhaps, to have divided the 1900-1950 period into two 25-year periods and included more categories. Lowther says (p. viii):

As the Provincial Archives planned to publish its own list, no attempt was made to include newspapers, except for those government gazettes which began in the colonial period. . . . It was originally planned to list other serials — more general ones having occasional articles on British Columbia. The length of the serial entries, their number and their complexity weighed against their inclusion in this volume.

No list of B.C. newspapers, or of B.C. periodicals, has appeared. Publication of the *Dictionary Catalogue of the Library of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia*⁴ in 1971 has helped fill in some of the gaps, but much remains to be done to complete the bibliographical record of British Columbia up to 1950. And what about the twenty-five years since 1950? In the meantime, for those unable to afford the eight-volume Archives catalogue, the three volumes of *A Bibliography of British Columbia* are valuable reference tools which should be in every library in the province.

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⁴ Boston, G. K. Hall, 1971. 8 v. \$610.

The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken. Edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith with an introduction by W. Kaye Lamb. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1975. \$18.95.

On May 27, 1892, at the age of 68, the venerable John Sebastian Helmcken sat down and began to write with these words: "Well here goes." The result, five substantial volumes in manuscript, have provided historians of colonial British Columbia with one of the best extant accounts of that time and place. Helmcken's colourful characterizations of Europeans and Indians on Vancouver Island and his vivid descriptions of the many significant events in which he was involved establish his