

may reflect the policy of the publisher. Be that as it may, it is surely going too far to anglicize Leonty Hagemester (a Baltic German) to "Leon Hagemester," when in this instance "Leonty" is itself a Russified form of "Ludwig"!

Of greater concern are a number of inaccuracies in the one data tabulation I have been able to check, Table 9 (pp. 169-71), "Company Trade with Foreign Ships at New Archangel, 1801-41," which is based in part on Kirill Khlebnikov's *Zapiski o Koloniyakh Rossiisko-Amerikanskoy Kompanii*, Archive of the Geographical Society of the USSR, raz. 99, op. 1, no. 112. Five figures representing cargo sales have been mis-transcribed and six visits by foreign vessels omitted entirely. Moreover, in relation to the same tabulation, somewhat fuller information for the period 1831-1837 is available in the *Records of the Russian-American Company, 1802-1867* (File microcopies of records in the National Archives, no. 11, Washington, 1942).

All in all, *Imperial Russia in Frontier America* is a useful and welcome contribution which requires revision before it can be regarded as authoritative.

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JOHN D. McINTOSH

First Approaches to the Northwest Coast, by Derek Pethick. Vancouver, J. J. Douglas Ltd., 1976. Pp. xxi, 232, *illus.*, \$12.50.

In less than a decade Derek Pethick, Victoria-born farmer and historian, has written a number of books on the British Columbia experience, including a study of early Victoria, a biography of Sir James Douglas, a story of the career of the steamship *Beaver*, and an interesting collection of personal profiles entitled *Men of British Columbia*. Pethick's audience is popular and general, and his work deserves to be judged as such.

First Approaches to the Northwest Coast, his latest volume, chronicles the interest of Russia, France, Spain, Great Britain and the United States in what Edmund Burke called the "distant dominion." Pethick describes in successive chapters the background to white coastal exploration. In turn he deals with Bering's voyages from Kamchatka, Spain's penetrations from California, and Britain's long approaches from the Atlantic (by Cook) and from Asia (by Hanna, Meares and others). He concludes his book with the Nootka crisis, when British and Spanish ambitions for trade and dominion came into conflict but did not end in war. The author

surveys these developments with ease and in brief compass. By concluding with 1790 he does not give us an appreciation of Vancouver's exploratory expedition, Bodega y Quadra's diplomacy, and Anglo-Spanish relations at Nootka and in London. The ending seems regrettably anticlimactic, but a sequel is promised. To his credit Pethick has included a chronology, bibliography, index, twenty-one photographs and one map — ample illustrative and documentary data for a book of this kind.

If this book is intended for the popular market, this reviewer quarrels with the dustjacket's claim that this is a pioneering effort. *First Approaches* is indeed a new look at old evidence, but Pethick is not the first writer to show how contact developed between the Northwest Coast and the wider world. This book is, in fact, a worthy successor to the historical tradition established so many years ago by Bancroft and Begg. Pethick seldom goes to hitherto unused manuscript sources except where otherwise printed. A major weakness is that in the rush to get into print the author has left an overabundance of indigestible block quotes that often carry the narrative rather than providing useful and illustrative detail (see in particular pages 80-95). He does not describe the ill-fated *Gorgon-Discovery* expedition planned by the British before the Nootka crisis. The interests of Canadian and American colonials in the future of the Northwest Coast are not considered. The obstacles of environment and distance receive scant attention. On the other hand, the detail Pethick provides appears unflinching accurate and can be relied on. For this reason his book is important in bringing to the reading public details of the early history of British Columbia. But if this book is intended as a popular work for the public, its numerous and extended footnotes only drive up the costs to consumer and tend to defeat the intended purpose of this kind of work.

Nanoose Bay

BARRY GOUGH

Packhorses to the Pacific, by Cliff Kopas. Sidney, Gray's Publishing, 1976.

Pp. 132, *illus.*, \$5.95.

Spatsizi, by T. A. (Tommy) Walker. Nunaga, 1976. Pp. 272, *illus.*,

\$11.95.

There is now, in British Columbia, a fairly substantial body of what might be called "wilderness-adventure literature" going back all the way to the work of the transcontinental tourists, Milton and Cheadle. How-