

that it is no longer oral history, but merely a collection of miscellany on a given theme? Indian legends, songs and stories are an important part of our "sound heritage", and *Lillooet Stories* is a significant contribution towards understanding one group of people of this province, but "instant literature" such as appears in the three issues edited by David Day, while demonstrating one use of oral history, is not itself a part of anyone's past heritage, although it may be a part of the future. What is wrong with the poetry, legends, songs and stories already in our heritage? Even if some of the early miners and loggers were illiterate, they were not silent. Perhaps the editors would be better to draw on some of the resources of the other divisions of the Provincial Archives.

Illustrations, whether photographs, or published or original pictures, have played an important part in the Aural History programme from its beginning. The pictorial material is generally interesting and appropriate. However, despite the acknowledged value of the picture, the artist and the photographer are too frequently ignored, and many illustrations lack even a vague caption. Surely it is not too much to ask of a publication like *Sound Heritage* that it give a little more information about the illustrations it uses beyond merely acknowledging the institutions from which they were obtained.

In conclusion, *Sound Heritage* has become a valuable source for the study of British Columbia's cultural history, worthy of being in every library and school in the province, as well as being a showpiece for the Provincial Government, akin to *Beautiful British Columbia* and to the beautiful Provincial Museum. It is a pity that *Sound Heritage*, the journal, has been lost in the transition, but *Sound Heritage*, the monograph series, is a worthy successor.

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Years of Sorrow, Years of Shame: The Story of the Japanese Canadians in World War II, by Barry Broadfoot. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited, 1977. Pp. xii, 370; illus.; \$12.50.

Using his well-developed technique of travelling across Canada with tape recorder and notebook, Barry Broadfoot has already collected and published recollections of such "great events" as homesteading, the Depression and World War II. This time he has concentrated on a specific group of Canadians, the Japanese who were evacuated from coastal British

Columbia in 1942. One of his reasons for telling their story is "for the lessons it teaches us about the kind of people we Canadians were, and perhaps still are." (p. vi). His conclusion, however, is an unanswered question, "Could It Happen Again?" (chapter 14).

A volume such as this must be judged both on its success in reconstructing images of the past and on its usefulness for other students of the subject. On the first count, relating the story as the Japanese themselves recalled it, *Years of Sorrow, Years of Shame* earns very high marks. It is difficult to forget the poignant stories of the sickening conditions in the Hastings Park Exhibition Grounds where the Japanese waited to be sent to the interior, of the tragedy of interrupted schooling, of the crowded and cold conditions in the interior camps, and the trauma of property losses. Collectively, the interviews illustrate the diversity of experience and outlook within the Japanese community. Some were surprised by Pearl Harbor and the evacuation, others could feel it coming; some regarded evacuation with a feeling of *shikata-ga-nai* ("it can't be helped"), others tried to rebel and spent at least part of the war in prison camps; some accepted federal government advice and moved east of the Rockies, others, disillusioned with Canada, returned to Japan. Many Japanese remained bitter; indeed, only a white interviewee regarded the evacuation as a "blessing in disguise".¹

Although Broadfoot presents a variety of views, students of the Japanese in Canada must use this volume with caution. Oral history has many pitfalls. Not only is the human memory fallible but individuals are not always fully aware of their own circumstances. The recollections of several Nisei veterans demonstrate this well. According to several interviewees, the Canadian government insisted that any Nisei going overseas go as Canadians and in Canadian uniform even though they might be working with British forces in the Pacific theatre. (pp. 301, 307). In fact, the cabinet wanted the Nisei to join the British or Australian armies. It only consented to enlist them in the Canadian army when some Nisei refused to volunteer unless they could serve as Canadians and thus be guaranteed the right to return to Canada after the war.

No history is immune from difficulties created by selectivity. In a collection of interviews, the problem is highly visible. How did Broadfoot choose his interviewees? How many of them were there? (Internal evidence indicates that some are quoted under two or more separate headings.) Since the identity of many interviewees is apparent to anyone who

¹ Compare with Ken Adachi, *The Enemy That Never Was* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1976), p. 362.

reads the transcript carefully or who is slightly familiar with the subject, why didn't Broadfoot specifically name all of his subjects? If some insisted on anonymity, he could have at least provided a thumbnail sketch of their background and supplied cross-references identifying all the extracts from a particular interviewee.

To his credit, Broadfoot was aware of the danger of the book becoming pro-Japanese and did speak to some whites who had a particular interest in the Japanese such as a teacher in the interior camps and the consul for Spain, the Protecting Power for Japanese interests, as well as a few ordinary citizens. Yet there is no evidence that he interviewed such important figures as former alderman Halford Wilson of Vancouver, one of the leading anti-Japanese agitators, or Dr. H. L. Keenleyside of the Department of External Affairs, the federal government's "expert" on the Japanese situation in British Columbia. In order to flesh out the story, Broadfoot has coyly had interviewees quote extensively from several government reports.

Broadfoot did not confine his work to interviewing, transcribing and editing but has provided a few paragraphs of introduction to the book as a whole and to each of its fourteen sections. However, he has not corrected minor factual errors. One example will suffice. Attributing an election slogan — "A Vote for the NDP is a vote for the Chink, the Jap" — to Ian Mackenzie is obviously incongruous (p. 92), since the NDP was not created until 1961, some years after the enfranchisement of Asians in British Columbia and the death of Ian Mackenzie. Though such an error is relatively trivial, there is no reason for not correcting it. Because of the problems inherent in the oral history technique, this book will not be the last word on the subject of the Canadian Japanese in World War II. Nevertheless, it will have served its purpose well if it reminds Canadians of one of the more unfortunate incidents in their history.

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British Columbia Chronicle 1847-1871: Gold and Colonists, by G. P. V. Akrigg and Helen B. Akrigg. Vancouver: Discovery Press, 1977.

This book sets out to tell the story of British Columbia's history from the signing of the Treaty of Oregon to the colony's entry into Confederation, and follows an earlier volume, published in 1975, which chronicled the period from 1778 to 1846. The narrative is presented in annual seg-