

Volume I, *The Indigenous Archaeology of Yuquot, a Nootkan Outside Village*, by John Dewhirst, provides the main integrative framework; the other volumes contain multiple technical analyses by fifteen other authors. One will find everything one always wanted to know about everything excavated at a coastal archaeological site (except for several important analyses presumably yet to come, such as fish and mammal bone identifications and frequencies). Artifacts, avian fauna, barnacles, beads, ceramics, geology, glassware, human osteology, lithology, molluscs, and tobacco pipes in all their frequencies, variations and distributions are all given. Everything is well described and well illustrated, and this report is the best ever to come out of Ottawa describing an archaeological project in British Columbia.

The presentation is well organized, straightforward and complete, and is not limited to pure description. Dewhirst summarizes the full set of "pre-archaeological" conceptions about Nootkan prehistory, and uses the archaeological evidence both to refute them and to present an excellent chronological summary. The only surprise is that Nootka whaling begins rather late in the sequence. Otherwise the archaeology is very much like that of those adjacent coastal regions also occupied by Wakashan speakers. With this publication another region of the province loses its status as *terra incognita*, available for any speculative reconstruction of coastal prehistory one wants to push, and becomes just another piece of the puzzle.

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*Summer of Promise: Victoria 1864-1914*, by Derek Pethick. Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1980. Pp. 191; illus.; \$8.95, paper.

*Summer of Promise* is the sequel to the author's earlier book, *Victoria: The Fort* (Vancouver: Mitchell Press, 1968), which carried Victoria's story from its founding as a Hudson's Bay Company post in 1843 to 1864, the year of two memorable events — the retirement of Sir James Douglas as governor and the dismantling of the palisades of the fort. In the best-written chapter of the present book, Pethick paints a nice overview of Victoria in 1864 by drawing on his earlier work. The subtitle of the first book was an obvious one; "Summer of Promise" is more elusive but exploits an 1864 *Colonist* editorial describing the colony "gradually gliding to a more serene season, the summer of our political maturity"

(p. 15). Between 1864 and the outbreak of the First World War, Pethick suggests, were “fifty years of peaceful progress, in which the city’s spring time would pass into summer, and its buds of promise come to flower and fruit” (p. 16).

Because of the strictly chronological organization of all but the prologue and epilogue, “progress,” as an advance forward in time, permeates the book. Yet, despite reports of such new material inventions as the telephone, electric light, phonograph, electric street railway, the automobile and airplane, one wonders if progress, as an improvement, is really the right notion for the whole of this half century of Victoria’s history. Undoubtedly, as census statistics show, the city’s population was growing throughout the period, but Victoria’s relative importance declined after the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885. As he carefully records the death of yet another pioneer, Pethick seems to sense that Victoria’s days of glory were on the wane. Indeed, his moving conclusion, a comment on the outbreak of the 1914 war, that “someone had blundered,” that Victorians could not count on their little world being secure, is a clear hint that the promise perceived in 1864 had not been entirely fulfilled.

Pethick has compiled this chronicle largely by reading through fifty years of the *Victoria Daily Colonist*. (Throughout, he uses the more familiar *Colonist*, even though the journal had “British” in its title until 1886). Unfortunately, he makes no real assessment of his source; he fails to note, for example, that for a time James Dunsmuir was its part owner and that surely influenced its editorial policy. Perhaps this is why Pethick is able to report several expansions or alterations to the facilities of the Union Club but never seems to mention the Victoria Trades and Labour Council — or any union, for that matter. The footnotes indicate a selective use of appropriate secondary sources, but Pethick rarely refers to the *Colonist*’s sometimes rivals, the *Standard* (1870-1889) and the *Daily Times* (1884- ). Thus, the reader misses much of the thrust of editorial and political rivalries which were so much a part of the journalism of the time. Pethick recounts, for example, that in 1878 D. W. Higgins, the editor of the *Colonist*, was fined five shillings for assaulting a member of the *Standard*’s staff, but does not explain the cause of the altercation (p. 93) or the use of shillings rather than dollars.

Indeed, a fundamental weakness of the book, as of most chronicles, is a failure to explain events. Pethick faithfully records the appearance of new mayors — including the “bier baron,” Charles Hayward, a funeral director (p. 121) — but never explains civic political issues. Similarly,

on several occasions Pethick reports that ratepayers rejected sewer bylaws (pp. 106, 121) but does not say why. Nor does he indicate why ratepayers finally approved the sewer in 1890 (p. 124). He records that by 1894 indoor plumbing was almost universal, an event which provides the occasion for one of his more tasteless puns, "(Where are they now, the old familiar faeces?)" (p. 132).

A good editor would have eliminated these self-indulgent puns and anachronistic attempts at humour such as references to the lack of television in the Driad Hotel (p. 72) or the absence of Pierre Berton at Craigellachie in 1885 (p. 110) and would have encouraged Pethick to develop the fine sense of humour he sometimes displays such as the account of the singing of the anthem, "O praise the Lord, all ye heathen," at the fashionable wedding of Martha Douglas, the daughter of Sir James (pp. 91-92), and a good editor would have eliminated the tedious repetition — it only seems that the provincial legislature annually defeated a female suffrage bill — and the curious hodgepodge of facts that a rigid application of the chronological approach to history can produce. For example:

Early September [1875] saw the death of the S.S. *Beaver's* most famous master, Captain W. H. McNeill, who was buried by Mr. [*sic*, Bishop] Cridge. New elections for the British Columbia Legislature were held, but De Cosmos was not among the candidates. Eight Sisters of Charity arrived from the East to staff the new hospital, a "wild steer while being driven up Yates Street broke away from its drivers," and water from Elk Lake first entered the homes of Victoria. (p. 83)

To be fair, Pethick did not set out to write a historical monograph but simply "to see these years through the eyes of those who lived them." He has deliberately made "frequent references to the larger national and international scenes . . . [which] . . . most often have been well to the fore of the average citizen's consciousness . . . [and to an] . . . occasional glance to trivial or even ludicrous elements in the passing show, for these, too, formed part of the total pattern of events" (p. 9). The picture Pethick effectively presents demonstrates that Victorian and Edwardian Victorians were remarkably well informed about outside events, whether they be the war between Russia and Turkey, 1877-78 (p. 91) or Lizzie Borden (p. 130); the construction of the Kiel Canal (p. 116) or literary gossip about Lord Byron (pp. 44-45).

Pethick's method of compiling history gives a flavour of the manners and mores of the times. His chronicle, for example, reminds readers of the importance of religion to the Victorian Victorian. "Vancouver Island

was not only part of the British Empire, it was part of Christendom," Pethick remarks (p. 17). His frequent references to church building (especially by Anglicans), his explanation of the Hills-Cridge affair (a schism within the local Anglican community which led to the formation of a Reformed Episcopalian congregation), his report of debates over the place of religion in the schools, and his mention of the *Colonist* questioning the New Testament and suggesting sermon topics all underscore his argument. Yet, while the Anglicans get the most space — an understandable consequence of their having twice as many adherents as any other denomination, according to a local census in 1886 (p. 111) — Pethick gives considerable attention to various spiritualists, though the census indicated only five members of that faith resided in the city, a number immediately questioned by Major James Fell, himself a spiritualist. Given the variety of seances, mediums and spooks that Pethick records, Fell was probably right.

Nevertheless, one suspects the author's own sense of the ludicrous may explain the inclusion of some references such as those to women in trousers or bloomers (pp. 20, 44, 110, 137) or smoking cigarettes (pp. 107, 118, 132) or his description of an American gathering, the "International Women's Congress" as the "storm troopers of the maladjusted" (p. 118). And, though he mentions two widely advertised patent medicines, Castoria and Cuticura, he refrains from further illustrations of the many large advertisements for patent medicines and devices which must have contributed to the *Colonist's* revenues and whose persistence over the years suggests something of the level of medical sophistication of the times.

The selection process suggests that the unique was far more likely to be recorded than the routine event such as the earning of a living. For example, two prominent businessmen are mentioned. R. P. Rithet appears as mayor, as president of a fishing club and as the builder of "a large pier" (p. 124), and J. H. Turner is noted as mayor and premier, but nowhere does the book suggest their involvement — or that of anyone else — in the important salmon canning industry for which Victoria was long the commercial headquarters. Similarly, the Albion Iron Works — a major local manufacturer — appears only in a footnote (p. 181, n. 9) and then only because one of its managers imported a steam-driven car. Although Victoria at one time was home to many sawmills, the only mention of the lumber industry occurs in reference to the dismissal of Chinese employees by the Sayward Lumber Mill in 1894 (p. 130). Pethick apparently passed over the pages of the *Colonist's* occasional

supplements on the local economy. Granted, such special issues generally belong to the genre of "booster" literature but, used with care, they can be an excellent source of information on the local economy.

In some respects, the book itself is a "gold mine" of information about Victoria, but it is an eclectic rather than a comprehensive study. Moreover, it is sometimes frustrating to use. There is a fair nominal index, but its coverage by subject is erratic. Thus one can easily find references to schools but not to sewers, to wages but not to water works. A number of well-chosen photographs and illustrations complement the text, but the captions are often thin and usually undated. Nevertheless, this is an interesting book which presents one man's selection of what one newspaper recorded of life in Victoria, 1864-1914. It offers some of the flavour of the times, indicates that Victoria was a lively place, makes light reading for friends of Victoria who are interested in the beginnings of some of its institutions and, above all, suggests a great many questions about Victoria's past. If some readers of this volume are enticed to investigate the causes and consequences of some of the events Pethick relates, the volume will have performed a useful service.

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*Forty Years' Journey: The Temperance Movement in British Columbia to 1900*, by Harold Tuttle Allen. Victoria, B.C.: Privately Published, 1981 (Available from the author, 7850 Champlain Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.). Pp. 138; \$8.00, paper.

*Forty Years' Journey* is a labour of love by a retired United Church of Canada minister and long-time devoted worker in the temperance and prohibition movements. He is not a professional historian, and readers of this book should not look for the treatment that a professional would give the topic. There are a number of typesetting errors throughout the volume, and the table on page 125 has a pair of transposed lines that are somewhat confusing. Although annoying, these minor faults do not obscure the information the author is purveying.

Mr. Allen has divided his book into two major divisions, "The Coast" and "The Interior," and chapters within these divisions feature headings such as "How Liquor Came to British Columbia," "The First Temperance Movement," "Women's Big Day," "Developments on the New Rail Route" and "Prohibition Plebiscite." The point at which the volume