

to consider that international event part of the accomplishment of this splendid, old-fashioned, eccentric and important book.

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Papers on Central Coast Archaeology, edited by Philip M. Hobler. Burnaby: Simon Fraser University, Department of Archaeology, Publication No. 10.

This volume, the tenth from Simon Fraser, consists of a paper describing the history of that institution's work on the central coast, and two revised MA theses. One is by B. Apland on chipped stone assemblages collected from beaches, the other by M. Chapman on the excavation of a site near Port Hardy, on northern Vancouver Island. The "central coast" referred to in the title is the ethnographic sub-area, not the mainland central coast; more than half of this volume deals with northern Vancouver Island archaeology. While the introductory paper by Hobler appears to have been written for this volume, the two MA theses appear to have been reproduced without major changes ("... they have been abridged somewhat but have not been updated or revised." — p. 1) and are based on field work completed some time ago, apparently in 1973 and 1974. The volume is well produced, typeset in double right justified columns on a good quality paper so that both the line drawings and half-tones are crisp.

I found the introductory chapter by Hobler to be well written and informative. It includes a brief summary of every project carried out on the central coast over ten years, including who directed it, the duration, and what publications or theses resulted. This chapter greatly increased my understanding of what had been done and where and why it had been done. Hobler also, successfully in my mind, attempts to place the work into a rational developmental scheme. Unfortunately the MA theses, which are the bulk of the volume, did not make as positive an impression.

The chapter by Apland includes sites from Quatsino Sound on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, as well as from the mainland central coast. Yet the various locations of the thirty-eight sites are not made clear until the conclusion. Here it turns out that the Quatsino Sound sites belong to a "Pebble-Spall" tradition, as opposed to a "Prepared Core-Flake" tradition found in the Bella Bella-Kwatna area. Thus the location

of the sites does determine the nature of the collections, yet this is all but ignored until that point.

These collections were picked from beaches, sometimes in front of midden sites, but in other cases isolated. In such situations collection procedures can greatly affect what artifacts are recovered, as can whether the raw material found on the beach can be made into tools. Neither of these factors is adequately discussed. If beach pebbles in Quatsino Sound can be used to make lithic tools and those on the mainland central coast cannot, the different traditions found by Apland may not have the cultural meaning that he assigns to them.

Within the Bella Bella-Kwatna material, Apland argues for two kinds of the Prepared Flake-Core cultures: the previously defined Cathedral Phase and an earlier Namu phase. He does not, however, indicate which site belongs to which. I assume, because of the absence of microblades, that virtually all belong to the Cathedral Phase. To my mind this section makes the nature of the Cathedral Phase unclear. Are there some sites in the central coast area he regards as untypical of the Cathedral Phase and others typical? From his tables there appears to be substantial variation in site composition.

Chapman's chapter is a relatively conventional report on the excavation of a site near Port Hardy. After a description of the setting, some forty pages are spent describing artifacts and features. This section is well done, as is the equivalent section of Apland's report. Some eight pages then are spent interpreting the results and describing the cultural components. Apparently there are two components: one very small, old one, and one that makes up the bulk of the deposit and which might be separated into two subcomponents. Three radio-carbon dates, all within the first thousand years BC, appear to date the major part of the second component. There is also an attempt to fit the material found into regional sequences suggested by other workers, but with little detailed comparison.

While Chapman's report is adequate as far as it goes, it lacks some sections usually found in site reports. Perhaps most obvious, there is no tabulation of artifacts in terms of components or subcomponents. This greatly reduces the value of this work for comparative purposes. Nor is the work done on the fauna remains up to the standard now regularly reported in modern site reports. C. Carlson (*Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 3:177-94) has recently reported on another site at Port Hardy that relates to the material reported in both theses, but is not mentioned

except in a footnote. C. Carlson's report appeared after both these theses were completed; thus the lack of comparisons may be partly excused.

To summarize, I found the first chapter to be of general interest and well done. I found both MA theses to have weaknesses and to be really of interest only to specialists in northwest coast prehistory. Perhaps the editor should have used a heavier hand and alleviated some of the shortcomings of the theses. Certainly most Master's theses are not of publishable quality, and these could have stood more revision before they were published. These drawbacks aside, this volume is an important contribution to our knowledge of that general area, but that says as much about the quantity of previous work as about this present work.

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Trail of Iron: The CPR and the Birth of the West, by Bill McKee and Georgeen Klassen. Vancouver: The Glenbow-Alberta Institute in association with Douglas & McIntyre, 1983. Pp. 192. \$29.95.

This lavishly illustrated book celebrates "The Great CPR Exposition" exhibit on display in 1983-84 at Calgary's Glenbow Museum. The authors are archivists at the Glenbow-Alberta Institute. Bill McKee prepared the text while Georgeen Klassen played a major role in the selection of the photographs. There are almost 200 black-and-white photographs and sixteen pages of full colour, all of which greatly enhances the text.

Trail of Iron deals with a very large and complex subject: the impact of the CPR on western Canada from 1880 to 1930. It concludes that the company was "the primary force shaping western Canada" in that period (p. 185). It can be compared to Pierre Berton, *The Great Railway Illustrated* (Toronto, 1972) and to Omer Lavallée, *Van Horne's Road* (Montreal, 1974), both of which have a narrower focus — the building of the CPR transcontinental line. Historians and laymen interested in the history of the Canadian west will find *Trail of Iron* a more useful volume than these because of its broader focus.

The authors first present a succinct account of the construction of the CPR main line and then explore the expansion and diversification of the company in the west. They observe that the CPR spent a great deal upgrading the main line (p. 64). It is worth noting that the company