

Alaskan Maps: A Cartobibliography of Alaska to 1900, by Marvin W. Falk. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 1983. Pp. xxiii, 245, cloth \$62.00. ISBN 0-8240-9132-9.

This volume in the Garland Reference Library of the Humanities is an important bibliographic reference for those interested in the historical cartography of northwest America. It represents the culmination of eight years of information-gathering by the author in connection with his position as Arctic Bibliographer at the University of Alaska. The search involved work not only in America but also in Europe, notably in Britain at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.

As initially conceived the project was to have included a listing of all Alaskan mapping, but for reasons of time and cost, unpublished manuscript maps and maps published after 1900 were excluded. Although the focus is upon Alaska, many of the listed maps include parts of adjacent areas; hence this volume has general relevance to all the lands about the North Pacific.

The author's guiding principle is reader-access to at least a copy of the original map; consequently the most commonly available reproductions are chosen for citation. Individual listings consist of the following basic elements: an identifying number (consisting of the year of publication, followed by a number within that year); the map title and map maker; place and date of publication; and map size. Additional information is provided concerning original source (if the map is part of a book or atlas) and reference to sources in which the map has been reproduced. If a given entry has been included in one of the previously published bibliographies of the area, appropriate mention is made. A number of the citations are accompanied by brief, descriptive comments that this reader found helpful. One wonders why such annotation was not more extensively and systematically applied.

In addition to the map listings, Falk has included a short, selective bibliography referencing over 100 publications that deal with various aspects of the cartography of northwest America. These include some articles in the periodical literature as well as books and monographs. It is inevitable that such a bibliography should include some items at the expense of others, and that it should invite questions about the basis for selection. In general, however, the inclusion of the selective bibliography is likely to be helpful to researchers, even those who have some familiarity with Alaskan mapping. The author makes no attempt to sample the extensive general literature on travel and exploration to and within

Alaska, relying upon Wickersham's *Bibliography of Alaskan Literature*, 1927, to provide the basic coverage.

An alphabetical index takes up the last 43 pages of the work and a random checking of names, features and publication titles suggests that the indexing system works very well. Indeed, the indexing scheme for the whole volume is simple and effective — a boon to any user.

A cartobibliography of this scope is a large undertaking, and one that would have required a great deal of time and meticulous care in its preparation. While a comprehensive listing involving the identification and location of all maps bearing upon Alaska can never be complete, this volume must be considered a major attempt. It adds substantially to what is available in Phillips (*Alaska and the Northwest Part of North America*, 1588-1898, published in 1898) and Wagner (*Cartography of the Northwest Coast of America*, published in 1937). As well, it includes relevant items from Efimov's *Atlas of Geographical Discoveries in Siberia and North-western America, XVII-XVIII Centuries*, published in 1964. The inclusion of maps published to 1900 is itself a help to researchers and cartophiles. The increasing torrent of official and other maps published in the last decades of the nineteenth century is attested by the fact that the author lists 17 entries for the year 1888, 34 entries for 1891 and 84 entries for 1897.

In *Alaskan Maps*, Falk has made a significant addition to the literature and has given us a most helpful guide to historical maps of Alaska. It is costly, especially considering that only the preliminary matter is typeset (the remainder being in a reduced typewriter face) and that the only illustrations are six page-size, black-and-white map reproductions. Nevertheless, this book is an indispensable tool for those who are seriously interested in accessing the cartographic heritage of northwest America.

University of British Columbia

A. L. FARLEY

The Box of Daylight, by Bill Holm. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1984. Pp. 147; illus.

The Box of Daylight is the catalogue of an exhibition of Northwest Coast art held at the Seattle Art Museum. The show was organized by Bill Holm; the 219 objects exhibited were selected from private collections in the Seattle area. The bulk of the book consists of photographs of each work of art along with descriptive notes by Holm. There is also a