

batteries depleted other militia units and illustrated continuing weaknesses. In 1878, during a period of apprehension caused by threatened British intervention in the Russo-Turkish conflict, the Russian screw corvette *Kreiser* under Captain P. Nazimov arrived at Esquimalt. While the exact cause of the visit never has been clarified, it seems that spying was a major factor. Even with incentives such as this, Britain and Canada refused to spend enough money to prepare adequate defences. Through the 1880s, Britain pressed Canada to offer financial assistance to defend Esquimalt naval base, while the Ottawa authorities chose to view the port as an imperial rather than national base. Despite perceptions of a Russian menace to British Columbia, Canadian politicians evaded their responsibilities and depended upon the presence of Royal Navy warships.

Barratt is a little ambivalent about the real threats posed by the Russian Pacific naval squadron. Given the power of the United States after 1865, one can understand Canadian fatalism and unwillingness to invest in defences that could deter only a secondary opponent such as the Russians. Despite good relations with the Russians, the United States would not have accepted significant intervention in British Columbia. After the Alaska purchase, a Russian naval adventure at Esquimalt might well have precipitated a permanent American occupation. Following the Civil War, the United States presented the French interventionists in Mexico with a clear ultimatum that they must depart. Barratt places Russian activities into context and illustrates the political difficulties with the defence of British Columbia. The book is a most useful addition to the history of British Columbia and to Pacific affairs through the nineteenth century.

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*Sliammon Life, Sliammon Lands*, by Dorothy Kennedy and Randy Bouchard . Vancouver: Talonbooks, 1983.

*Sliammon Life, Sliammon Lands* is an ethnographic and ethnohistorical account of Coast Salish people of the northern Gulf of Georgia region on the coast of British Columbia. The book is directed to the general reader with little or no knowledge of Northwest Coast Indians or of anthropology. The presentation is well organized, highly readable, and covers a region which has been neglected in the ethnographic literature of this area.

A general background discussion places the Sliammon people in the context of British Columbia native people and their cultures. The people and their culture are followed from prehistoric times to this century. Various aspects of culture are treated briefly but adequately, with a good balance of ethnographic description and vignettes of Indian life.

The book is profusely illustrated with maps, charts and photographs showing the locale, the people and their artefacts. Series of pictures illustrate techniques such as salmon preparation, basket weaving and making a canoe bailer. A good selection of older photographs of the area and the people is included. These date from about 1875 through the early decades of this century.

The authors include brief discussions of early Spanish and English voyagers to the area and provide passages from the journal of Menzies as well as Spanish accounts of encounters with the natives in the 1790s. These are followed with an excerpt from the diary of James Douglas recounting a Hudson's Bay Company trading expedition to the area in 1840. These selections provide informative glimpses of Indian-white contact prior to the advent of missionaries and settlers.

There is a section on the influence of the Roman Catholic missionaries who first visited the area in the 1860s and whose influence was considerable, despite infrequent visits in the early years.

Finally, the authors provide a discussion of the manner in which the Indian reserves were established, a lucid description of the work of the Indian Reserve Commission and the McKenna-McBride Commission. Selected statements by Indians to the Indian Reserve Commission and the McKenna-McBride Commission convey an understanding of the concerns of the Indians, and the reader is indebted to Randy Bouchard and Dorothy Kennedy for including these materials. One wishes they had continued their account of these people, their culture and their concerns to a more recent point in time.

It is regrettable that the book, otherwise so well produced, should have been designed in such odd-shaped format. It does not fit on a small-sized shelf, but on a larger shelf it becomes lost between standard-sized taller books.