

reproduce much better than the Spanish versions. The 1837 engraving of Chief Maquinna was much better reproduced in another recent publication. Despite these minor complaints, the volume is a most welcome addition to the northwest coast bibliography. It will find an important place in the collection of anyone who is interested in the early history of the coastline from the Oregon-California boundary to Point Barrow, Alaska.

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CHRISTON I. ARCHER

*Above Tide: Reflections on Roderick Haig-Brown*, by Anthony Robertson. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1984. 136 pp.

This is a modest book. It is neither a biography nor a real critical study of Roderick Haig-Brown; its author describes it as a book of "Reflections," and this unassuming description is correct. It is a brief and tentative look at Haig-Brown's life and works.

Haig-Brown has been dead too short a time for memories of him to have settled enough for a full and frank biography to be feasible. At the same time he is a writer in whose work a transparent simplicity and a fine artistry are so mingled that criticism is difficult unless it recognizes how far Haig-Brown's writing was dependent on and derived from his experience. Like George Orwell, Haig-Brown was one of the writers whose work demonstrates that the doctrine of the "biographical fallacy" is not universally applicable.

Whenever Haig-Brown moved out of experience into the invented space of fiction, he wrote clumsily and unconvincingly. When he wrote of experience, using the kind of personal essay whose form he polished and perfected, he was a convincing and moving writer whose evocation of remembered scenes was superb and whose imagery vibrated with life and colour. To consider his work outside the experience he rendered so powerfully, through a combination of recollection and artifice, is to lose not only its intent but also half its meaning. So, in the end, any criticism of Haig-Brown has to take into account the life of a writer whose social conscience made him a rural magistrate and whose emotional needs made him a complete and perpetual countryman.

Tentative approaches, like that of Mr. Robertson, who gives us the barest of external facts and never tries to probe deeply into the mind of Haig-Brown, a reticent man and very guarded about his private feelings, only reveal how difficult it is, without the biographical data, to go

beyond and urbane appreciation of this deceptively open writer. Haig-Brown was never the kind of artificer of the imagination who creates a world of his own into which we can enter without the personality and the life of its creator intruding. He wrote, when he wrote best, about the world of his own living, and the more we know about that world he asked us to share with him, the better we understand his work. But even with abundant data from the writer's life, a deeper kind of analysis than Mr. Robertson practices in his comments on Haig-Brown's books would be necessary to do them real justice. Some of his insights are shrewd, and his writing is always serious and at times clearly influenced by Haig-Brown's example of graceful clarity, but he moves too swiftly and too shallowly for anyone familiar with Haig-Brown's books to feel he has learned much that he did not know already. The real book on Haig-Brown, the conservationist and amateur naturalist as well as the writer, remains to be done.

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GEORGE WOODCOCK

*One Union in Wood*, by Jerry Lembke and William M. Tattam. Harbour Publishing and International Publishers, 1984.

*One Union in Wood* is, surprisingly, the first book-length study of the International Woodworkers of America. There have been earlier books, but these have been anecdotal accounts by people very close to the scene of action, most notably Vernon Jensen's *Lumber and Labor* and Myrtle Bergren's *Tough Timber*.

Other studies of labour organization have included the IWA only as a part of a larger picture of national or international trade unionism. Lembke and Tattam have attempted to provide a survey of all of the major events in the history of woodworkers' unions from their earliest beginnings in the nineteenth century in the Pacific Northwest to the Newfoundland strike of 1959. They have subtitled their work "A Political History of the International Woodworkers of America," by which they mean to let the reader know that this book will describe the events which produced a communist-dominated union and subsequent events

Because the IWA is not yet fifty years old, it has been possible to rely which resulted in the removal of the communists from leadership. on oral accounts as well as newly available documentary sources. Sometimes this produces curious shifts in focus, from a crisp account of the