

is as much a part of the seal fishery as the sharpening of the harpoons. In most fisheries the new law-of-the-sea conventions allow for extended economic zones; this is a notion which first appears in the nineteenth-century seal fishery but regrettably does not appear in this book.

The author warns us in the introduction that he "is on the side of the seals." Unfortunately the book never quite loses this Greenpeace myopia, and a balanced historical perspective is never gained. The book is a severe disappointment although, as I have indicated above, it can be read with pleasure at the level of a simple narrative.

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*Tales from the Canadian Rockies*, edited by Brian Patton. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1984. Pp. xvi, 303.

Brian Patton has edited an extremely frustrating book. The almost eighty documents, both fictional and historical, which he has reproduced in whole or in part cover a wide range of experiences in the Canadian Rockies, from early Indian mythology to life in twentieth-century national parks. Most of these documents have been published previously, but often in sources not likely to be encountered by the general public, the target market of this book. Even for historians of the region there are bound to be items never before seen. Ranging in length from less than a page to about ten pages, the documents compiled here are often fascinating and informative first-hand accounts of life and travel in the Rockies. Each reader will undoubtedly find his own favourites, whether for the information contained or the beauty of the description. The moving fictional prose of Howard O'Hagan's *Tay John*, the clash of cultures and personalities described by Robert Campbell in "Edward Whymper" and David Thompson's account of his 1800 ascent of a mountain peak at the headwaters of the Bow River were personal highlights.

Unfortunately, the presentation detracts greatly from an appreciation of the material reproduced. The awkward format, the absence of an introduction to the volume and the omission of certain key documents prevent this chronologically arranged anthology from being "something of a documentary history of the Rockies," as the editor claims it to be. The acknowledgements providing the sources of the documents and the brief biographical sketches of the authors are at opposite ends of the book,

not with each document, thus necessitating constant flipping back and forth. There is a two and a half page preface but no introduction, no attempt at a general overview of the human history of the Rockies as a background to the documents. Explanations are provided with some documents, but sometimes these are inadequate. The note with the excerpt from Milton's and Cheadle's narrative of their trip across the Yellowhead Pass simply states, "By the 1860s travel across the Athabasca Pass had declined. . . ." There is no mention of the Hudson's Bay Company's reorganization of its transportation system and the abandonment of its transmountain brigade system as the reason for the decline in traffic on the Athabasca Pass, the company's most regularly used route. One suspects a lack of original research (apparently none in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives) and a less than full understanding of events prior to the arrival of the CPR to account for the inadequate background information and, also, the omission of certain documents. Never previously published, the colourful description of the first documented crossing of the Yellowhead Pass and the detailed report of the first telegraph survey of that route might be expected to be included. However, neither James McMillan's 1825 explorations guided by the legendary Tête Jaune nor John Rae's 1864 expedition are even noted.

The editor claims that the documents were "selected to entertain." Regrettably, especially because of the editor's obvious love for his subject, some of their entertainment value and historical significance have been lost in this volume.

*Parks Canada*

DAVID SMYTH

*Ocean/Paper/Stone: The Catalogue of an exhibition of printed objects which chronicle more than a century of literary publishing in British Columbia*, compiled by Robert Bringhurst. Vancouver: William Hoffer, 1984.

The exhibition documented in this catalogue was held at Vancouver's M. C. Duthie Gallery in April/May 1984. But Bringhurst's book is far more than a catalogue: an elegant design makes it an example of fine printing in its own right; it is a descriptive bibliography of remarkable thoroughness (documenting typefaces, designers, bindings, papers and press runs); it gives capsule histories (often anecdotal) of over sixty