

inherent problems in transcribing and ordering an unfinished, posthumous work. Should the material be extensively reshaped in the editing process to create a finished product? Or, should editing be kept to a minimum so that the author's work stands relatively untouched? Wells himself clearly had other ideas for the material. There was, moreover, an understandable desire on the part of Wells' family to honour the spirit of this remarkable man (Weeden, p. 7). The editors have attempted to resolve these concerns by letting the transcriptions speak for themselves with little commentary or analysis. As a result, the final product may be less satisfying to researchers and to those unfamiliar with the Chilliwack area than to native Indian people and other local residents with considerable background knowledge.

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*Uncommon Property: The Fishing and Fish-Processing Industries in British Columbia*, edited by Patricia Marchak, Neil Guppy and John McMullan. Toronto: Methuen, 1987. Pp. 402.

Let's get one thing straight — this collection contains a great deal of valuable, original information about the Pacific fisheries. That said, however, the book is a hybrid between a collection of articles and a research project report. There are some excellent articles within the collection but overall it does not hold together *as a book*. It speaks with several voices, contains different directions and has no binding theme, aside from the broad subject of the B.C. fisheries.

Each of the three editors (Patricia Marchak, Neil Guppy and John McMullan) contributed two of the thirteen articles while Marchak also wrote the Introduction and Conclusion. Evelyn Pinkerton wrote three chapters, Alicja Muszynski two, and Stephen Garrod and Keith Warriner one each. None of the writing is done collectively, and this is evident in the final product.

Fisheries is an exciting site of investigation, especially on the west coast, since it includes factors of capital and labour, the state, race and ethnicity, gender relations, co-operative and union struggles, all bound within an ecologically sensitive setting. The papers in the present collection each contribute in significant ways to our understanding of these practices.

Following Marchak's theoretical discussion of common property and the state which outlines the complex "labour status" of fishers, the collection divides into three parts. Part 1, called Capital and State, has the

task of providing the most elementary background information. McMullan gives basic historical information on the development of B.C. fisheries and gear types. Muszynski documents a detailed investigation of early processors and their labour forces. Pinkerton provides a stark but reasonably thorough report on competitive conditions in the B.C. salmon, herring, and halibut markets. Garrod presents an informative description of the world salmon market. McMullan delivers a thoroughly researched, densely packed, lengthy analysis of the history and contemporary relations between the state and capital, outlining the process of steady capital concentration and state contradiction. Marchak concludes the section with a piece cutely called "Because Fish Swim" on international conflicts within the fishery. It is informative but based upon secondary literature, especially building on work by Barbara Johnson on the law of the sea.

Part 2 on Labour and Organization is the most important section of the collection. Most notable are the scholarly contributions on shoreworkers by Guppy and Muszynski and on natives by Pinkerton. Guppy has two key chapters: Labouring at Sea and Labouring on Shore. The piece on working at sea is valuable, building on original data and insightful analysis which is carefully documented and argued. It is a somewhat eclectic but exceptionally rich paper dealing with divisions in the fisheries within and between fleet sectors. Guppy makes the insightful observation that fishers "are indeed independent commodity *producers* but not independent commodity *sellers*." Especially interesting is his original analysis of crew members and the issues of health and safety. Working on shore proves to be volatile work (seasonal with fluctuating demand) built on reserve labour, with only about a quarter of the labour force employed year-round and women as 70 percent of the total labour force. The labour process described is a disassembly-line with a clearly documented technical division of labour for salmon and herring processing. Guppy finds that women's jobs "are routine and monotonous, stationary and seasonal." He also outlines an ethnic division of labour whereby Asian and native men tend to cluster in the worst jobs with all women against advantaged men of European background.

Marchak addresses the complicated problem of disentangling organizations within the fishery. She does convey the complexity, but I would partially disagree with various points of analysis, such as her opening statement on co-ops: "The problem of categorizing fisheries disappears when we consider those fishers who own processing firms. For them, the market subservience is overcome. Moreover, they are employers of labour, and in that respect, unambiguously capital." Briefly, I think this statement is

naïve on the meaning of “ownership” by co-op members, including their highly mediated relationship with shoreworkers, and is silent on the important category of crew members, not to mention significant differences between co-op trollers, gillnetters, and seiners in capital-labour relations.

Pinkerton’s chapter on native people is well written, telling in a succinct way the history of native participation in the west coast fishery. It is especially strong on segmentation within the native community between licence holders and those excluded from licences and, of course, shoreworkers. Native shoreworkers (mostly women), Pinkerton notes, support the United Fishermen and Allied Workers’ Union even at times over the protests of the Native Brotherhood. The piece is excellent at locating the natives in the fishery, within their communities, and vis-à-vis the state.

The final chapter in this part by Muszynski on shoreworkers is based upon a careful search of the *Fisherman* newspaper, documenting the union’s struggle to overcome discrimination based on gender and ethnicity, focusing upon intra-union divisions between shoreworkers and fishers. She documents the shoreworkers’ central place within the union’s bargaining strength.

Part 3 on Community and Region is less substantial than the other sections. Pinkerton’s chapter on communities is a case study of Tofino, a fishing centre, and Ahousaht, a native village, concerning changes in the impact of fishing on social life over time. Warriner’s chapter on regionalism documents broad changes in the number and size of coastal communities, demonstrating a strong connection between vulnerable development in coastal locations and urban-based actions. The collection ends with a brief concluding statement by Marchak focusing on current events.

Overall, I would say *Uncommon Property* is a welcome and valuable resource book essential for anyone interested in the west coast fisheries. More than that, however, the key chapters by Guppy, Pinkerton, and Muszynski in Part 2 and one on the state by McMullan in Part 1 are classic articles in the field and deserve to be widely cited as insightful, original contributions to Canadian political economy.

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*Three Dollar Dreams*, by Lynne Bowen. Lantzville: Oolichan, 1987.

Lynne Bowen’s second book on the Vancouver Island coalfield is, like the first, a halfway house between scholarly interpretation and “popular” local history. As a compendium of (much-needed) facts, stories, anecdotes,