

person. It could provide an extremely useful text in undergraduate courses in resources management or B.C. studies. It is a pity we do not have comparable texts for other parts of Canada.

As a final comment, it must be emphasized that this is, quite literally, a beautiful book to read. It is the product of desk-top publishing and small printing company, and it contains superb colour graphics, tables, summary boxes, and clear text. It puts university and commercial presses to shame. It is also only \$25.00.

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MARK SPROULE-JONES

A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State, ed. Robin K. Wright. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992. 248 pp. Illus. \$55.00 U.S. cloth; \$29.95 U.S. paper.

In 1989 Washington celebrated 100 years of statehood by sponsoring projects which brought local history and cultures into focus. Perhaps the most significant of these was an exhibit at the Burke Museum in Seattle which recognized the First Nations in the state. Several years of consultation between the museum staff and the Native community went into creating this exhibit. *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State* was prepared in part as a catalogue of the exhibit of the same name, but is much more. The volume contains valuable material about the history of collections of artefacts from the state, including the often overlooked early period. Other chapters detail continuing practices of Native people, including story-telling, canoe racing, craft production, and oration. Somehow all of this hangs together to form a most interesting volume.

In fact, the volume succeeds admirably in a number of important ways and is inexpensive as well. First, the book is organized in an unusual manner. Discussions of the Coast Salish people of western Washington and the Interior Salish of the high Plateau of the eastern portion of the state are included together, and one is able to gain a sense of the great importance of these peoples to one another. The usual method of placing the Coast Salish within the anthropological tradition of the Northwest Coast culture area has had the effect of slighting Coast Salish achievements and obscuring their connections with those east of the mountains.

Second, by including the commentary of both Native authorities and

non-Native academics, this volume achieves the collaboration many believe is essential. Native people have contributed both short descriptions of artefacts and complete chapters. Consequently, *A Time of Gathering* bridges the gap between archival and personal knowledge of artefacts and Indian culture, as Wright hoped it would. A nice example of this concerns a nineteenth century D-adze, pictured on page 104, used by Quinault leader Captain Mason to make canoes. Oliver Mason, his great-grandson, comments that “the little figure represents the spirit that helped care for the canoes. He was a helper and when they’d get tired, he’d help them keep going.”

Third, the volume is wonderful in its emphasis on the context of the construction, meaning, and uses of the artefacts depicted in the book. For this reason, the text is helpful in understanding gender, social class, and social change and shows why collections of material artefacts can be important in understanding local identity and affiliation as well as the operations of regional systems. For example, commentary on hats and baskets includes information on how they serve as ethnic boundary markers and what is thought locally to constitute virtuosity. Wright clarifies how objects made in the nineteenth century have been regarded and used by their Native owners in the intervening years. The volume repeatedly points out how goods have moved throughout the region via trade and other means.

Although the heart of the book is Wright’s chapter entitled “Masterworks of Washington Native Art,” notable chapters include those written by Lynette Miller on basketry styles, Wayne Suttles on shed-roof houses, and Vi Hilbert on Lushootseed heritage. Miller uses a single object, the corn-husk bag, to illustrate post-contact changes in Plateau culture and technology and give a sense of the big issues facing the Plateau people. Suttles writes that the so-called “inferior” shed-roof design employed by Coast Salish communities was not simply the result of imperfect mastery of Northwest Coast architecture, as T. T. Waterman argued in the early part of the century. Rather, this design developed in place and is related to local social organization and values. Hilbert, a noted Upper Skagit elder, provides a short chapter describing post-contact experiences of her ancestors, relatives, and friends as she has recorded them over the last forty years.

Although it is not intended to be just this, *A Time of Gathering* is visually stimulating. The artefacts depicted are beautiful and helpful in understanding the people who made them. Problems with the book are minor: Makah culture is relatively over-represented; a chapter on bead-

work on the Plateau is little more than a catalogue of techniques and motifs; it is difficult to connect the text and the associated photographs; there is no commentary on the illustrative photographs, some of which are themselves historic. Far more important is the contribution the volume makes.

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BRUCE MILLER

The Voyage of Sutil and Mexicana, 1792: The Last Spanish Exploration of the Northwest Coast of America, translated and introduced by John Kendrick. Northwest Historical Series, XVI. Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1991. 260 pp. Maps, illus. \$38.25 cloth.

In March 1792, two small ships, *Sutil*, under the command of Dionisio Alcalá Galiano, and *Mexicana*, commanded by Cayetano Valdés, sailed from the port of Acapulco on the west coast of New Spain in search of the Northwest Passage. Their objective was to examine the area beyond the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from Nootka Sound south and around Vancouver Island, which had not been properly charted, for the entrance to such a passage. British seaman George Vancouver collaborated with this Spanish expedition.

Relations between Spain and England were not so cordial in the late 1780s. Following Spain's push into California after 1769, European rivals Russia and England challenged its claim on a monopoly to trade there. A war was narrowly averted in 1789 when a Spanish commander jailed several British mariners and captured their vessels. After much diplomatic wrangling, this event, which came to be known as the Nootka Sound Controversy, eventually led to Spain's loss of its territories in the Pacific Northwest.

Against this backdrop of international dispute, Spain conducted one of its most important scientific expeditions, which sailed under the command of Alejandro Malaspina and José Bustamante. The *Descubierta* and *Atrevida* visited the region in the summer of 1791 as part of a five-year mission. The following year, *Sutil* and *Mexicana* returned to complete the investigations. After looping north out in the Pacific and carrying out their orders, they sailed back down the California coast, stopping at Monterey, and then on to San Blas.

The journal of this expedition records some of the earliest descriptions of sections of the coast of British Columbia as well as observations on the