

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.

University of British Columbia

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

indigenous inhabitants encountered at such places as Nootka, Monterey, and Núñez Gaona. Illustrations of native peoples by expedition artist José Cardero preserve significant ethnohistorical information.

Royal authorities wanted to prevent their rivals from benefiting from exploration carried out at Spain's expense and that might assist them in their designs on Spanish lands. Vancouver's publication of *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World, 1791-1795* in 1798 foiled this strategy. Still, the findings of the Alcalá Galiano expedition were not published until 1802. This initial edition of the journal, including a narrative and maps, was incomplete and often at variance with manuscript versions. It was translated into English three times; Cecil Jane published one rendering in 1930, but all were marred by inaccuracies.

In the introduction to his edition, Kendrick discusses the complicated process by which he determined the version that constituted the original text, the one he chose to translate and annotate. His position is closely argued, though this hardly seems necessary. The author has provided a fresh, competent translation and insightful annotation of one of a number of manuscripts dealing with the same voyage. He based his work on MS 619 from the Museo Naval in Madrid, which traces the expedition from Acapulco to Nootka to San Blas. Two crucial supporting documents are included: the instruction from Alejandro Malaspina and Viceroy Revillagigedo to Alcalá Galiano and Valdés.

The narrative of the voyage takes up approximately three-fourths of the book. Modern maps enable the reader to follow closely the progress of the ships. A judicious selection from Cardero's portfolio illustrates the journal. Capsule biographies of the five leading figures are included, as is a very useful glossary of place-names as they appear in the narrative with their modern equivalent. An appendix consisting of a four-letter exchange between Viceroy Revillagigedo and Alcalá Galiano offers a glimpse into the process of editing the narrative and its delivery to Spain. Of no less interest is the ship's manifest of *Sutil*, a second appendix.

The writer credits Dr. Donald Cutter for his assistance with the research for this book and in commenting on the manuscript. This invites comparison with Cutter's recent work on this same subject. In 1990, the University of Oklahoma published his *California in 1792: A Spanish Naval Visit*. Whereas Kendrick's aim was to present the narrative of the voyage in its entirety and based on the original, Cutter focused on that portion of the journey dealing specifically with the Northwest Pacific coast and particularly with California, omitting the text of the voyage out to Nootka and

summarizing the trip from Monterey to San Blas. Cutter, a leading authority on eighteenth-century California, devoted most of his volume to an essay on that region and a fuller biographical study of the participants on the Alcalá Galiano expedition. His text is drawn from MS 1060 from the Museo Naval, a version that intercalates much pertinent material from Miguel Venegas's 1757 *Noticia de California*. Yet, Alcalá Galiano and Malaspina apparently made corrections on this manuscript too, so it is difficult to argue that it was not another, different original. This poses the classic dilemma all documentary editors face: When confronting multiple versions, does one rely on the first version or the last one the authors corrected? There is no consensus on this question, nor is there likely to be.

Kendrick's may well be the definitive edition of the complete narrative. Readers with a primary interest in the exploration of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Spanish version of the encounter with George Vancouver, and the area near the city bearing his name will want to turn first to this work. Those wishing to learn more about California in the early 1790s will be better served by Cutter's book.

University of New Mexico

RICK HENDRICKS

Demon Rum or Easy Money: Government Control of Liquor in British Columbia from Prohibition to Privatization, by Robert A. Campbell. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1991. x, 218 pp. \$14.95 paper.

Robert Campbell's book on the history of government regulation of liquor in British Columbia is a major contribution to the literature. Not only does the author demonstrate a clear historical understanding of the subject matter, he also offers a number of critical insights on how interest group politics, ideology, patronage, federal-provincial jurisdictional relations, party politics, culture, and other institutional and environmental factors have shaped policy over time. By approaching the study of liquor control in British Columbia from both a historical and theoretical perspective, Campbell offers a systematic case-study on the trials and tribulations of government regulation in a market-based economy.

Campbell's aim is to examine critically the many factors which influenced the role of the provincial state in the area of liquor regulation. Hence, he focuses on an assessment of the impact that profound institutional and socio-economic changes had on decision-making as various governments attempted to work through the many contradictions and ambiguities in a