

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.

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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

highly volatile area of public policy. In doing so, the author provides an interesting and well-organized case-study on the politics of incremental decision-making. Recognizing how difficult it was to strike a balance between promotion and regulation, Campbell traces the evolution of the public/private system and explains why it was so resistant to change.

Part of the explanation had to do with the fact that reaching a consensus was not easy, and once the system was established, there was little reason for change. While the public/private system generally served the needs of government, at the same time, the system also benefited the members of the policy community. The hotel and brewing industries, in particular, had a vested interest in preserving the status quo. Given the volatility of the issue and the benefits of doing nothing, there was little incentive to open up old wounds. Another factor was leadership. Until the 1970s, neither the Social Credit government nor the NDP opposition showed much interest in liberalizing the system. Yet, as noted by Campbell, the history of struggle over liquor regulation does not support the view that leadership was the most important factor. In the 1980s, even with the strong commitment of Bill Bennett's government to deregulation, and the many pressures coming from society for fundamental change, the campaign to dismantle the system of government control failed. In the view of Campbell, the system survived mainly because the vested liquor interests and moderation forces within society successfully defended the view that there was still a need for government regulation of liquor.

To conclude, Robert Campbell's *Demon Rum or Easy Money* is essential reading for anyone interested in assessing the key factors that shaped the history of government control of liquor in British Columbia. Welcomed by both academics and non-academics alike, the book is well written, insightful, and offers an intriguing case-study on the politics of incremental decision-making.

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The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry, edited and introduced by Kathleen Scherf. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1992. xxviii, 418 pp. \$60.00 cloth.

This edition has been eagerly awaited by Lowry readers because, since 1965 when *Selected Letters of Malcolm Lowry* was published, we have had only slight and meagre evidence for Lowry's repeated claim that he