

Nor is the text any more respectful. In a review in the *Times Colonist* (10 November 1990, p. A12), Nimpkish band member and former curator of the U'Mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay, Gloria Cranmer Webster, discusses some dozen factual errors (including some in information she personally provided to Stewart) and then writes, "There is neither time nor space to list all the mistakes in her book which relate just to our own cultural area." She concludes that "it is offensive to us that the culture we have struggled to keep alive is presented in so careless and insensitive a manner."

It seems to me important to take advantage of the opportunity such books offer to ponder this question of Respect. Perhaps the escalating political resistance of native and other Others to mainstream appropriation and (mis)representation is anchored here. All re-presentation of people, things, actions, and events is always already interpretation. When offered with respect, re-presentation can enhance and affirm; when it is self-serving, it dominates and diminishes. Those of us in the culture business, including publishers, had better learn the difference.

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A Fruitful Century: The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, 1889-1989, by David Dendy and Kathleen M. Kyle. Kelowna: British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, 1990. xii, 207 pp. Illus. \$27.50.

David Dendy's and Kathleen Kyle's *A Fruitful Century: The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association 1889-1989* is first and foremost an institutional history of one of the province's most enduring agricultural associations. Of perhaps more interest to the average reader, it also offers a history of the tree fruit industry in the Okanagan Valley. Dendy justifies the dual nature of the book by arguing that "the history of the Association would make little sense without the background of the history of the industry it serves." He might have added that the need to provide extensive context also arises from a serious lack of historical scholarship on the tree fruit industry and provincial agriculture in general.

The book is divided into six chapters — the first five by Dendy and the last by Kyle. They are arranged chronologically and represent periods dominated by particular concerns. The majority of the narrative is devoted to the institutional development of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA) and, to a lesser extent, the growth of the tree fruit industry and regulating legislation. Interesting stories or anecdotes not

directly pertaining to the narrative are relegated to numerous "Vignettes." While the vignettes are clearly delineated from the text, they tend to physically disrupt the flow of the narrative. The text is also interspersed with numerous illustrations.

Although individual chapters revolve around specific issues, a number of concerns are common to all periods, and they provide the study's unifying threads. Several appear to be characteristic of British Columbian agriculture in general; these include persistent problems with marketing, a lack of farmer co-operation, and intense competition from growers south of the border. Much of the BCFGA's first century was spent working to overcome these difficulties through the dissemination of information and, at times, the lobbying of government to enact favourable legislation. More commonly, the BCFGA has attempted to achieve its goals by close co-operation with government and the creation of co-operative marketing and processing ventures such as B.C. Tree Fruits Ltd. and Sun-Rype Products Ltd. The association's at times cosy relationship with government and its strong advocacy of central marketing has not always found favour with its membership, and tension between growers and the BCFGA is a recurrent and ongoing theme.

With a few exceptions, most notably the final chapter, *A Fruitful Century* is well written and its documentation is impressive for a book not primarily aimed at the academic market. The fact that Dendy has at least a master's degree in history helps explain the extensive documentation; a paucity of scholarship on the agricultural history of B.C. similarly accounts for the preponderance of primary sources. Another notable strength is the vignettes. They help maintain the reader's interest and add a human dimension that is so often absent in institutional histories. The vignettes cover diverse topics ranging from the post Second World War Portuguese immigrant community to the marketing strategies and cultural messages behind packing box labels.

Although *A Fruitful Century* differs from most institutional histories by virtue of vignettes and a greater emphasis on context, it still suffers from many of that genre's weaknesses. For example, it is primarily descriptive, and it lacks a significant interpretive element. Any hint of criticism of the BCFGA or the Okanagan tree fruit industry is similarly missing, despite Dendy's assertion that the association "did not assume the role of the censor." Issues in need of more critical analyses include the origins and nature of traditional grower opposition to the BCFGA and the deleterious impact of the industry on the local environment, the health of farm workers, and the exploitation of seasonal labour. As is the case with many

institutional histories, the study is also very much an insider publication. Readers unfamiliar with the geography of the Okanagan Valley or the mechanics of fruit production and marketing may find aspects of the book that are confusing.

All criticisms aside, *A Fruitful Century* represents a useful addition to the historical literature on the province's agrarian past. It should appeal to the general reader and academics alike, and the authors are to be commended for their efforts and the BCFGAs for their sponsorship. While deserving of praise on its own merits, *A Fruitful Century* is far from a comprehensive history of fruit growing in the Okanagan Valley, let alone in British Columbia. Commercial fruit production on the Coast is barely touched upon, despite Dendy's claim that the book "is also a history of fruit growing and marketing in British Columbia" and the history of farm labour, women, culture, and society are virtually ignored. So too are developments outside the Okanagan which had an impact on markets, transportation and consumer demand. These topics and many more have to be addressed for both the tree fruit industry and the farm sector as a whole before we can begin to assess and appreciate agriculture's historical role in British Columbia.

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Guest of Hirohito, by Kenneth Cambon. Vancouver: P. W. Press, 1990.
184 pp. \$10.00 paper.

Prisoners of war who tried, in the aftermath, to describe their appalling experiences and mistreatment during their incarceration often experienced singular obstacles. Their urgent and laudable desire was to depict the horror of the "other planet" from which they had returned, to pay tribute to those who had perished, and to try and find some explanation for all their sufferings. But how were they to break through the barriers of incredulity, scepticism and indifference at home which they often faced? Especially in the case of Canadian troops captured by the Japanese in the early days of the Pacific War, how to indict their own government for crass inefficiency and stupidity in sending these virtually unarmed soldiers to become so easily taken prisoner without any real chance of resistance?

Many of these survivors, as was only to be expected, not only had strong feelings of resentment, which added fuel to their determination to achieve recompense, and to prevent any cover-up of political folly. But at a deeper level, there was also a need to record, in "factually insistent" narratives,