

in 1940, brought the museum into the post-war world, introducing public and school programmes and laying the foundations for what we now know as the Royal British Columbia Museum.

The lives and work of these men provide the makings of an excellent book. Unfortunately, in trying to make the story interesting and readable, Corley-Smith has written a book which comes across more as a series of unconnected anecdotes than as a logically progressing narrative. Each "anecdote" is separated from the preceding by a heading, and some of the pages have two or more of these short sections. Many of these anecdotes, such as the four lines devoted to the visit of Theodore Roosevelt or the ten lines in which the reader learns that Thor Heyerdahl used workspace in the museum for a few months, may be interesting tidbits of information but seem irrelevant to the larger history of the museum when they are left to stand alone.

With so many small pieces of information and large holes in the story, such as those in the life and career of Kermode, Corley-Smith might have been wiser to work all his pieces of information into a straight narrative than to leave each incident to prove its own worth to the history of the museum. This anecdotal style which Corley-Smith has chosen to use will be doubly disappointing to those who have read *The Ring of Time*, in which Corley-Smith so neatly weaves the history of British Columbia into the story of the creation of the exhibits in the new museum.

For all that, *White Bears* is an enjoyable book. Much care has gone into the choosing of the marvellous photographs and drawings with which the book has been bountifully supplied. And the anecdotes used are, for the most part, quite interesting stories of fascinating characters. *White Bears* is, overall, an attractive companion volume to *The Ring of Time*. One could only wish that some of the money that was spent on reproducing photographs and drawings had been spent to have the book properly bound.

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*The Beloved Island: The Queen Charlotte Islands, Volume 3*, by Kathleen Dalzell. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 1989. Pp. 200. \$24.95.

*The Ghostland People: A documentary history of the Queen Charlotte Islands, 1859-1906*, by Charles Lillard. Victoria: Sono Nis Press, 1989. Pp. 318. \$18.95.

The recent volumes by Kathleen Dalzell and Charles Lillard attest to a burgeoning interest in the people and events that have shaped coastal

British Columbia since European economic interests first turned to this area in the eighteenth century. These works concern more recent chapters in the human history of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and each illustrate in their own way those events that have bound together differing populations of the region in a common destiny.

Kathleen Dalzell's *The Beloved Island* is her third in a series on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Here, the author embarks upon a biographical novel of her father, who first "set foot on this most westerly part of the British Empire" in 1908. Trevor Williams, the central figure, led a life drawn inexorably to the colonial frontier, first serving in the Boer War then on to Argentina in pursuit of employment. Eventually, he and his wife Meta joined others in pre-empting land on the shores of Masset Sound and cut from the forest one of several small immigrant communities on the islands. In a style reminiscent of her earlier works on the history and lore of the islands, this work is a welcome contribution if only to give recognition to a little considered chapter of the islands' history. For students of British Columbia coastal history, the book contains useful material on the role of industry and politics in developing the islands.

Dalzell has intimate knowledge of the subject and presents a very personal account, perhaps too personal. The author is charitable to all who appear in the book, which, coupled with her penchant for understatement, robs the story of realism. All the essential ingredients are there, however — big business, speculators, the land hungry — against a backdrop that for all its beauty and rich bounty exacted a heavy price in toil and isolation. The young community of Queenstown, with its small collection of homesteads, a church, store, hotel, and wharf, found itself challenged by lumber interests over rights to the land in 1909. The formation of the *Masset Inlet Settlers Association* the following year had Trevor lobbying the government agent and land commissioner to "curb indiscriminate granting of coal licenses." "These licenses, which interested speculators only, were a sore point with land seekers now arriving in a steady stream," who as British subjects were entitled to pre-empt 160 acres of land for a nominal cost. Despite inauspicious beginnings, the prospects and character of the town, renamed Port Clements in 1912 (the date appears as 1913 in Dalzell's earlier volume, Book 2), changed dramatically with the outbreak of the First World War. Port Clements prospered with the industry of war and its need for lumber. One of the ironies of the story is that the community would from then on serve these same lumber interests.

A small rival community, Graham Centre, fared less well. "Charlie, the feisty owner of the townsite" having been wounded in the war and losing

two brothers, wrote to Trevor, "I'll not be back . . . Too many changes. My energy for townsiteing is gone." A lengthy chapter is dedicated to Trevor's experiences at the front, and, while of interest, the passage has little relevance to the story. But much of the charm of this work is its treatment, simple, straight from the heart without any attempt at analysis, interpretation or even synthesis of material concerning those generally overlooked on the world stage — the not so rich and powerful. The book has its share of memorabilia and nostalgia and all the virtues and flaws of a monologue with someone who had seen much in his time.

As the liner notes state, Charles Lillard's *The Ghostland People* has gathered together a collection of materials of historical and ethnographic interest on the Queen Charlotte Islands not widely accessible to the general reader for over seventy-five years. Published between 1841 and 1912, most are in the form of travelogues concerning expeditions made seventy or more years after the Haida's first recorded contact with Europeans, the *Santila ga haade* or "Ghostland People." These accounts cover a period of accelerating change for the Haida. Feverish mineral exploration of the islands ushered in colonial rule in 1852 with the appointment of Sir James Douglas as Lieutenant-Governor. The missionary followed with the establishment of the first mission in 1876.

It is difficult to define this work — part history, part anthropology, part anthology, part reference book with more than a passing interest in the apocryphal. Lillard briefly reviews in Part One the islands' cultural history and examines the evidence, some fanciful but nonetheless challenging to the orthodoxy concerning early European contact with the islands. More engaging, if somewhat awkward, is his literary treatment of the islands' mythic quality and the theme of duality, "the two faces of the world that is the Queen Charlotte Islands." It is imaginative, and not without foundation. Here, Raven may be seen as the very embodiment of the islands' duality, being both benefactor and "trickster" in the mythic world of the Haida. Also included in this section is a chronology and a limited bibliography of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The selected articles comprise the greater part of the book (Part Two) and appropriately contain G. M. Dawson's *The Haidas*, a scholarly ethnological piece of a much larger report prepared for the Geological Survey of Canada in 1880, as well as a brief article he had published in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* in 1882 (not 1883 as captioned). Two articles by J. G. Swan are included, *The Haida Indians of Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia*, published in 1874, which was based on a chance meeting with a party of Haida at Port Townsend in 1873 and his subsequent *Report on*

*Explorations and Collections in the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia*, which appeared in the Smithsonian Report for 1884. G. A. Dorsey, Curator of Physical Anthropology for Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, toured the islands in 1897 in what has been seen, then and now, as nothing short of an expedition of plunder. Written as a travelogue, Dorsey's *A Cruise Among Haida and Tlingit Village about Dixon's Entrance* (1898) is characteristically brief. John Scouler's *Observation on the Indigenous Tribes of the N.W. Coast of America* (1841) and Robert Brown's *On the Physical Geography of the Queen Charlotte Islands* (1869) are solid contributions. Excerpts from William Downie's *Hunting for Gold* (1893), Charles Horetzky's *Canada on the Pacific* (1874), the diary of Lady Dufferin published in *My Canadian Journal* (1891), Molyneux St. John's *The Sea of Mountains* (1877), and the account by Charles Sheldon of his hunt for the endemic Dawson caribou in 1906, which appeared originally in *The Wilderness of the North Pacific Coast Islands* (1912), complete the collection.

Unfortunately, the book is marred by what seems haste in the extreme. Many of the notations in the chronology verge on the cryptic, having little meaning for the uninitiated, and a number of these are incorrect. Readers with more than a casual interest in this material may be mildly frustrated by the fact the articles are neither fully referenced nor appear with the respective texts. Some discrepancies are also noted with the bibliographic notations. More disconcerting is the lack of discussion about the significance of the period or what it held for the Haida, although the book claims to be a documentary history of the islands from 1859 to 1906. If, presumably, the dates bracket the period the writers travelled the islands, the inclusion of Scouler's (not Schouler) article is baffling, having been written in 1841 about a trip made to the islands sixteen years earlier.

Lillard's *Ghostland People* provides an impressionistic sketch of an island world that defies easy description or understanding. While the book offers little or no critical assessment of the materials presented and strays from any coherent treatment of the period, it has brought from historical obscurity a collection of material that will be of interest to many.