

Book Reviews

Reading the Rocks: the Story of the Geological Survey of Canada 1842-1972, by Morris Zaslow. Toronto: Macmillan (in association with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Information Canada), 1975. Pp. 599, illus. \$25.00.

To date there have been very few studies of departments of the Canadian federal public service, and even fewer of real substance. This new work by Morris Zaslow stands as a remarkable exception and, in demonstrating the rich reward to be gained through such an endeavour, will stimulate similar assessments of other government departments and agencies.

It is apparent to most that much of Canada's achievement as a nation is closely associated with the exploration and settlement of its territory and the development of its natural resources. What has not been so apparent is the very significant role played for over a century by the Canadian Geological Survey in shaping and directing this development. That this role be better understood and that Canadians might be better acquainted with the Survey's work, a history of the Geological Survey was commissioned in 1972.

One is immediately impressed with the immensity of the task facing the author in this assignment. There is a time span of 130 years to be assessed, a field of operations that covered an area exceeding that of Europe, and along with the usual rigour of historical analysis, a passing acquaintance with the constantly evolving earth sciences and mining technology was essential. The complexity of the task however turns out, for the reader at least, to yield bountifully.

From within the larger study several histories emerge: the administrative history of an important federal agency, a history of Canadian geographical and geological discovery, as well as a history of the geological sciences in Canada. These histories are nonetheless effectively integrated and considered within the political context of the time. Those areas so

often avoided in commissioned histories — the old problem of political patronage and appointments, the nature and consequences of departmental animosities and differences, and the ever-present pressure to balance pure scientific research with demonstrated practical results to ensure continued funding from pragmatic legislators — are faced squarely.

Zaslow begins with an assessment of the Survey's activities in the Province of Canada in the 1840s and then goes on to examine the vastly expanded range of operations that came with Confederation and the sudden tenfold expansion of Canada's territory. Acquisition of the vast, unmapped and largely unknown western and northern interiors meant that the Survey's responsibility to explore, map and record the geology of the country dramatically expanded to cover a region equal to some 4 per cent of the earth's surface. The book deals at some length with the reconnaissance surveys and explorations undertaken by the Survey before the turn of the century to make the new territory better known to Canadians. As wide-ranging reconnaissance explorations were continued in northern areas — and particularly in the far north where the government was anxious to assert Canadian sovereignty — work in the southern areas after 1900 became more sophisticated and gave way to systematic mapping and detailed description of less extensive areas. This trend has continued to the contemporary period with geological examination becoming ever more technical and scientifically complex, which, in part, reflects the twentieth century development of a powerful mining industry that increasingly demanded of the government more advanced kinds of technical assistance.

Also woven into Zaslow's assessment are the many activities for which the Survey at various times was responsible, including the topographical survey, the collection of natural history and ethnological specimens, the operation of a geological museum, as well as the early appraisal of the state of waters, arable soils, climate and wildlife in the western and northern territories. In fact, because so much of the Survey's energies were focused in these latter regions, a good portion of Zaslow's study is devoted to the Survey's western activities; and for this reason the book proves an especially valuable source for those interested in the Prairie and Pacific West. The work of some of those employed by the Survey, J. B. Tyrrell and G. M. Dawson, director of the Survey from 1895 to 1901, is well known to students of western history. Tyrrell's many years of careful reconnaissance along the old fur trade routes eventually made him the pre-eminent authority on the fur trade period, while the historical papers

and outstanding work on Cordilleran geology by G. M. Dawson, were recognized internationally in the form of medals and honorary degrees, not to mention the lasting local tribute that came in the naming of Dawson City townsite.

The extensive work of Dawson, and over the years by other members of the Survey in British Columbia, is explained in part by the fact the federal government's obligation to conduct geological surveys was expressly written into the agreement under which the Pacific colony entered Confederation. During the 1870s and early 1880s the Survey's work in British Columbia was centred on those districts being considered for the route of Canada's first transcontinental railway system. The later 1880s and early 1890s saw an emphasis on reconnaissance in the unknown northern half of the province and in the Yukon territory. By the mid '90s interest moved back to the southern part of the Canadian Cordillera where more detailed investigations were undertaken. Work shifted gradually from the Slocan area to Rossland, to Trail, then east to the Salmo country. In 1898 the Survey's geologists worked over the area between the Arrow lakes; in 1899 parties struck out from Cranbrook examining the attractive mineral prospects at Moyie, Yahk and Kimberley. During 1900 and 1901 coal fields on the British Columbia-Alberta boundary were the centre of interest. The Kootenay region remained of paramount concern until about 1906 when developments on the coast — particularly the decision of the Britannia Copper Company to exploit an enormous low-grade copper deposit on Howe Sound — brought the Survey to look more closely at the coastal area and Texada Island. Indeed as one examines mining development in the province, it is clear that the Survey might rightly claim a major share of the credit for the remarkable growth of the mineral industry during this period.

In sum, one sees in the Survey and its activities in the frontier territories but another manifestation of the unrelenting and pervasive role played by the central government in western development. Though the profile of the surveyor, geologist and naturalist traversing the wilderness is usually obscured by the more visible presence of some of the other agents of the federal authority, like the North West Mounted Police, the role of the former in shaping and directing economic development in the west and north cannot be ignored. This fact is brought strikingly to our attention by professor Zaslow in his *Reading the Rocks*.

Lady Franklin Visits the Pacific Northwest: Being Extracts from the Letters of Miss Sophia Cracroft, Sir John Franklin's Niece, February to April, 1861 and April to July, 1870. Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Dorothy Blakey Smith, Victoria, B.C. Provincial Archives Memoir No. XI, 1974. Pp. 157, illus.

The image of Bishop George Hills preaching to the roughened clientele of the International Boarding House at Yates and Douglas in Victoria in the spring of 1861, while the billiard games click on in an adjoining room, is one of many delightful vignettes found in Sophia Cracroft's letters. If this were all they contained, however, they would hardly have merited Dr. Blakey Smith's attention or publication by the Provincial Archives. But "Sophy" is far more than a casual tourist with a flair for description.

In an introduction which neatly and expertly provides all relevant biographical data and more general historical background, Dr. Blakey Smith sets forth her opinions about the value of the letters. Firstly, of course, Sophia is not alone. As the title suggests, she is actually the lesser-known half of a duo of Victorian Englishwomen who are well travelled even before reaching the infant colony of Vancouver Island. Her aunt, Lady Franklin, is the widow of the famous Arctic explorer and a woman of powerful personality and firm opinions who by 1860 is a noted public figure throughout the English-speaking world. Sophia, her constant companion and confidante, shares all her aunt's adventures. She shares many of Lady Franklin's attitudes as well, including what Dr. Blakey Smith notes was a very unfashionable belief in the importance of colonies and a "deep-rooted mistrust of the great American experiment in government and a fastidious shrinking from American manners." The editor makes it clear that this community of thought lends extra significance to the letters because, as she puts it, "... while the hand is the hand of Sophy, the voice, the reader feels, is often the voice of Jane [Franklin]."

Not that Sophia is a mere cipher. The quality of her general descriptions and her carefully drawn portraits of colonial officials and their families as well as more minor characters should easily convince the reader of her abilities as an observer of men and manners.

Dr. Blakey Smith also draws our attention to the fortuitous nature, from our point of view, of the timing of the two visits. In 1861 the gold rush is very much in full swing and the pair travel as far up the Fraser as Yale, in addition to spending a good deal of time at Victoria. Thus they have ample opportunity to be exposed to the social and political effects of the rush. As well, they are able to visit some of the diggings

themselves. Significantly, it is not the excitement over gold which has drawn them to the region but rather the presence of one friend, Captain George Richards, and a request from another, Angela Burdett-Coutts. The latter was the patron of the new Anglican diocese of Columbia and was very anxious to have a first-hand account of the progress made by Bishop Hills. Although Lady Franklin's interest in this matter is not as directly personal, it is hardly less intense, since she was a staunch but not uncritical adherent of the Church of England.

The visit nine years later is not so purposeful and is both shorter and geographically more circumscribed, including only brief stops at Victoria, the American camp at San Juan, and Nanaimo on the way north to Sitka, together with a very brief stay at Victoria on the return voyage.

However, during both visits, Sophia's — and, we must presume, Lady Franklin's — intense concern for the welfare and development of the young colonies, their constant weighing of the American presence politically and American influence socially, is fully in evidence. Sophy is well aware, on both occasions, of the importance of the timing of their visits. On reaching Victoria in 1870 she writes: "We have arrived at an interesting moment . . ." — referring to the appointment of Governor Musgrave and the immediacy of the whole question of Confederation. We are not surprised to find her upset that the San Juan issue, which was news in 1861, has not been resolved, and fearful, as she was before, that the British government would fail to recognize the value of British Columbia.

At the risk of further repeating what the editor covers so well in the introduction, it should also be noted that these letters are of particular value because they were never meant to be published. Thus details are set down with a freedom that gives an especially intimate quality to all the writing, not as much perhaps as a diary, but much more certainly than a book meant for the general public. When this aspect is combined with the knowledge that no door in the colonies, or for that matter in Portland or San Francisco, would be closed to such distinguished visitors, the results are, as Dr. Blakey Smith says, of considerable interest to the social historian. The pages teem with individuals and occasions, some of the latter staged especially for the benefit of Sophy and her aunt. They visit Governor Douglas and his family, attend church services on board ship at Esquimalt, visit the Songhee reserve, stay with the Moodys at New Westminster and take tea with the Crickmers at Yale. It is indeed intriguing, as the editor says, ". . . to see the familiar figures of our own past history in a less formal guise." One of these figures is Philip Hankin, a more or less constant companion on the journey up and down the

Fraser, who seems to take great delight in practical jokes as well as having a good time. The culmination comes at a special play put on by the Royal Engineers at Sapperton in honour of Lady Franklin's stay, where Hankin, unannounced, leaps onto the stage and executes a brilliant hornpipe.

Dr. Blakey Smith keeps us excellent company throughout the whole of the letters with fine footnotes which explain, often in fascinating detail, unfamiliar names, places, events, books and songs. These represent, together with the introduction, the very high level of scholarship without any pedantry that we first experienced with her edition of the journal of Arthur Thomas Bushby (*BCHQ*, Vol. XXI, pp. 83-198). There is also a good index and some very well chosen photographs whose captions reflect the general quality of the editorship.

In a foreword dated 25 July 1945 to *The Journal of John Work*, which was Memoir No. X, published by the British Columbia Provincial Archives, Acting Provincial Archivist Madge Wolfenden expressed the hope that "... the Archives would be enabled to continue its publications which of necessity have been discontinued in recent years." At that time, thirteen years had elapsed since the publication of No. IX in 1931. The quality of No. XI makes one hope that the interval between the numbers in this series can be reduced so we may be treated more often to material of the calibre given to us by Dr. Blakey Smith.

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Success and Failure: Indians in Urban Societies, W. T. Stanbury and Jay H. Segal, University of British Columbia Press, 1975.

The Stanbury and Segal study is a long-overdue and valuable contribution to the original literature describing the urbanization pattern of Canadian Indians in British Columbia. Specifically, their work provides a statistical analysis of the adjustment patterns exhibited by a sample of 1,095 status Indians who at the time of the study resided within the confines of British Columbia's urban communities. By the utilization of this data, the researchers have successfully illustrated the social and economic conditions that confront B.C.'s urban native peoples.

This investigation yields a sophisticated analysis of the demographic characteristics, educational achievements, standards of health, rates of labour-market participation and income levels of the sample. Hence the

work provides a picture of the state of well-being and/or poverty among B.C.'s urban Indians. The authors have compiled a statistical profile which portrays the socio-economic position of the population under scrutiny.

The work describes statistically the extent and impact of the ever-increasing phenomenon of urbanization upon the B.C. Indians. Their rapidly growing numbers, highlighted by a natural increase of 27/1000, indicates the difficulties faced by any population expanding at that exceptionally high rate and affected by factors which insufficiently prepare most of them for an urban experience.

The consequences of this rapid growth of population are statistically depicted in a manner designed to convey to the reader, from an actual and comparative perspective, the present plight of B.C.'s urban native people. As the authors illustrate, "if one is able to describe how a people die, it is possible, in fact, to describe how a people live."

Most investigations of North American Indians suffer from the difficulties involved in attempting to accumulate hard-core data. The authors must be congratulated on their valiant efforts in obtaining this information, which, as those in the field know, is exceptionally hard to accumulate. Although, as the investigators acknowledge, it is possible to quarrel with the data on empirical grounds, the extent of their data collection and their analysis serves to add a valuable contribution to the expanding literature on Canada's native peoples. One hopes that comparative research illustrating the position of other segments of Canada's native urban population will be undertaken.

The researchers show that the migration to urban centres by reserve Indians stems primarily from economic considerations, and the work describes the difficulties encountered by this population who, by and large, are insufficiently equipped to find their "urban places in the sun."

The problems which the urban Indians encounter involve poverty, but are not so much economic as they are human. The convenient answer of interpreting economic inadequacies as the cause rather than the effect overlooks the significant sociological issue of cultural alienation. As the authors no doubt realize, economic aid, although helpful as a secondary consideration, cannot be expected to cushion the shock of the value conflict that an Indian person often experiences during his physical and cultural encounters with the urban place. The problems of native urban adjustment are compounded by the easy accessibility of most reserves as an alternative to urban life. The close proximity of most reserves to the

urban place usually interrupts and upsets any permanent and stable patterns of social adjustment that one usually finds among most European minorities who opt for existence in North American urban centres. These minorities in many instances are subject to the cultural, economic and social shock of being a part of a new urban community. In most instances, their geographic isolation and economic insufficiencies make it difficult, if not impossible, for them to return home. These hardships may be regarded as positive factors which induce those concerned to establish permanent urban enclaves with their accompanying institutional frameworks. For the native Indian attempting urban existence, the journey often proves difficult, because in most situations they are able to return to their reserve environments with minimal expense and difficulty. Unlike most European migrants, they are therefore seldom forced into an urban existence. Hence the reserve provides for many Indians the facilities which other urban minorities find or establish within the urban place.

As the authors point out, over one-fifth of the Indian households contain eight or more people. The average Indian family off reserve contains one more person than that of the general population. These statistics, together with others illustrating rising off-reserve populations, educational deficiencies and other problems resulting in part from discrimination and prejudice, indicate the factors which serve to inhibit the Indian from attaining a satisfactory urban presence. As the authors say: "We believe it is fair to conclude that the social and economic position of B.C. Indians, particularly in urban centres, has improved over the past decade. There remains, however, a significant gap between their position in the social spectrum and that of the vast majority of non-Indians." The major difficulty in which the Indian finds himself today is that his relative position in comparison with other groups in Canadian society has not changed appreciably. Hence, as the documented evidence illustrates, the Canadian native people still occupy the bottom rung of the socio-economic ladder and are therefore plagued by the difficulties which accrue to those who find themselves in similar positions.

It is unfortunate that this contribution will not be accessible to many students of Indian urbanization because of its inflated price (\$18.75). One hopes that its subsequent publication in paperback, or a generous foundation grant, will put this investigation within the grasp of those who will be most able to use it.

Social Trends in Greater Vancouver: A Study of a North American Metropolis, by Michele Lioy. Gordon Soules Economic & Marketing Research, Vancouver, B.C. & Ilkeston, England, 1975. Pp. 170.

A common complaint in the field of social planning has been the lack of current and accurate information about the changing state of our communities. In the absence of meaningful data about such issues as inflation, unemployment, population trends, social problems, health and illness, policy makers and program planners are hampered in their attempts to plan effectively for the future.

Michele Lioy's report is an excellent illustration of what research can accomplish to remedy this state of affairs. The aim of the report is to foster an understanding of the main trends and factors that influence the livableness of a region, in this case the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD).

The book consists of ten chapters organized in two parts. The first three chapters deal with general information which describes the geographical and physical aspects of the region, its history, political structure and processes, as well as the voting patterns of electoral districts in federal, provincial and municipal elections. Chapter three examines trends in the regional population, population growth and components.

The second part of the report is a study of a broad range of issues relevant to the livableness of the region: pollution, transportation, labour force participation, unemployment, income, housing, household and family characteristics, social problems (crime, drug use and alcoholism), education, health and delivery of health care.

Social Trends is based on material derived from previous studies, annual reports, census data and statistics compiled mostly between the '50s and the '70s. Of special interest to health and social service planners are chapters 5 to 10 that deal with socio-economic factors affecting the quality of life within the GVRD.

In chapter 5, family characteristics of residents of Vancouver and surrounding municipalities are extensively reviewed and analysed along such dimensions as size and type of households, marital status, status of children, adoption, foster-care, day and after-school care.

Some of the findings — the decrease, for instance, in family size between 1961 and 1971 and the increase in divorce rates since 1967 — are fairly well known, but others, such as the decrease in the number of illegitimate births in the whole population or the increase in the number of one-person households, may come as a surprise.

The chapter on housing confirms what previous studies have uncovered in the past few years in relation to the GVRD housing situation. There appears to be enough land available upon which to build the housing required for the next 20 years but there is a shortage of serviced land, of land zoned for residential development. This shortage is aggravated by municipal planning and growth policies which discourage new development.

Compared to the rest of the report, the chapter on housing is perhaps a little slight but it would be difficult to disagree with Liou's comments about the complexity and numerous ramifications of the housing situation. Extraneous factors, such as labour contracts, influence the speed with which units are built as well as their costs, and a comprehensive analysis of all these factors would have been impossible, given the scope of the report.

Chapter 7, employment and income, is a helpful and concise overview of economic realities in the GVRD. The reader is made aware that in 1971 the region included 47% of the population of B.C., that it offered the largest market and that Vancouver is Canada's largest port in terms of tonnage handled.

In 1971 the labour force in the GVRD included 293,660 males (77% of the population) and 171,035 females (43% of the population). The percentages of labour force employed in each industry were as follows:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Primary industry	3.1%	1.4%
Secondary industry	30.5%	10.5%
Tertiary industry	59.7%	79.3%
Not stated	6.7%	8.8%

The average family income of workers has been rising between 1961 and 1971, and women, particularly married women, have been increasingly participating in the labour force. But by 1970 the income women derived from employment was still, on the average, less than one-half of the average income males derived from employment. In addition, salary increases for all workers were offset by inflation and by increasing lay-offs in some industries.

Statistical analysis is used extensively and quite fruitfully in this chapter to compare various aspects of income and employment at different points in time and in different areas of the GVRD.

The next chapter focuses on education and provides a good deal of

important data about the public school system, elementary, secondary, post-secondary and adult education, current and projected enrolment of pupils, the education of immigrant children, the manpower issues in the educational system, vocational training and education of the labour force.

Chapter 9 addresses the issue of social problems and abnormal kinds of behaviour, defined socially and considered in the larger social context. The chapter is divided into three parts: crime or illegal activities according to the norms set by federal, provincial and municipal statutes; drug use; and alcoholism.

Lioy cautions against making unwarranted or futile assumptions about crime trends on the basis of police and court statistics which, for a variety of reasons well known to researchers, can give only a partial picture of criminal activity. Keeping this warning in mind, many of the statistics provided in this chapter are nevertheless helpful. In 1971, for instance, in metropolitan Vancouver, 99,064 offences involving crimes against the person and against property were reported to the police. Of these offences, 40% were cleared — about half of them by death of the offender, informal disposition or commitment to a mental institution. This indicates a much larger number of “other” dispositions than is generally assumed. Among the persons charged, 78.3% were adults; less than 20% were female.

The overall increase rate has been decreasing since 1969 and is lower in the metropolitan area (Police) than in B.C. as a whole. Between 1966 and 1971 there has been an increase in offences reported to the police but a sharp drop in the total number of offences cleared and in the number of charges laid.

The final chapter deals with health and the delivery of health care. Lioy is well aware that appropriate and rational intervention in the field of health care is hampered by inappropriate conceptual approaches. The tendency to conceptualize health as the absence of illness and as being synonymous with cure emphasizes the importance of acute illnesses, practitioners and drugs but does not provide an appropriate framework to deal with chronic conditions and with the active maintenance of a state of health.

This general attitude toward the health field influences the type of data available, the procedure toward analysis of the health status of the population and the organization of the delivery of health care.

Research findings indicate changes in the cause of death. In the GVRD in 1971, the only causes of death which were infectious were influenza,

pneumonia and some diseases of early childhood. Chronic diseases and accidents were heading the list, particularly in the case of males, who are more prone than females to suffer death by accident (84.4% versus 47.6%). Neo-natal and infant death was one in every 58 live births for non-Indians but one in every 18 live births for Indians, a chilling statistic.

The chapter provides extensive data on morbidity, chronic illnesses, tuberculosis, cardio-vascular conditions, cancer, VD, mental retardation, dental problems and family planning services. There are strong indications that health services have been expanding rapidly and considerably within the region during the past decade, but the cost of health care is soaring at such a rate that it will account for most if not all of the GNP by the end of the century unless a major shift in emphasis from cure to prevention is accomplished and bolstered by drastic, if controversial, measures such as population control, selective access to health care and even euthanasia.

The strength of the book lies in the clear and precise way in which trends and forecasts are derived from existing statistics and analysed systematically in terms of their implications for the future development of the region.

The material is well organized and free from any obscure technical jargon. Tables, charts and maps are numerous, well set up and can be easily read and understood by people who do not have any special training in statistics. The bibliography includes references to many valuable publications for each of the topics covered in the report.

Social Trends wisely refrains from urging planners to take certain courses of action but the wealth of information presented in every one of its 170 pages provides a solid base upon which informed decision making can take place.

The book should be of considerable interest to anyone wishing to gain a sound and meaningful understanding of the socio-economic climate of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

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CHRIS McNIVEN

A Bibliography of British Columbia. Victoria, Social Sciences Research Council, University of Victoria, 1968-1975. 3 v.

[v. 1] *Navigations, traffiques & discoveries 1774-1848: a guide to publications relating to the area now British Columbia*; compiled by Gloria M. Strathern with the assistance of Margaret H. Edwards. 1970. xv, pp. 417. \$18.50 ISBN 9690418-2-9.

[v. 2] *A Bibliography of British Columbia: Laying the foundations, 1849-1899*; compiled by Barbara J. Lowther with the assistance of Muriel Laing. 1968. xii, pp. 328. \$18.50.

[v. 3] *A Bibliography of British Columbia: Years of Growth 1900-1950* [compiled] by Margaret H. Edwards and John C. R. Lort. 1975. x, pp. 446. \$30.00 ISBN 0-9690418-3-7.

The Centennial Committee of the University of Victoria celebrated the tenth anniversary of its grand project with the release of its third and final volume of *A Bibliography of British Columbia*. The committee, formed in 1964, agreed in the following year "to sponsor the preparation and publication of a bibliography of British Columbia." In the words of Lowther, whose work was the first to be published:

It was apparent that the number of items to be included were far greater than at first expected. As a result it was suggested that the bibliography should consist of three volumes. One would cover the period from the early discoveries to 1848, one would deal with the 1849-1899 era and the third would include those works relating to this century. (p. v)

The committee decided that the first volume should have as its subject commencement date the year 1849, the beginning of settlement on Vancouver Island, and should cover the first fifty years of the province's history. (p. vii)

It is an indication of the increase in material written about British Columbia that the single volume covering the 1900-1950 period required the same amount of time to produce as both the earlier volumes together, even though the coverage has been much more selective.

The compilers' views of the purpose of the bibliography appear to have changed slightly over the years. According to Lowther (p. vii): "Although librarians, book dealers and private collectors undoubtedly will make use of the bibliography, it was envisaged as being primarily for the use of the student doing research at the independent level." Strathern's volume reflects her opinion (p. x) that "the bibliography is intended primarily as a reference guide for research workers and for librarians."

Edward's view (p. vii) is narrower, feeling that the bibliography "is intended for the use of the historical researcher and librarian."

The format of the three companion volumes varies in each case and appears to reflect more the differences in opinions of the various compilers and committee members than the needs of the users, whether student, researcher or librarian. The Lowther volume, designed by E. W. Harrison and printed by Evergreen Press, Vancouver, attempts to emulate the impressive but unwieldy Lande bibliography. The Strathern volume is more practical, with physical size reduced from 11¼ x 8½ inches to 9½ x 6¼ inches and the pages altered from double to single-column layout. The entries are enhanced by references to other bibliographies and catalogues as well as locating the copy examined. This volume was designed and printed by Morriss Printing Company Ltd., Victoria. The series title, *A Bibliography of British Columbia*, is not used for this volume. The Edward's volume, like the Lowther, is printed by Evergreen Press, and returns to the larger-sized double-column format. Fortunately, the use of varied size and density of type face makes the entries easier to read. None of the three volumes is numbered, which means libraries may catalogue them separately, losing the continuity.

Although the bibliography was clearly planned as a unit, each volume is complete in itself.

The first volume, Strathern,¹ covers the period 1774-1848 and includes publications up to 1968. Besides the general index, there are five appendices: A. Institutions cited in bibliography; B. Abbreviations used; C. List of the more important ships to visit the British Columbia coast, 1774-1848; D. Principal works consulted; E. Chronological index of first editions. The bibliography includes "all published monographic works that could be identified . . . together with information on later editions and translations"; general histories of the province and books containing relevant chapters or sections; major regional historical journals; publications of the Association de la Propagation de la Foi; some offprints found catalogued as separates; government publications (excluding serial publications). Excluded are: general collections of voyages and histories of exploration; collected editions, abridgements and translations of Cook; purely cartographic works; newspapers; manuscripts and archival material; unpublished theses; photoreproductions; articles and serial publications; northwest and Alaska boundaries and Puget Sound Agricultural

¹ Reviewed in: *BC Studies*, No. 9 (Spring 1971), pp. 63-65; Bibliography Society of Canada, *Papers*, v. 10 (1970), pp. 64-66.

[v. 1] Strathern 1774-1848
publications to 1968

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
monographs editions translations general histories & books with chapters or sections on B.C. Oregon boundary fur trade official & eye-witness accounts of Cook facsimile reprints major regional historical journals Assoc. de la Prop. de la Foi some offprints government publications treaties conventions	general collections voyages explorations collected editions, abridgements & translations of Cook cartographic works newspapers manuscripts & archival material unpublished theses photo-reproductions articles serial publications Northwest boundary Alaska boundary Puget Sound Agricultural Company
all located editions given in entry	
biographical notes (minimum)	
5 appendices	
Alphabetical arrange- ment Morris Printing	

[v. 2] Lowther 1849-1899
publications to 1964

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
monographs books with chapters or sections on B.C. serials pre-1900 mimeographed works microforms trials B.C. imprints government publications to 1871 fiction poetry drama offprints Royal Society of Canada transactions cata- logued separately Alaska boundary Northwest boundary Puget Sound Agricul- tural Company Indian languages & an- thropology to 1900	programmes playbills menus government publica- tions after 1871 B.C. writers Geological Survey of Canada publications Canada Sessional Papers articles in religious, anthropological, geographical & geological journals most C.P.R. & Klondike material
locates only copy examined, or where most information found	
biographical notes in index	
Chronological arrangement Evergreen Press	

[v. 3] Edwards & Lort 1900-1950
publications to 1974

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
English language monographs pamphlets books with chapters or sections programmes if addi- tional information if B.C. information or B.C. life selected B.C. imprints B.C. authors fiction poetry drama Alaska boundary Tribunal Bering Sea Convention	manuscripts serials company prospectuses unpublished briefs & theses directories juvenile literature school texts maps technical publications B.C. imprints <i>per se</i> general ephemera government publications most fiction, poetry & drama articles
locates only copy seen, or where information found	
biographical informa- tion minimum	
Alphabetical arrange- ment Evergreen Press	

Company, which are in Lowther. Biographical notes have been kept to a minimum.

The second volume, Lowther,² covers the period 1849-1899, and includes publications up to 1964. There are no appendices, but the index has useful biographical notes. Besides monographs, the bibliography includes books with relevant chapters or sections; pre-1900 serials; mimeographed works; microforms; trials; B.C. imprints, 1858-1899; government publications up to 1871, and later if acquired by the Provincial Archives after 1950 and therefore not in Holmes;³ fiction, poetry and drama; offprints of periodical articles; Royal Society of Canada transactions if found catalogued separately; Alaska Boundary Dispute; works in Indian languages and publications dealing with anthropology if published before 1900; selected CPR and Klondike material; and a few maps. Excluded are: programmes, playbills and menus; B.C. writers; Geological Survey of Canada; Canadian Sessional Papers; articles in religious, anthropological, geological and geographical journals. Entries are arranged chronologically.

The third and final volume, Edwards and Lort, covers the period 1900-1950 and includes publications up to 1974, in English. The arrangement is alphabetical, with a general index. Little biographical information is given. Besides the monographs and books with relevant chapters or sections, the bibliography includes: pamphlets; programmes, if additional material is given; B.C. imprints, B.C. authors, fiction, poetry and drama if they depict B.C. life. Excluded are: manuscripts, including unpublished briefs and theses; serials; company prospectuses; directories; juvenile literature and school texts; maps; technical bulletins; B.C. imprints *per se*; general ephemera; government publications; fiction, poetry, drama; and articles. General references are made in the Introduction to other sources of information which help to fill in the gaps.

Some of the final selection in the Edwards volume appears to be rather arbitrary, such as the exclusion of popular books on wild flowers of British Columbia. The classification of some books as "juvenile literature" is debatable. Many books are used as school texts which were never intended as such. As the earlier volumes include books published after 1900, it is sometimes difficult to know in which volume a book will appear. Most of the publications of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition were published after 1900, but they appear in Lowther, not Edwards.

² Reviewed in *BC Studies*, No. 1 (Winter 1968-69), pp. 54-56.

³ Marjorie Holmes, *Publications of the Government of British Columbia, 1871-1947* (Victoria, 1950) and *Royal Commissions...* (Victoria, 1945).

The University of Victoria Social Sciences Research Centre is to be congratulated on the "completion" of their ambitious and much-needed project. However, the job is not finished. Many areas were excluded from each volume, with more excluded from the third volume than was included, making it that much less useful. With the ten-year time-span of the project, much has appeared about the pre-1900 period which could be included in a supplement. It would have been preferable, perhaps, to have divided the 1900-1950 period into two 25-year periods and included more categories. Lowther says (p. viii):

As the Provincial Archives planned to publish its own list, no attempt was made to include newspapers, except for those government gazettes which began in the colonial period. . . . It was originally planned to list other serials — more general ones having occasional articles on British Columbia. The length of the serial entries, their number and their complexity weighed against their inclusion in this volume.

No list of B.C. newspapers, or of B.C. periodicals, has appeared. Publication of the *Dictionary Catalogue of the Library of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia*⁴ in 1971 has helped fill in some of the gaps, but much remains to be done to complete the bibliographical record of British Columbia up to 1950. And what about the twenty-five years since 1950? In the meantime, for those unable to afford the eight-volume Archives catalogue, the three volumes of *A Bibliography of British Columbia* are valuable reference tools which should be in every library in the province.

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⁴ Boston, G. K. Hall, 1971. 8 v. \$610.

The Reminiscences of Doctor John Sebastian Helmcken. Edited by Dorothy Blakey Smith with an introduction by W. Kaye Lamb. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1975. \$18.95.

On May 27, 1892, at the age of 68, the venerable John Sebastian Helmcken sat down and began to write with these words: "Well here goes." The result, five substantial volumes in manuscript, have provided historians of colonial British Columbia with one of the best extant accounts of that time and place. Helmcken's colourful characterizations of Europeans and Indians on Vancouver Island and his vivid descriptions of the many significant events in which he was involved establish his

memoirs as an invaluable source — delightful to read and authoritative to consult.

This book brings this valuable text into a definitive edition. Hitherto unpublished, Helmcken's *Reminiscences* are now available to students and general readers in a most pleasing format. But the reproduction of a manuscript is not enough; to make it useful it must bear appropriate textual apparatus, a satisfactory introduction and, of course, ancillary material including an index. On all counts this project has been superbly done. Dr. Dorothy Blakey Smith, already well known for her editions of Arthur Thomas Bushby's *Journal*, James Douglas' visit to California in 1841 and Susan Cracroft's letters, has painstakingly added textual notes which amply testify to the fact that Helmcken, then entering his later years, still had an incisive mind and an excellent memory. Only on a few cases was Helmcken forgetful of the details of the actual course of events. These errors notwithstanding, Dr. Smith has demonstrated beyond a shadow of doubt the authenticity and reliability of this excellent source. I would quarrel with only one editorial interpretation: the Cowichan expedition referred to on pages 129-30 occurred in 1856, not 1853. Though an expedition was mounted in the former year (as the editor's footnote correctly relates) there was a second expedition to Cowichan three years later in order to apprehend the murderer of a European living there; collaborative material for this important episode in white-Indian relations is to be found in Douglas material in the Provincial Archives in Victoria. This is a small blemish to an otherwise superb edition.

Dr. Lamb's introduction provides us with a concise account of Helmcken's life, and he includes in his narrative interesting perspectives of Helmcken as given by such different persons as Hubert Howe Bancroft and Emily Carr. R. E. Gosnell, a distinguished civil servant in various capacities and an able historian in his own right, wrote of Helmcken in 1910 that "If old men could remember everything, he is the only man living who could sit down and write the whole history of British Columbia from personal knowledge." Though Gosnell did not know that eighteen years earlier the doctor had written a manuscript that just about met Gosnell's requirements, this only serves to show the value of the end product and the quality of its author.

Helmcken, born in 1824 in Whitechapel of German parentage, raised himself from humble beginnings (his father was a sometime sugar refinery worker and pubkeeper). His account of his youth, an important contribution in itself to Victorian studies, tells of his interesting boyhood in this London borough, his fascination with gunpowder, his interest in trains,

and his debt to his mother who "God bless her, was everything and everybody." Young Helmcken early won the confidence of Dr. William Henry Graves under whom he apprenticed as chemist and druggist. His subsequent medical training at Guy's Hospital is extensively detailed here. In March 1848, Helmcken was admitted as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Casting around for employment, and bearing a desire to see the world, he first considered the Royal Navy and then the Hudson's Bay Company. But as it turned out Helmcken went in a merchantman to Bombay, Singapore, Canton and elsewhere in eastern seas and then home, where he was engaged by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1847 as ship's surgeon for a voyage in the *Prince Rupert* to York Factory. Helmcken gives an extensive impression of that place and some of its inhabitants.

In October 1849 Helmcken sailed on his last voyage from Gravesend, this time in the *Norman Morison* bound on a five-month voyage to the new colony of Vancouver Island. "A good deal of fuss was made about this first voyage to a new colony," he wrote, "and some grandees were on board drinking wine and speaking good wishes &c. &c." All told 80 emigrants sailed in the ship, endured gales, smallpox and the tedious voyage, and reached the shores of Vancouver Island, wondering how the wooded, mountainous country could ever be cultivated.

Helmcken, who apparently was to serve as a secretary to Governor Richard Blanshard, was immediately thrown into the vortex of colonial affairs. At that time the major crisis facing the executive and the Company was the situation at Fort Rupert on the island's northeastern shore where Scottish miners had struck for due cause and three deserters from the *Norman Morison* had been murdered by the Newitty of the Kwakiutl. Blanshard sent young Helmcken there as magistrate. This self-admitted greenhorn did his best to control the seething feelings within the fort and to prevent conflict with the Indians without, but in the end resigned from his office because of conflict of interest with the Hudson's Bay Company thereby leaving Blanshard, the Royal Navy, Company officers and the Newitty to resolve "this miserable affair," as Helmcken called it. The surgeon magistrate's definitive account of the Fort Rupert troubles, first printed in the *Victoria Colonist* in 1890, is published in full here in the appendix. This makes available the most important memoir of this significant event on that distant frontier.

Helmcken found Fort Victoria much more to his liking. The men and women of that colonial society he found enjoyable, and he developed an extensive medical practice in the Company's employ. He knew all the

notables of the place including, of course, Blanchard's successor as governor, James Douglas, his father-in-law, to whom he had to provide two testimonials of good character before he could marry Cecilia Douglas. The governor gave Helmcken an acre of land on which was built a small log house. (Later this structure was covered with clapboard siding and today Helmcken House, an excellent museum, stands on its original site near the Provincial Archives.)

Thenceforth the narrative describes the difficulties and development of the infant colony: the problems and politics of colonization, the crisis facing Victoria at the time of the Fraser River gold rush, the difficulties over San Juan Island, the divisiveness among Americans during the Civil War, the problem as to whether the island and mainland colonies should be united and if so where the capital should be, and so on. During much of this time Helmcken was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island. The climax of the book is clearly the debate over British Columbia's *union* (the then current term) with Canada and the delegation to Ottawa of which Helmcken was, almost against his wishes, a member. A long-time opponent of Confederation, in the end he was won to the cause mainly because he thought population and finances from and communications with "the East" would provide stability and opportunity for British Columbia. An opponent of responsible government, he nonetheless was significant, along with Dr. R. W. Carrall and Joseph Trutch, his fellow delegates, in bringing about a transcontinental scheme which he had thought impossible. His diary of the Confederation negotiations, previously published and edited by Willard Ireland, is conveniently printed as an appendix.

Helmcken was a colonial. An unusual Victorian boyhood behind him, he set off to see the world. Like so many others he found a new home and contributed to its health, politics and prosperity. He was frequently at the centre of things — at Fort Rupert, in Victoria, during the debate over the colonial capital, and in the negotiations with Ottawa. That he left such an excellent account of his youth and early years is significant in itself; but that it should have reached print in such a splendid form is a matter of great moment for the study and enjoyment of British Columbia history in colonial times.