

descriptions of fur trade routes along the Saskatchewan and Churchill Rivers and over the Methye Portage, focuses on the evolution of the York boat and its relationship to the canoe. Chapter Eight shifts north to spin familiar tales about John Hornby, George Douglas, John Franklin, J.B. Tyrrell, George Grinnell, and others who have put the canoe to good use. In the next chapter, when the focus shifts to the Bow River, Raffan explores the way the canoe has been used to market commodities as diverse as the Canadian Pacific Railroad, beer, and tourism. Chapter Ten looks at the construction and historical development of the Haida canoe, with considerable attention paid to Bill Reid's involvement in the revitalization of that craft in the 1980s. This chapter also briefly addresses the Dragon Boat Festival, often associated with Chinese populations in Vancouver. The final chapter shifts north once again to consider the arrival of aboriginal peoples from Asia, and to explore what notions they brought with them about canoe design.

This skeletal outline should give prospective readers not only an idea of how the book is structured, but also a sense of the interesting variety of approaches. Raffan's breadth of information about canoes and related subjects is apparent, and his enthusiasm is contagious. In fact, his description of recanvassing his 16-foot Chestnut Pal nearly caused me to attempt the same on my own Pal, until I put the book down and came to my senses. It is probably worth pointing out here, however, that *Bark, Skin, and Cedar* is not an instructional book. It does not explain how to build or recanvas a canoe; it does not describe how to load or handle a canoe in turbulent water; nor does it explain such basic differences in design as those between a river and a lake canoe. Rather, the book is designed to entertain and inspire those who are already enthusiastic and relatively well informed about this traditional vessel. In this respect, *Bark, Skin, and Cedar* falls in line with a few other titles, notably *Nastawgan: The Canadian North by Canoe and Snowshoe* (Hodgins and Hobbs, 1985) and *Canexus: The Canoe in Canadian Culture* (Raffan and Horwood, 1988), which have a similar objective of promoting the sorts of experiences associated with canoes and canoe travel. Those books, however, are collections of essays, whereas Raffan's new book has the advantages of a sustained and focused account by one voice.

Raffan has done an excellent job of pulling together diverse bits of information—some historical, some technical, some creative. As is often the case when one reaches so widely, errors are inevitable. Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill were Samuel Strickland's sisters, not his daughters (p. 73). The Gander River is not "named after its abundance of geese" (p. 5), but after a figure in the British Colonial Office. "Redwoods" do not grow in British Columbia (p. 209 and 214). And no matter how hard one tries, a 26-foot Haida canoe cannot be paddled from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Prince George (p. 217). But I do not think *Bark, Skin, and Cedar* was intended as a scholarly work: in spite of its rather substantial endnotes,

it contains neither bibliography nor index, suggesting a target audience in search of entertainment, information, and inspiration. Certainly Raffan provides those.

The book's subtitle and the cultural realm it addresses are perhaps not as fulfilling as is the author's obvious command of lore about the canoe itself. There is no question that the canoe has been instrumental in the economic development of Canada, and it indeed remains a wonderful recreational vehicle for five or six months of the year in Shield country, especially in the Kingston/Peterborough area. Yet, enthusiastic as I am about canoes, the pleasures they can evoke, and the importance they bear to Canada's traditions, I cannot help but wonder how much they continue to embody modern *Canadian* experience. True, many of my neighbours have a canoe stored in some out-of-the-way passage alongside the house or garden shed, but even more of them have a mountain bike or two in the garage. Calgary is a long way from the Canadian Shield and all the fantastic paddling opportunities it offers, but Canadians immigrate to Calgary in huge numbers every month. Canada has grown increasingly urban, a nation populated by people with no cultural ties to the French voyageurs who portaged the *canots du nord* or the Orkneymen who rowed the York boats. Canada has been seeking a unifying image for many generations, and while the canoe might have been a strong contender in the past, I am doubtful that it will serve as a useful icon very far into the twenty-first century.

#### REFERENCES

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- MOUNT LOGAN, Volume 1. By GERALD HOLDSWORTH. Calgary, Alberta: The Arctic Institute of North America, 2000. ISBN 0-919034-95-0. Single CD-ROM, comprising text with bibliographic references, colour and b&w photographs, maps, sketches, and video/audio sequences. Cdn\$45.00 + s&h.

Mount Logan, at 5957 m Canada's highest mountain and surpassed in height in North America only by Denali (Mt. McKinley), is one of the world's largest massifs and the epitome of the high-altitude arctic alpine environment. Besides being a world-class mountaineering objective, it

was also the site of the High Altitude Physiological Study (HAPS). Very few people, however, have even seen (let alone set foot upon) the 50 km long Logan massif. It lies hidden within the remote St. Elias Range in the extreme southwestern corner of the Yukon Territory and remains little known even to the mountaineering community. Whether as a consequence or as a contributing cause of this obscurity, no major book has hitherto been written about Mt. Logan as such. Until now, mountaineers and scientists alike have had to seek information on Mt. Logan in scattered journal articles of variable quality.

Dr. Gerald Holdsworth's *Mount Logan* remedies this situation in splendid fashion, making commendable use of current electronic technology. Volume 1, the first of a projected set of two CDs, covers topographical, historical, and mountaineering aspects in five chapters (plus additional features). The forthcoming second volume will contain five further chapters dealing with the geology, geophysics, meteorology, climatology, glaciology, and biology of Mt. Logan, together with an account of the High Altitude Physiological Study.

Playback of the CD-ROM requires a computer with a minimum of Windows 95, 98, or NT, Pentium 166 MHz, 20 MB disk space, 32 MB RAM, 16-bit colour and sound, and an 8× CD-ROM drive (the original plans to produce a MAC version are reported to have been shelved). A high-quality, wide-screen colour monitor is desirable to show the many magnificent photographs and detailed maps to best effect, but my Dell Latitude 166 MHz notebook with its 12-inch TFT screen ran the CD very nicely and delivered exciting colour images. More detailed instructions on installation might be helpful to those of us who are less than fully "computer-literate." The required version of QuickTime should be downloaded from the CD itself, as versions currently available from Apple seem not to work. I encountered minor glitches when browsing through the extensive and fascinating Archives section—frames would occasionally hang up, and video sequences sometimes declined to run.

Dr. Holdsworth, a research associate of the Arctic Institute of North America, is uniquely well qualified to write this definitive Mt. Logan compendium. He is not only an experienced mountaineer whose accomplishments on Mt. Logan include the first ascent of the Centennial Ridge, but also a professional glaciologist who has made many important contributions to the scientific knowledge of this great mountain. He knows personally many of the people who have been involved with Mt. Logan. He dedicates his "book" to the memory of Dr. Walter A. Wood and the pilot Philip P. Upton, who were central to the success of the Icefield Ranges Research Project based at Kluane Lake and through whom Dr. Holdsworth first became involved with Mt. Logan in 1964. In 1986, Holdsworth travelled to New Hampshire to seek out and interview Norman "Squab" Read, at that time one of the last two living members of the 1925 first ascent party. Read, apparently undeterred by the near-death experience of the

43-day climb in 1925, returned to Mt. Logan in 1950 to make the second ascent with André Roch, who provides an *avant-propos* for the CD. Hans Gmoser, another famous Logan veteran, has written a foreword.

Dr. Holdsworth contends that history or science without art is dull, and indeed the CD launches on start-up into a poetic *Prelude* by Lama Anagarika Govinda, accompanied by appropriate music and a sequence of 59 gorgeous photographs of Mt. Logan in its many moods. In addition, there is an interactive panoramic view, shot from near the West Summit, that will thrill any Loganeer. The essence of the CD, however, is in the five chapters and their several sections. Throughout the text, scholarly references can be recovered from the Archives by clicking on citations highlighted in green; photographs, maps, sketches, etc., can be called up by clicking on red codenames; and clear explanations are similarly available for any technical terms shown in blue.

Chapter 1 deals with the history and prehistory of "Majestic Mountain" up to 1892, with attention to the effects of the Ice Ages, human occupation of the coastal strip, and the activities of explorers, culminating in the 1890 Russell expedition. Chapter 2 is an appreciation of Sir William E. Logan, the "Father of Canadian Geology" and first director of the Geological Survey of Canada, for whom Canada's greatest mountain was so appropriately named by the American geologist, Israel C. Russell. Chapter 3 covers the Alaska-Yukon boundary survey and associated politics, and also the epic 1925 MacCarthy-Lambart ascent of Mt. Logan.

For mountaineers, Chapter 4, which covers all significant ascents from 1950 to the present and is fully supported by superb photographs, references, and maps from the Archives, will alone be well worth the price of the CD. Included are historic video sequences of the Read-Roch second ascent and the fast 1959 ascent of the classic East Ridge by a Canadian team. In addition there are two first-person accounts: one of the 1950 ascent, by André Roch, and the other of the only complete ascent of the Hummingbird Ridge, taken directly from John Evans' diary. A chilling counterpoint to the latter is provided by Lloyd Freese's photograph of a section of the same ridge near the "shovel traverse," showing a rimed fixed line, a tent, and a pack—the only clues to the Cheesmond-Freer tragedy of 1987.

Chapter 5, "In Which the Tao of Geomatics is Revealed," traces the convoluted but entertaining story of geodetic and topographical surveys of Mt. Logan. Interestingly, the 1992 expedition, which used GPS technology, came up with essentially the same height for the Main Summit that J.E. McGrath had proposed a century before—but which had been largely ignored!

My only disappointment regarding *Mount Logan* is the absence of either a comprehensive index or a mechanism for searching the content. One of the great advantages of computer-based documents is that they are readily searchable if the appropriate software is available. It is

hoped that future editions of Volume 1, and particularly the forthcoming Volume 2, which will focus on scientific matters, will come equipped with a search tool.

For mountaineers the world over, Volume 1 of *Mount Logan* is essential viewing. General readers will find this CD to be well worth its price as a fascinating source of information on a variety of Arctic topics, and scientists will be particularly interested in acquiring it as the companion disk to the forthcoming Volume 2. The publication of the latter is eagerly awaited.

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SEARCHING FOR FRANKLIN: THE LAND ARCTIC SEARCHING EXPEDITION. JAMES ANDERSON'S AND JAMES STEWART'S EXPEDITION VIA THE BACK RIVER, 1855. Edited by WILLIAM BARR. Hakluyt Society, Third Series, no. 1. London: Hakluyt Society, 1999. xvi + 292 pages, 9 maps, 4 illus., index, bib. Hardbound. £45.00.

During the 1990s, journals about the nineteenth-century expeditions in search of a Northwest Passage or in search of the missing Franklin expedition of 1845 continued to be published, some for the first time. The decade ended with another editorial contribution from William Barr, who had published *Frenchman in Search of Franklin: De Bray's Arctic Journal, 1852–1854* in 1992 and, with Glyndwr Williams, the two-volume *Voyages to Hudson Bay in Search of a Northwest Passage 1741–1747* in 1994 and 1995. This latest volume is an edition of journals by two Hudson's Bay Company men, Chief Factor James Anderson (1800–67) and Chief Trader James Green Stewart (1825–81), who were sent down the Back River in search of Franklin's ships and sailors. It takes Barr back to the continental mainland, territory that he had covered in editing and translating Heinrich Klutschak's account of the search expedition led by Frederick Schwatka, which appeared in 1987 as *Overland to Starvation Cove: With the Inuit in search of Franklin, 1878–1880*. Just as he has proved himself adept as a translator of languages other than English, and in both Arctic and Antarctic expeditions, so Barr has again proved himself an authority on expeditions that remained on the continent rather than in the archipelago. No one has done more to find Franklin textually than William Barr has.

As Barr notes in his preface, versions of Anderson's journal have been published twice before, 60 and 80 years ago. This volume marks the first publication of excerpts of Stewart's journal. Their canoe trip was the Hudson's Bay Company's response to an Admiralty request after Chief Factor Dr. John Rae published news of artefacts found by

Inuit whom Rae met at Pelly Bay in 1854. While inconclusive, the trip confirmed Rae's findings and, as Barr argues, "significantly narrowed the search area for the subsequent, entirely successful search expedition mounted by Captain Francis Leopold McClintock in the steam yacht *Fox* in 1857–9" (xii; repeated p. 257). This view of the 88-day return trip from Fort Resolution justifies this edition. But it is only fair to warn readers that Barr has filled out his volume by scouring archives, and by assembling a history of previous searches, correspondence with Lady Franklin, post-expedition newspaper reports, citations, and accounts, and assessments by later expeditions and others of the Anderson expedition's achievements. Barr decided not to print Stewart's journal in its entirety, opting instead to quote excerpts of it in footnotes where it amplifies or diverges from Anderson's. Other readers might find this editorial decision slightly disappointing, as I did. It is defensible in principle, especially as a certain amount of repetition already arises in the volume because various principals—Lady Franklin, Eden Colville, and Sir George Simpson, for example—repeat information in letters and reports to different correspondents. However, as discussed below, justification for this editorial decision ought to have been offered.

Barr uses a first chapter to set the stage for this effort by Anderson, Stewart, and 14 HBC men. He pays particular attention to Rae's discoveries in the previous year, and he reprints three of the letters Rae delivered upon his return to England. One of these is his letter to the Admiralty, which was printed in *The Times* on 23 October 1854, and in which Rae mentioned the Inuit view that "our wretched countrymen had been driven to the last resource—cannibalism—as a means of prolonging existence" (p. 20). These letters are not new, of course, but the context they provide is welcome. Regrettable, however, is that space was not made to reprint, or at least refer readers to, Rae's two-part reply in *Household Words* to the righteous and errant contribution by its editor—Charles Dickens—to the tide of "intense interest" in England over Rae's observation. It marks a great moment in the annals of Arctic history and, indeed, in the history of English prose, to witness this explorer relieving a novelist of his rhetorical trousers, so to speak (*Household Words* X [23 December 1854]:433–437; [30 December 1854]:457–459). (It is also a credit to Dickens that he had the fortitude to print Rae's reply in his own periodical; of course, as a consequence of printing it, he probably sat back and watched the Christmas and New Year's issues sell like ... well, the Dickens.)

One understanding that the documents assembled by Barr bring into sharp focus is just how quickly the HBC's lines of communication could function in the mid-1850s. Given that the public concern over Rae's charge was sparked in the third week of October 1854, it is truly remarkable that men were already signed up for the expedition and departing Red River on 26 December. In addition, three Iroquois "boutes" (expert bowsmen or steersmen)