

Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition. JOHN HAYMAN, ed. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1989. xiii, 211 p. ISBN 0-7748-0322-3 \$29.95 (cloth).

Robert Brown and the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition is the latest publication in the UBC Press series titled *Recollections of the Pioneers of British Columbia*. In the early 1860s, government and business figures in Victoria were anxious to secure reliable information about the region's geography and natural resources and appointed Brown to head a small exploratory survey of the southern half of Vancouver Island during the summer of 1864. During the expedition, Brown kept a daily journal (held by the British Columbia Archives and Records Service), and it is reproduced here in its entirety. Although Brown was a botanist by training and was generally interested in all forms of physical and natural phenomena, his journal contains less on scientific matters than on topography and travel conditions. The daily entries also include numerous references to the various Indian groups that the expedition encountered and attest to Brown's interest in ethnography.

The journal is accompanied by an extremely useful introduction, several pages of meticulously researched explanatory notes, a bibliography of Brown's published writings on the northwest coast, and a simple map of the expedition's route. The sketches made by expedition artist Frederick Whympere have also been reproduced and placed throughout the main body of the journal; a checklist of Whympere's drawings and their present location is given in an appendix. Finally, the editor has included a sampling of Brown's observations and notes on Indian ceremonies (the potlatch in particular) and legends; these writings represent some of the first records on the topic.

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Guide to the Papers of James Mavor. DOLORES A. SIGNORI, compiler. Toronto: Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, 1989. vi, 101 p.

James Mavor (1854-1925) was a Scots-born economist and social reformer who in 1892 immigrated to Canada, where he was an early member of the Department of Political Economy at the University of Toronto. He was recognized as a leader in the new field of social science, and undertook contract work for governments in Canada. His numerous other interests included Doukhobor immigration and Canadian art.

The *Guide to the Papers of James Mavor* is a pan-Ontarian thematic guide to Mavor material in six repositories: the Archives of Ontario, Art Gallery of Ontario, National Archives of Canada, the archives of the University of Toronto and of York University, and the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto (which has the most comprehensive Mavor collection). The guide was produced with the aid of a Canadian Studies Research Tools Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Regarding format, a biography of Mavor is followed by descriptions of fonds in each repository, with the Mavor documentation highlighted. The existence of finding aids and microform copies is mentioned. There is also an index that gives access to all the fonds listed, not only by author but also by subject.

This is a useful and well-constructed guide for its purpose, which is to facilitate research on Mavor and related subjects such as the social sciences in Canada. Readers of

Archivaria may find it useful for background research on possible new acquisitions and for responding to inquiries. Its usefulness is, of course, intrinsically limited, and one wonders if in the long run it would be better to invest our energy in more comprehensive guides such as the *Union List of Manuscripts in Canadian Repositories*. The compiler acknowledges that the Mavor guide is limited in the repositories it covers. Given that Mavor was a national and international figure, it seems likely that material exists outside Ontario. Perhaps a wider search was not feasible with the funding available.

David Fraser
National Archives of Canada

A Guide to the Medical Archives of British Columbia. Second edition. JIM LEWIS. Vancouver: British Columbia Medical Association, 1988. c.150 p.

This volume describes the holdings of the Medical Archives of British Columbia housed in the British Columbia Medical Association building in Vancouver. It describes the papers of nine medical associations, organized into six units, and the personal papers of three doctors which form an additional unit. The major collections include the British Columbia Medical Association, the British Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Osler Society of Vancouver, and the Vancouver Medical Association. The entry for each collection consists of a detailed administrative outline and history, scope and content notes, and series descriptions preceding the customary file list. From the detailed descriptions, one gets a good sense of what is in the papers and where to look for specific information.

This guide, originally compiled in 1986, has been updated by Arlene Cardwell to list material acquired since 1986. Other than the listing of additional material, there appear to be no major changes to the guide. A detailed review of the original publication appeared in *Archivaria* 25.

The Medical Archives of British Columbia is to be congratulated for bringing together the records of associations and individuals vital to understanding the medical history of the province. The guide itself is an excellent model for archivists in smaller institutions who wish to describe their holdings.

Larry McNally
National Archives of Canada

Guide to Military Archives. ERIK NORBERG, ed. Meddelanden Fran Krigsarkivet XIII, 1989. ISBN 0562-8547.

In 1984 a working group on military archives was formed within the International Council on Archives (ICA) to improve the lines of communication between institutions whose holdings included military records and to promote research in the field of military history. To meet this twin objective, at least in part, the group decided to publish a directory of military archives. A questionnaire was sent to about fifty institutions worldwide soliciting a wide range of information: name, address, telephone number, hours of operation, access, facilities, historical background, acquisition mandate, major collections, nonmanuscript material, finding aids, and publications. Individual entries