

reserves of the Boothroyd Band was the first plan ever made of these reserves. As indicated elsewhere, a complete list of all cartographic records is beyond the stated parameters of this volume, but a more thorough discussion of other sources is in order.

The listing does provide an example of the type of cartographic record available for the study of Indian settlements in British Columbia. One is introduced to Indian Reserve Commission tracings, B. C. and Dominion Land Surveyors' surveys and plans, Indian Affairs Branch survey records, Dominion Township plans for the Railway Belt and Peace River Block, and Indian Agency maps. Also included are some very interesting special maps, like the one prepared by the Seabird Indian Band in 1917 showing locations of family forms, buildings, the CPR station, the church and the cemetery. There are illustrations, which for the most part are adequate, of these types of records.

The compiler has included a disclaimer (p. ix) about the listing's not being definitive, not dealing with records of other federal departments and not discussing current record systems, which researchers, archivists and other users should bear in mind when considering the listing's limitations. Perhaps some of the criticisms offered here might be incorporated into the promised periodic revisions so that a preliminary inventory might emerge from this initial list.

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Maps of Indian Reserves and Settlements in the National Map Collection. Volume 2: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories. Compiled by Linda Camponi, Diane Tardiff-Cote and Guy Poulin. Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, National Map Collection, 1981. xxiv, 153 p., illus. ISBN 0-662-51523-4, pa.

All researchers in Canadian Indian history welcome the appearance of new finding aids to the widely-scattered sources in their field. The National Map Collection (NMC) series under review is no exception, as it is the first full-scale attempt to list, for public use, both official and non-governmental maps of Indian reserves across Canada. The heavy labour needed to assemble this catalogue, and the care given to its editing and layout, have resulted (with some qualifications detailed below) in a reference aid useful in both general and specialist research.

This volume, like its predecessor volume on British Columbia also reviewed in this issue, lists the most "significant" National Map Collection holdings of maps and legal plans of Indian reserves and related lands such as "settlements", certain specialized Crown Lands and Indian school sites. It covers the Prairie Provinces, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories roughly for the period 1871 to 1930. It also includes a selection of general reference maps, from Alexander Henry's of 1775 to the main economic, legal and ethnological review sheets of the 1980s. The appendix, which lists existing and vanished "numbered" reserves and settlements, is probably the most complete and accurate compilation of its kind to date.

The Introduction, intended to orient the user to the history of Indian land tenure in the West, is brief and cogent. In its general review of treaties and land administration, however, little is said of the specific processes by which the reserves catalogued here were brought into being. This is a more or less inevitable omission, since this aspect of Indian history is as yet very poorly understood. For now, it seems, a conscientious recital of legal agreements, legislation and administrative structures must stand in for a more specific overview of reserve choice and establishment.

This aside, one can only point to certain relatively minor inaccuracies in the text, such as the omission of reference to money scrip on p. vii, the dating of certain legal milestones to the 1876 *Indian Act* rather than to earlier legislation and the incorrect assertion that the Inuit were explicitly excluded from the ambit of the 1876 act. It should also be noted that the authors raise but do not try to reconcile two important aspects of Indian land law: first, the non-Indian view of the western treaties as “essentially land surrenders in return for cash grants or goods” (p. vii), and second, the Indian interpretation of treaties as “peace agreements” (p. viii).

As to format, the catalogue is handily arranged, and its layout is clear. My only suggestion for future volumes would be to use special type to set off map titles from interpolated comments, which are otherwise carefully marked. Cross-references and reserve names have been carefully researched. These include some minor errors of identification, arising more often than not from the inherent complexity of the subject reserves’ history, but these errors should not cause significant problems in actual use. The illustrations are well-chosen from among the most striking, and even baroque, examples of draftman’s art in a usually uninspiring field. The few brief annotations are clear, although they often only create a desire for more information—especially for sources and for explanations of the more cryptic titles.

This brings us to the most difficult problem in evaluating any such finding aid: who will use it, and how far will it take them? In answering this question one must refer to the book’s two main deficiencies from the point of view of the specialist researcher. One is the absence of descriptive annotation putting each map in its historical context, the other is the omission of certain key maps relating to the history of particular groups of reserves. These, unfortunately, arise from two circumstances over which the compilers have little control: first, the lack of available background work on the origins and development of Indian reserves as a special class of land, and, second, significant gaps in the NMC’s collection as it stands today.

On the first point, because there is little information readily to hand on the history and law of reserve establishment either generally or for specific reserves, the NMC is not in a position to annotate or evaluate its collection historically as was done in a similar U.S. catalogue, Laura E. Kelsay’s *Cartographic Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs*. It is unfortunate that the information problem is compounded in the NMC list by the omission of references to the provenance of each individual item. Many maps are drawn from specific Department of Indian Affairs files, which contain closely related documentation. Researchers will thus have to add an extra step to their work in order to co-ordinate basic archival and cartographic information.

On the second point, the gaps in the NMC’s existing reserve map collection require that this volume be used in specialized work with some caution. NMC’s holdings cover most, but by no means all, of the most valuable historic reserve maps and plans up to about 1930 and manuscript additions and a random scattering of other maps of later date. Thus it includes most of the original survey plans, many later surveys and re-surveys and a comprehensive collection of annotated land sales maps. However, the following important groups are missing: the legal survey plans attached to Orders-in-Council confirming the reserves, now in Privy Council records (Public Archives of Canada (PAC), RG 2, series 1); legal survey plans in the files of the Department of the Interior and the Surveyor-General (PAC, RG 15 and RG 88); isolated early historical plans, a complete set of the Department of the Interior’s legal township plans, and almost all post-1930 maps, still held by the Departments of Indian and Northern Affairs (DINA) and of Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR).

Perhaps the most serious omission is that of maps in *Descriptions and Plans of Certain Indian Reserves in the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories* (Ottawa: Department of Indian Affairs, 1889), popularly known as “Nelson’s Book” after its surveyor-compiler J.C. Nelson, which originally appeared as the text of Federal Order-in-Council P.C. 1151 of 17 May 1889. This is one of the two most important map groups affecting the

legal and descriptive history of over sixty early Prairie reserves, the other being the original surveyors' plans, now divided between NMC and EMR. Some of Nelson's items pre-date NMC's listings for particular reserves by as much as twenty years. This is, unhappily, not a minor quibble for it means that the catalogue does not relieve researchers reconstructing a particular reserve's history of the job of finding and extracting maps from up to five different record groups in three different places. One can only hope that this will be remedied at some point soon.

None of the above is intended to detract from the credit due to the NMC for undertaking the series in the face of the considerable obstacles described. The present volume will remain useful as an introduction to reserve cartography for beginning researchers, as a stepping-off point for more intensive projects and perhaps as an incentive for federal cartographic records managers to begin co-ordination of their scattered holdings for the benefit of all concerned.

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Concepts in the History of Cartography, A Review and Perspective. M.J. Blakemore and J.B. Harley. A special issue of *Cartographica*, Volume 17, no. 4, Winter 1980, Monograph 26, 120 p., illus. IBBN 0-919870-26-0.

Maps, atlases and globes have not been the favoured documents of archivists and librarians. Awkwardness of physical form mitigates against ease of handling and storage, and they consume, for their weight and mass, excessive space in usually confined environments. And their special combination of spatial, chronological and topical content ensures that they do not fall under the usual cataloguing rules applied to most other materials. Moreover, relatively few practitioners have been trained, especially in a program on cartographic archives or map librarianship. Fewer still are educated as cartographers or historians of cartography.

Yet, this has been altering as public interest has grown apace in "earlier" maps' storehouse of information on particular places and times, in their antiquarian and decorative values, in their own intrinsic qualities as scientific and cultural artifacts, and in their significance as a language in the communication process. As a result, archivists and librarians are learning, and even enjoying, coping with maps' eccentricities, and are increasingly aware of their potential research value. This latter capacity has been impressed upon them to no small degree by the quantity and diversity of research undertaken by devotees of that still-emerging, and some might say inexact, discipline, the history of cartography.

This study under review is not one catering to the uninitiated reader. It is first and foremost a landmark review, evaluation and definition of a profession which, the authors assert, has generated for itself the role of examining "the development of maps . . . as formal systems for the communication of spatial information, and it focusses on the nature, structure, distribution, and significance of cartographic language within past societies," or as the authors say more simply, it "considers early maps as independent objects worthy of study in their own right." In fact, it is a prescriptive guide by two cartographic historians for themselves and for their own colleagues, in a profession which has produced much of substance on early maps over the years, but is still in the throes of crystallizing its own philosophical and methodological fundamentals.

Although there are some 191 items listed in the bibliography, which the authors consider pertinent to their definitional task, 86 percent were written since 1960, and in this group, two thirds have been prepared after 1970. What is even more cogent is that only three previous