

Sound Heritage: Voices from British Columbia. SAEKO USUKAWA et al, eds. Vancouver, Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1984. 276 p. ISBN 0-88894-443-8 \$24.95.

A serious blow was dealt to the already ailing oral history movement in Canada when the quarterly *Sound Heritage Series* ceased to be published in 1984. Now a casualty of government austerity measures and shifting priorities, the publication was one of the finest of its kind. It first appeared in 1974 as an offspring of the Reynoldston Research and Studies Publication and became an integral part of the Aural History Programme of the Provincial Archives of British Columbia. The quarterly set standards for the dissemination of oral history and placed British Columbia in the forefront of the field. So at a time when the Canadian Oral History Association struggles to maintain its national character and a major repository's vulnerability in handling oral history material is brought to light by the Lloyd Francis and Erik Nielsen affairs, the demise of the British Columbia publication is particularly disheartening.

Sound Heritage: Voices from British Columbia is a collage of excerpts selected from stories published in the forty volumes of the now extinct *Series*. Collectively, this potpourri of oral tradition, legend, folklore, oral history, and even yarn presents a fascinating insight into the people of British Columbia. The book opens with narratives of the native peoples, accounts of daily life, ways to provide food and shelter, and the celebrations that marked their lives. First contact with Europeans is described in an oral tradition about the meeting of Captain Cook and Chief Maquinna. Newcomers to the rugged frontier are also presented in a series of aural vignettes: the Christian missionaries, Scandinavians, Doukhobors, British remittance men, Swiss climbing guides, the Chinese, the Japanese, and others. Their stories mirror the diversity of the province's cultural heritage and go far to dispell the sometimes stereotypical image of British Columbia's pioneers as stoic Britons.

Following in the tradition of its parent, the book is a quality publication. It succeeds in uniting the collected stories, is attractively illustrated with historical photographs, and above all, is carefully edited. Although the reviewer's first reaction was to question the purpose of bringing out a condensation of the already familiar stories, especially during these days of escalating publishing costs, *Voices from British Columbia* ably stands on its own. It is a celebration of the province's pioneers and a fitting tribute to the very much missed *Sound Heritage Series*.

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Administration of Photographic Collections. MARY LYNN RITZENTHALER, GERALD J. MUNOFF, and MARGERY S. LONG. Basic Manual Series. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1984. 173 p. ISBN 0931828619.

The Society of American Archivists' *Administration of Photographic Collections* is an excellent resource for the archivist handling photographic material. Refining previous approaches and reflecting current developments, it summarizes and updates Weinstein and Booth's *Collection, Use and Care of Historical Photographs*, which has been the standard reference since its publication in 1977. Writing specifically for archival photographic collections, the authors assume a basic understanding of archival principles, but none of photography. They address the application of archival concerns such as

provenance, primary research values, collection level organization, researcher access, and conservation ethics. Their advice combines both practical and theoretical concerns; acknowledging resource constraints, they provide guidelines for setting priorities and collecting policies. Legal issues of ownership and reproduction are introduced, though from an American perspective.

The manual is a compilation of essays by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Gerald J. Munoff, and Margery S. Long. It begins with a discussion of the nature of the photographic record, its sources and functions in historical research, and the biases of the medium. A concise outline of the history of photographic processes follows. From the daguerreotype — the first popular application of photography introduced in 1839 — to contemporary photographic materials, the chemical composition and physical appearance of photographs are described. Pointing out the kind of information inherent in physical form, it encourages the archivist to consider the original photograph as artifact as well as document. Preservation and handling problems posed by the various photo types are thoroughly discussed in a separate chapter.

Least convincing is the chapter addressing appraisal. It applies such archival criteria as evidential and informational values, but makes no attempt to deal with factors affecting monetary appraisal and the relationship of market value to institutional collecting. Furthermore, it makes some questionable suggestions — stressing the acquisition of images of good technical quality to facilitate researcher requests for reproductions, and the acquisition of copy prints when the source prefers not to part with the original. On the basis of previous chapters, the reader should be well aware that archivally significant photos may not be technically excellent and that copy prints lack essential artifactual information.

Approaches to organization and description at the group or series level are described, and the possibilities of subject arrangement and indexing are discussed at the individual collection level; however, subject cataloguing within an institution's overall holdings and research tools which direct users to appropriate collections are not. As well, the importance of original indexes or finding aids generated by the source during the creation and maintenance of the collection should have been stressed. Their role at the acquisition, organization, and access stages could have been indicated.

Administration of Photographic Collections is strongest in the description of historical photo processes and collection organization. Inconsistencies and omissions are few, although the manual would clearly have benefited from a chapter on the operation of reference services for photographic collections. Nevertheless, concise format, effective illustrations, a glossary, and bibliography combine to make this a welcome and functional resource.

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Camera Workers: The British Columbia Photographers Directory, 1858-1900. DAVID MATTISON. Victoria: Camera Workers Press, 1985. x, 270 p., illus. ISBN 0-9692029-0-3 (v. 1) \$18.00.

Through *Camera Workers* David Mattison shares his comprehensive, computer-generated database of information on over five hundred nineteenth-century