study of modern society in Canada, it will become increasingly incumbent upon archivists to develop effective means for tackling their mountain of paper. This may, indeed, require radical measures.

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use of minutes of the Calgary City Council, the minutes and reports of the Calgary Planning Commission, or even building by-laws. Perhaps in a future work, the full evidence will be examined.

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In focusing on the agricultural activity in the Oregon Country before the 1846 boundary treaty, James R. Gibson has tackled a neglected and misinterpreted period and has shed light on it. Firmly based on a mass of raw data, the book is clear, concise, well-ordered, and readable, and manages a satisfying balance between a wealth of detail and the logical development of an argument.

Gibson attributes the neglect of the pre-1846 period to “the ethnocentric bent of American historiography” and “the inaccessibility, until recently, of the archives of the Hudson’s Bay Company.” (p. 5) Americans prefer to concentrate on the later period when British and Canadian influence in the area had diminished. Gibson, however, is under no such constraints. A major theme throughout his book is the strength of the British claim to the area and the dependence of the few American pioneers on the support of the Hudson’s Bay Company. A major advantage which Gibson has over earlier researchers is his familiarity with the resources in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives. Through his study of these sources, he has been able to document in lively detail the “laborious and largely successful efforts” of the Company’s servants who “tested the agricultural resources and proved the agricultural potential of this sprawling and diverse region.” (p. 5) A major result of this research is to reverse John S. Galbraith’s earlier conclusion that the Puget’s Sound Agricultural Company was a political and economic failure.

Within each of the four units into which the book is divided — Post Farming, Company Farming, Homestead Farming, and Mission Farming — Gibson discusses the origins, results, and problems of each effort. The discussion of the activities of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the Puget’s Sound Agricultural Company occupies two-thirds of this book. Directing and dominating the operations of both these companies is the controlling figure of Governor George Simpson. John McLoughlin, James Douglas, William Tolmie, and other familiar “West Side” figures appear, but Simpson prescribes, cajoles, and commands as he organizes the farming operations for the benefit of the fur trade. He issues specific instructions on every operation from the selection of immigrants with “as few useless hangers-on and children as possible” (p. 110), to the penning of cattle (p. 121), and the breeding of ewes (p. 122). If Simpson’s boundless energy and far-ranging expertise required further proof, Gibson has provided it.

These chapters also provide helpful reference aids to those interested in general Company operations on the Pacific Northwest Coast. Almost forty pages in the first unit are devoted to capsule histories for some seventeen posts. The account provided of the formation and history of the Puget’s Sound Agricultural Company is particularly clear in elucidating its interconnections with the Hudson’s Bay Company. From the research