
In this study, James Parker describes the role of a major fort in the history of the North American fur trade. Fort Chipewyan, situated near the southwest end of Lake Athabasca, appeared in various manifestations between 1778, when Peter Pond first explored this region, and 1821, when the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company amalgamated. Both companies used the general location of present-day Fort Chipewyan to spearhead their efforts to dominate the fur trade in the northwest. Beginning his study with the early exploration of the region, Parker examines the role of the fort(s) in the fur trade to 1835. By this time, he contends, the fur trade had stabilized under the monopoly conditions of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Emporium of the North is based on Parker’s master’s thesis, completed in 1967 at the University of Alberta. The research is based on published journals and travel literature of the area’s early explorers and traders, as well as the fort’s journals, reports, and accounts held mainly, but not exclusively, by the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives. The book contains chapters on the locations and various structures of the forts; how Fort Chipewyan maintained its link to the eastern section of the fur trade circuit; and the individuals involved in the trade, white and native. Within his general framework, Parker analyses the effects of competition and monopoly on the Fort Chipewyan region. Patricia Myer adds a bibliographic essay which assesses in general terms the last twenty years of fur trade historiography.

Nancy McMahon
National Archives of Canada


This publication was prepared by Janet Michael for the Yukon Archives to provide researchers with an overview of the administrative development of the Yukon government from 1948 to 1979. In 1948, the commissioner was once again installed as the head of the Yukon administration. The author chronicles the slow evolution of government from that date to the 1979 landmark when a fully elected cabinet first entered office. In eight chapters, she discusses the emerging government, the federal takeover of health care, the development of a corrections program, the reorganization of government, the beginning of devolution, the maturing of government, and political maturity. She also provides some excellent appendixes, the most useful being an administrative outline which lists chronologically a short description of