

Ed Gould, Logging: British Columbia's Logging History. Hancock House, Saamichton, B.C., 1975. 224 pp. illus. \$14.95

Logging: British Columbia's Logging History is a generally entertaining but flawed collection of historical photographs, yarns and facts presented in an attractive, well-printed, large format volume. Since it focuses on British Columbia's most important industry and significant related aspects of technological and social change it is of interest as a potential source for museum work.

However, this book is not really a history as the title suggests. Rather it is a popular, somewhat romantic, pictorial scrapbook which lacks the structure, thoroughness, depth of research and insight necessary to be a truly valuable source for reference purposes. Many sections are shallow in their perspective and leave out much important material. There are also some factual errors in the captions and text, particularly where machinery is concerned. There are no maps and little information on the forests themselves or on the differences between logging practices.

The text paints a broad, romantic picture of logging and loggers, one that is sometimes justified although not always representative. Brief chapters are devoted to early logging (beginning with Captain Cook cutting timber for his ships), camp life, railroad and truck logging, yarding machinery, log barging, abuse of the forests, the development of the major forest companies, the British Columbia Forest Service, logger sports and unionization of the labour force. In addition a glossary of logging terms and slang, a brief bibliography and an index are included. To his credit the author recognized the contribution to the industry of men like Archie McKone, a pioneer truck logger and inventor. Histories often pay attention to corporate leaders and it is good to see the work of others being recognized.

Many old photographs add interest to the book and are perhaps its most valuable asset. Much can be gleaned from a careful study of the illustrations, although the captions often add little substance to one's understanding of the photos and the pictures are not always well placed in relation to the text.

In short, this is a popularly oriented book that contains some valuable material but it is too superficial to be truly a reliable source of reference on logging in British Columbia.

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Harry Morton, The Wind Commands: Sailors and Sailing Ships in the Pacific.
 University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, B.C., 1975. 498 pp.
 illus. \$29.95

The Wind Commands is the second in the University of British Columbia Press series in Pacific maritime history. Like the first volume, Barry Gough's The Royal Navy and the Northwest Coast of North America 1810-1914, this is an excellent publication and will undoubtedly serve as a beginning point for many enquiries into the history and technology of sailing. Morton has gleaned from hundreds of works on Pacific voyages the broader picture of the age of sail on the Pacific Ocean.

This is a wide-ranging study both chronologically and topically; it has to be in order to fulfill the promise of its title for a story of the men and ships of the world's largest ocean is not easily told. Morton has handled the subject with grace, wit and thoroughness both refreshing and informative. There is a blend of humanity and scholarship in his writing that is not often achieved in history books. The title, chosen from the closing line of a dispatch by Sir Francis Drake -- "the wind commands me away" -- sets the pattern and it is not broken.

Perhaps the most striking impression one gains from this book is the hardship and suffering endured by the sailors of the Pacific. The beautiful ships to which we attach so much romance and nostalgia offered little to their crews beyond hard, endless work, poor food and long months at sea. Starvation drove the crews to eating anything available. "The gentlemen in the greenroom dined on a fricasee of rats, which they accounted a venison