Books Received/Livres reçus

The following books have been received by the Journal as of 1 April 1993. Inclusion in this list does not preclude any of these books from being reviewed in future issues of the Journal.


Harry Assu, the first elected Chief Councillor of the We-Wei-Kai band at Cape Mudge, Quadra Island, British Columbia, was born in 1905, the son of Chief Billy Assu (1867–1965). In this lavishly illustrated book, which includes many old photographs, Harry Assu reminiscences about Kwagiulth life and culture in Cape Mudge throughout the twentieth century. While this book inevitably records the decline of many customs and the loss of traditional lifestyles, it also chronicles the recent rise of land and sea claims by the Kwagiulth Nation and the renewal of the potlatch after its forced suppression during the first quarter of the century. Also included is the family history of the Assu family and several traditional Kwagiulth tales. Although this work qualifies more as a brief celebration of life in Cape Mudge rather than as an in-depth analysis—in appearance it is a coffee–table book—it is nevertheless a worthwhile contribution to the literature of the twentieth–century experience of the Native peoples.


Gladys Young Blyth, curator of the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum at Port Edward, BC, provides in this well illustrated volume a history from the late nineteenth century to the present of the northern salmon canning industry. The book begins with explanations of the various methods of fishing—gillnetting, trolling, and purse seining—followed by a description of the processes involved in the actual canning, including details of the changes that have occurred in the industry in the last one hundred years. The second half of the book gives individual histories of the thirty–eight canneries on the Nass and Skeena Rivers, with many photographs and other illustrations. While much of the information is necessarily dry, consisting largely of names and dates, this work is an excellent resource for anyone at all interested in the salmon canning industry or more generally in the history of the north coast of British Columbia.