



# The *Rupert's Land* Newsletter

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at The University of Winnipeg

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

## *A Message to our Readers*

Welcome to this double edition of the Rupert's Land Newsletter; there was no spring issue owing to our intense preparations for the 2010 Colloquium. Please check your mailing label for your CRLS membership status; are you current for 2010?

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies has had an eventful year. The latest biennial Rupert's Land Colloquium, held in May 2010 at the University of Winnipeg, was especially successful. It drew close to 150 registrants and more than 70 presenters, more than ever before. Collected Colloquium Papers are now available on CD for both the 2010 gathering (40 papers); and for the 2008 Colloquium, held at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Our former Harington Fellows Mallory Richard, Anne Lindsay, and Jennifer Ching, were instrumental in the careful editing and formatting of the 2008 papers. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to David Malaher for his diligence in soliciting and gathering the 2010 papers, and especially to Anne Lindsay and Jennifer Ching for their hard work in applying their advanced IT skills to the challenges of layout and formatting. They were crucial to the success of the project—producing a digital publication that may be read, searched, and/or attractively printed for reading enjoyment. The Proceedings are available on CD. They are member priced at \$15 (that includes the cost of shipping). Please see the book order form for more details.

Some Harington Fellow news: In November, former Fellow Mallory Richard defended her MA thesis, "'Indianness' and the Fur Trade: Representations of Aboriginal People in Two Canadian Museums," with distinction. She is now a research intern at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

Anne Lindsay is presently working on her MA thesis in the Archival Studies Program, part of our Joint MA Program in History. Last summer, she worked as an intern with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, helping them to establish their archival procedures and collections. They have asked her back to continue that important work, and so in the New Year, her time with the Centre will be considerably reduced, much to our

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## Director's Message

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regret, as we have all hugely appreciated her invaluable contributions. However, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Unfortunately we have no new Harington Fellow to announce. In June, our selection committee chose a fine candidate who accepted with enthusiasm. Then in the early fall, she learned that her job commitments would not be adjusted to allow her to carry on the course work and research stipulated in the award, and she was obliged to withdraw. We are very fortunate that Jennifer Ching remains a pillar of support in the office, working two days a week; we look forward to having her three days a week beginning in January.

This issue marks a milestone in the history of the Centre as the Centre's long time Director, Jennifer S.H. Brown, steps down in preparation for her retirement from the University of Winnipeg. During her tenure as Director, the Centre has seen many changes, bringing it to the Centre of Excellence it is today. As the new director, I hope to continue the high standards the Centre has become known for under her direction.

Following my appointment as Director of the Centre by Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg, at the 2010 Colloquium banquet, I began my tenure as the new director. During this time of transition, as Dr. Brown will stay on as a member of the Advisory Council I am taking advantage of her experience and spending this year as "Director-in-Training," so to speak. Over this time, I hope to settle into this new responsibility and carry on in the tradition of excellence Dr. Brown has established.

With Jennifer Brown's retirement from the university next year, Canada Research Chair funding for Centre assistance, and regretfully for Dr. Susan Gray's CRC Research Associate position, will come to an end. We shall maintain our space, facilities, and activities, but our capacities for staffing and the processing of research requests, for clerical work, and for the maintenance of the CRLS website and the organizing of colloquiums will be much at risk. This fact makes your memberships and donations all the more important; please also see Jennifer Brown's following message on this point.

For economic and logistical reasons, we have decided to hold the 2012 Colloquium in Winnipeg once more, it being also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Red River Settlement. We are looking at mid-June dates, but would appreciate any inputs about plausible dates, date conflicts to avoid, etc. We will announce a decision as soon as possible.

This past October, a wonderful new book, *Gathering Places: Aboriginal and Fur Trade Histories* was launched at the Ethnohistory Conference in Ottawa; a tribute to Jennifer Brown's exceptional career and mentorship. Please see the books section later in this issue for more details. Jennifer Brown and Susan Gray have also produced two excellent volumes centred around the

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### *The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies*

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## ***Director's Message***

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Berens River region and the lives and work of Chief Jacob Berens and anthropologist A. Irving Hallowell. Information on these is also available in the books section.

In closing, and on a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer Brown for her dedication to the Centre, and her confidence in me. Her scholarship, her mentorship, and her friendship over the years we have known each

other have been invaluable. We first met when I came to Winnipeg as her student in 1999. Over the years we have worked together at the Centre, first when I was named the 2001 Harington Fellow, and later on, in 2003, with the Louis Bird, "Our Voices" project. We became colleagues in the history department when I joined the faculty full-time in 2005 and were again able to work closely together at the Centre in 2007, when I served as Acting Director during

her sabbatical. Throughout this time, I have valued and benefited from Jennifer's help and guidance, her insights, generosity, and support. In taking on the responsibilities of the Director of the Centre, I am keenly aware of the footsteps in which I will be following in.

With best wishes for the coming holidays and the New Year.

Roland Bohr

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## ***A Farewell and an Invitation***

***Jennifer S.H. Brown***

Notice that the Director's Message you have just read is under a new name! Please give a warm welcome to my colleague, Professor Roland Bohr, Department of History, University of Winnipeg, who was appointed last summer as the Director of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, to assure a smooth transition as I approach retirement in the summer of 2011. Roland is known to many of you through his involvement with the Centre and our activities. Coming from Germany to Manitoba for his doctoral studies, he was a CRLS Harington Fellow. On completing his dissertation,

he began teaching Aboriginal and Canadian history at the University of Winnipeg. He has pursued innovative research with Louis Bird and other Aboriginal teachers, and his courses, particularly in the area of Aboriginal material culture, are adding new dimensions to our understandings of the history of the Hudson Bay watershed.

We are working to assure continuity and means of support for the Centre and its work as we look ahead. While Roland takes on the directorship, I will continue as General Editor of the Rupert's Land Record

Society documentary series, which we co-publish with McGill-Queen's University Press. Please see the enclosed MQUP flyer, announcing our outstanding new volume, edited by John S. Long: *Treaty No. 9: Making the Agreement to Share the Land in Far Northern Ontario in 1905*. The flyer offers our current members a special discount on this and other books in the series, as well as on MQUP books of related interest, so please do take advantage of it.

Regarding "current members": I want to emphasize, as outgoing

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## *A Farewell and an Invitation*

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director, that memberships are and donations are essential pillars of support for the Centre; we cannot survive without them. As preparations for the Colloquium of May 2010 consumed our spring, you did not receive a spring Newsletter; this is a double issue. So we missed the chance to solicit and remind you about your 2010 renewals. Please renew now, and at the same time, renew for 2011, while it comes to mind! Our dues have not gone up for several years; at \$25 per year, \$50 will cover these two years and will be deeply appreciated. See the membership form in this Newsletter (along with the order info for the Papers of the 2008 and 2010 Colloquiums, now available).

After my Canada Research Chair ends in May of 2011, the funds that have supported Dr. Susan Gray as CRC Research

Associate, and have covered three days a week of our assistants' salaries, will no longer be available; nor will the funds that have helped cover office supplies and equipment and other expenses. Also, while the University now allows the Director to receive some release from teaching if his department approves, the Centre must pay for that release. (And from long experience, I know such relief is essential!) This all means that donations become more critical than ever, along with support from memberships and from the surpluses our recent Colloquiums have generated.

I therefore am putting forward an invitation and an opportunity. Wilson Brown and I are pledging a gift of some substance to the Centre for 2011. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with me directly, as soon as

possible, so we can work together to assure sufficient funds for the Centre for this transition year and for the future. Depending on responses, we could then set a goal and invite others to help us reach it. These funds would be kept available in a current account (unless we get a major gift surprise), as endowments yield such low returns these days.

I have greatly enjoyed and learned from being the director of the Centre for the last 15 years. I am most grateful for all the support and friendship received, and look forward to staying in touch. The Centre is a special place that holds a unique niche in northern Indigenous and fur trade studies. With your help, it will long continue and flourish.

Jennifer S.H. Brown

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## *Announcements*

It is with great pleasure that the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies announces the arrival of two new members!

Tyson Alexander was born March 19, 2010 in Ontario and was placed with Heidi Bohaker and Claude Morin on the 31st of March.

Scott and Susan Stephen are thrilled to welcome Timothy Laurence Brown Stephen, who was born November 29, 2010.

Congratulations to both families!

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### *Now Available!*

Papers of the Rupert's Land Colloquium 2008 **AND** 2010 CDs are member-priced at \$15 each, or \$25 for both years. (Non-members pay \$20 for each) See the book form for ordering and shipping information.

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## ***News from The Hudson's Bay Company Archives***

**Maureen Dolyniuk**  
*Manager, Hudson's Bay Company  
Archives*

### ***Mapping Manitoba Exhibit***



The HBCA and the Archives of Manitoba (AM) were very pleased to host two of the Rupert's Land Colloquium sessions last May. Hopefully some of you who attended these sessions had a chance to take in our new exhibit in the foyer of the Manitoba Archives Building. The exhibit showcases reproductions of some of the rare maps held by the HBCA and AM. The exhibit demonstrates how maps have played a central role in creating a visual representation of the province through the course of its history. From the 1709 Samuel Thornton map, Hudson Bay and Straits, to the 1873 map of the 'Postage Stamp Province,' cartographers, explorers, surveyors and many other individuals have created maps that described transportation routes, planned

settlements and defined the boundaries of this province. If you were not able to take in the exhibit in May, it is not too late. The exhibit will be open until at least October 2011 and can be visited any time during our normal business hours.

### ***Canadian Museum of Civilization extends exhibition on the North West Company to February 2011***

In the last newsletter we reported that HBCA had loaned to the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) in Hull several iconic records for its exhibition: ***Profit and Ambition: The Canadian Fur Trade 1779-1821***. The exhibit opened 11 September 2009 and was originally scheduled to close in September 2010 but has now being extended to February 2011. More than 36,000 visitors toured the exhibit in the first six months of its opening (September 2009-March 2010). A travelling version of the exhibit is planned following the close of this venue. For further updates visit the CMC website: <http://www.civilization.ca/cmc/whats-on/event-detail&EventId=307>.

### ***Website***

Several enhancements were made to the Archives of Manitoba website over the past few months. These include improved searching options between the relational databases that make up the Keystone online database system, providing a more seamless approach for persons searching for information. The capacity to save searches and forward them by email, print or download the saved search has been added. Additionally, the Keystone online database is soon to be searchable through Google. The archives also launched a new Rearview Manitoba web exhibit highlighting the journal and scrapbook of Gertrude Perrin who travelled as a tourist on board the HBC supply ship, *Nascopie* in 1936: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/rearview/perrin/index.html>.

### ***Weekend Film Series highlights the Hudson's Bay Company's impact on the Canadian North***

"In the Shadow of the Company", a weekend film series presented by the Winnipeg Film Group February 5-7, 2010 at Winnipeg's

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## ***Hudson's Bay Company Archives***

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Cinematheque theatre explored the Hudson's Bay Company's impact in the Canadian north over three-plus centuries. The series was built around original archival film footage produced by HBC during the early part of the 20th century and still photographs some of which were incorporated into modern documentary films. The screenings attracted filled to capacity audiences over the course of the weekend. This even demonstrated the potential for use of film and photographic archives for entertainment, as an art form

and to provide an opportunity to explore the compelling stories they document. Due to the popularity of this event, further screenings are being considered.

### ***Hours***

Research Room hours are **Monday to Friday, 9:00-16:00** throughout the year. We are closed for inventory for one week, the first full week in September after Labour Day. Researchers traveling from out of town are encouraged to check with the Archives before planning a visit.

### ***Contact Information***

Maureen Dolyniuk, Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Archives of Manitoba, 130-200 Vaughan St., Winnipeg MB R3C 1T5  
HBCA general - telephone: (204) 945-4949, fax: 948-3236, e-mail: hbca@gov.mb.ca  
Maureen's direct telephone and e-mail: (204) 945-2620, maureen.dolyniuk@gov.mb.ca

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## ***News from The Manitoba Museum***

***Katherine Pettipas  
Curator***

### ***New Exhibit at The Manitoba Museum features Highlights from the Paul Kane Artifact Collection***

*The principal object in my undertaking was to sketch pictures of the principal chiefs, and their original costumes, to illustrate their manners and customs, and to represent the scenery of an almost unknown country.*

Paul Kane, *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America*. London, 1859.

### ***Adventures of the Frontier Artist: The Paul Kane Collection***

is an exhibit featured in The Manitoba Museum's Discovery Room until April 10, 2011. Artifacts from The Manitoba Museum's collection are featured along with reproductions of images from art work produced by Kane.

The remarkable legacy of Paul Kane, artist/adventurer and a founding father of Canadian art, is not generally

known. His documentation of peoples and places located in the "Old Northwest" is more familiar to academics and art specialists. This Toronto-based artist produced over 600 sketches during his travels around the Great Lakes (1845) and throughout the Hudson's Bay Company's trading empire (1846-48).

Working from his field sketches and artifact reference collection, Kane completed 100 oil paintings by 1856. While

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## The Manitoba Museum

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romanticized, these images still influence our perceptions of Aboriginal cultures. He published his adventures as *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America* in 1859.

In 1941, over 80 of Kane's artifacts were donated to The Manitoba Museum by Mrs. Jocelyn (Ralph) Baker, granddaughter of George W. Allan, the artist's Toronto patron. Kane depicted some of these objects in his paintings. Today, these reference "tools" are unique records of mid-nineteenth century Indigenous lifeways.

Unfortunately, Kane did not document most of his collecting activities. An Assiniboine bear-claw

neckpiece (Grasslands Gallery), a pipe, and shell pendants were gifts from prominent headmen. Kane bartered for many objects with European trade goods. He



also purchased items such as a pre-ordered northern Aleut gut skin hat and parka from the Hudson's Bay Company.

The exhibit presents an overview of several facets of Kane's life including his

development as an artist, his relationship with the Hudson's Bay Company, his corporate patron; and with George Allan, his private patron.

I would like to acknowledge the generous assistance of the Royal Ontario Museum and, especially Curator Kenneth Lister who participated with me in an inter-institutional exchange of materials for my exhibit and future publication. Kenneth's book on Paul Kane should

be published by year's end. Further details on the Kane collection at The Manitoba Museum is being prepared for publication in a future issue of the *American Indian Art Magazine*.

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## Conference Announcements

### Anishinaabewin Niizh

### Culture Movements, Critical Moments

February 25-26, 2011 at the Radisson in Sudbury, Ontario

*Anishinaabewin: Modes of Knowledge, Ways of Life* is a multidisciplinary culture conference presented by the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in February 2011 concerning issues of Anishinaabe arts, language, scholarship, spirituality and culture. Open to all!

Supported by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and by United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnis.

**\*\*Please note the deadline for early bird registration is January 21 2011\*\***

For full conference details and preview of the program you can visit [www.ojibweculture.ca](http://www.ojibweculture.ca)

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## *Jennifer Brown - An Appreciation*

*Dr. Harry Duckworth*

For many years I have admired Jennifer Brown. As the prospect of her retirement as Director of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies looms before us, it's a pleasure to be able to write down some of my thoughts.

The Centre for Rupert's Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg was begun in the early 1980s, with Tim Ball as founding Director. Professor Ball was a geographer, a man of wide interests and an entertaining lecturer. He saw the importance of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg, and felt that a Centre would encourage the use of that unique resource by those interested in the history of western Canada. For several years, the Centre was a splendid outlet for Tim Ball's energies, and among other things he began a publication program, and devised the Centre's biennial Colloquia that we have all come to enjoy so much.

When Tim Ball left the University, Jennifer Brown, a recent arrival in the History Department, took over as Director of the Centre. Jennifer was a very different type, an historian with a well-focused and sophisticated

research program in the history of natives and fur traders in western Canada. She was well placed and well qualified to make full use of the opportunities that the Centre afforded.

Jennifer continued the Centre's publications program, at first with occasional monographs, but soon hit on the idea of a documentary series, in which the emphasis was on edited versions of original manuscripts illustrating aspects of the history of Rupert's Land. To ensure that the publications were of high quality and respected, she negotiated co-publication agreements with academic publishers, especially the McGill-Queen's University Press. The program has led to authoritative editions of several fur trade journals, notably George Nelson's Wisconsin journals (edited by Laura Peers and Theresa Schenck) and the North West Company's journals from the Mackenzie River District (Lloyd Keith's "North of Athabasca"). More volumes in the documentary series are currently in the pipeline. Jennifer's sympathetic but persistent encouragement of her editors has been an

important factor in seeing these valuable volumes through to completion.

The activities of the Centre with the highest profile, during Jennifer's tenure as Director, have been the Colloquia, held every second year. Each Colloquium attracts new participants, but for those who attend regularly, it's a recurrent pleasure to reunite, meet and socialize, and exchange formal and informal accounts of our latest enthusiasms. The Colloquia have been in interesting places – Whitehorse, Fort Vancouver, Oxford, Norway House, Kenora, and Rocky Mountain House spring to mind – and Jennifer has always been able to identify a local organizing committee that provides a comfortable meeting location and an entertaining mix of extracurricular events. An unusual feature of the Rupert's Land Colloquia has always been how welcoming and inclusive the Colloquia are to those who wish to present their work: seasoned professional scholars, beginning graduate students, and a variety of diligent amateurs all find places on the program. I am certain that the encouraging and supportive atmosphere of the Rupert's Land Colloquia

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## ***An Appreciation***

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owes much to Jennifer Brown's deliberate policy, and to her personal approach to the world.

This brings me to my final point. Anyone who has spent much time interacting with the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies is well aware of the vibrant circle of Jennifer Brown's friends. Some made her acquaintance through the Colloquia, or through a visit to Winnipeg where Jennifer helped to facilitate their research, but most are

students or former students of hers, whose affection for her does not fade. Through her undergraduate and graduate teaching, and her mentoring of the Centre's Harington Fellows, Jennifer has instilled in many developing scholars a sense that they are becoming a part of a significant community. From her they have learned a respect for history, of course. But her example has also shown them the value of high personal integrity, and the importance of

encouraging others -- qualities that Jennifer brings to every task or relationship. She and her husband, Wilson, are unfailingly hospitable and generous; Wilson, working usually behind the scenes, has more than earned the Centre's gratitude for the many things he has done for it. All in all, the fifteen years that Jennifer Brown has served as Director of the Centre for Rupert's Land Studies, have been for all those who know her a kind of golden age.

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## ***The Rupert's Land Colloquium 2010: A Reflection***

*Patricia Harms, Brandon University*

The Rupert's Land 2010 Colloquium marked a significant turning point for the Centre and its members. The 2010 meeting was the last Colloquium under Jennifer Brown's directorship. Her leadership has been valued by all involved with the Centre and she has broken new ground in approaches to Aboriginal research. Her publication, with Susan Elaine Gray, of *Memories, Myths and Dreams of an Ojibwe Leader* (2009) is an excellent example. This book, which highlights the collaboration of Chief William Berens and anthropologist

A Irving Hallowell, is an invaluable historical document and cultural artifact, recording conversations about and between two world views. Berens and Hallowell were unlikely allies, building bridges of communication within a landscape dominated by conflict and misunderstanding between Aboriginal people and outsiders.

Brown's urging that all voices be heard and integrated in doing Aboriginal history was strongly in evidence in our 2010 Colloquium panel, "Transitions: Ojibwe

Communities and Stories from Berens River." Here, we brought together historically antagonistic voices of anthropologists, historians, and missionaries interacting with the Anishinaabeg. The panel combined academic expertise and personal lived experiences; and wise elders and childhood memories. Charles Bishop, whose contributions to our knowledge of the Ojibwe in northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba have been so valuable, served as chairperson and mentor. Susan Elaine Gray gave voice to stories of women in story and life, illustrating

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## ***The Rupert's Land Colloquium***

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the power and complexity of Ojibwe gender roles. Perhaps most significantly, Gray illustrated how these stories serve to counterbalance both past and contemporary perceptions of powerless and invisible aboriginal women. Patricia Harms integrated her childhood memories of the fur trade at the Ojibwe community of Pauingassi with archival research in Hudson's Bay Company records to demonstrate the lasting social and political significance of the fur trade into the contemporary period in the region.

Henry Neufeld and his son Gerald Neufeld offered unique contributions to the discussion. A long-time resident and

missionary in Pauingassi, Henry Neufeld arrived there in 1955 at the invitation of elders, to establish a school and mission in the community. Fluent in Anishinaabemowin, Neufeld possesses a deep knowledge of the community's history and culture, gleaned from his long friendships with many elders who have now passed on. His talk focused on his struggle to educate children in the Anishinaabe language, challenging Indian Affairs policy of English-only instruction. As he accurately pointed out, we now see, some fifty years later, that the Canadian government is spending large sums to restore aboriginal languages lost through the monolingual

policy that Neufeld fought against.

The panel brought forward aboriginal stories and encounters recorded through some unusual collaborations among academic historians, anthropologists and missionaries. Stories and memories came alive through talk, music, and photographs. We generated as many new questions as conclusions, illustrating the need for more such conversations. My personal thanks to Jennifer Brown for her assistance in bringing this panel together, with hopes for many future collaborations and conversations.

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## ***A New Look for David Thompson's "Map of the North-West Territory"***

***David Malaher***

Would you like to have a map that does not crease or wrinkle, won't tear, and lies flat on the table when you unroll it? The bigger the map, the better it sounds. I now have two of them, one is 3 x 4 feet and the other is 4 x 6 ½ feet – both are modern copies of David Thompson's famous map at the Archives of Ontario known

as "Map of the North-West Territory of the Province of Canada"

What's the secret about such a well behaved map? Vinyl! The map material is thin vinyl "cloth" of the same general type used for commercial signs and canopies. This discovery in

the small world of historic maps was made during the past summer while working on research and analysis of Thompson's map. Attendees at the Map Soirée during the Colloquium will recall seeing a near-full scale copy of a map, but that one was taped together from ten paper sheets. Discovery of the new vinyl

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## ***A New Look*** continued from page 10

map occurred just three weeks later in Atikokan, ON, when Don Meany unexpectedly presented me with the 3 x 4 foot version mentioned above. I was totally surprised by both the gift and the material properties

Don and son Spencer run the XY Paddle Company manufacturing a variety of paddles for canoe and kayak enthusiasts all over the world. An irrepressible innovator, Don has taken his paddle talents and enthusiasm for voyageur history into demonstrating that old maps can have a new life when printed on vinyl.

With Don's nudge into modern materials and printing processes, a second, larger vinyl copy was made later in the summer. The aim is to move the size up to Thompson's original dimensions of nearly 8 ft. x 12 ft. The vinyl sheet is available in this width, and larger, but the number of printing machines at that size is limited. The process is all digital. A

scanned or photographed file is stored on the sign printing machine and, with the right settings of speed and coloured ink control, a beautiful, strong, but compliant map comes out several (hours) minutes later.



***Rosemary Malaher & Don Meany in Atikokan, ON  
June 11, 2010, with vinyl cloth printing of David  
Thompson's "Map of the North-West Territory  
of the Province of Canada" Archives of Ontario,  
AO 1541, circa 1816***

The next objective is to make a seamless digital file of the only other known Thompson map of the entire west, believed to be from around 1826, that contains several updates based on new information he generated while serving as Astronomer for the British on the international boundary survey from 1816 to 1826. This is the

same map that Andy Korsos showed and described to us at the Map Soirée in May. The original map of this version is in very good condition at the National Archives in the UK known as "A Map of North America from 84 Degrees West to the Pacific Ocean" FO 925/4622.

Research by Andy continues to bring out new information and has opened the opportunity to investigate the latest vinyl printing material. Andy's group of participants has expanded since the Colloquium from three to five. The two vinyl copies of the 1816 map have been shown

to audiences over the summer in presentations about David Thompson and his exploits as a surveyor in the fur trade and boundary commission. They travel really well!

Longer term ambitions are to have more details available for the next Rupert's Land Colloquium, in 2012, and possibly to produce a full size map of the 1826 version.

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With its updated information, the NA-UK map shows the remarkable, wide ranging geographic details known to Thompson as early as 1825. Without the ability to see the map in its full size it might not

be possible to understand its total content. Andy is pushing the technology needed to create high accuracy digital files needed to print such a large map. It may be possible that a full scale copy can be

displayed at the North West Company, in Winnipeg, where it could be viewed by many historians and people interested in how the west was mapped.

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## **Exhibit Review: *Profit and Ambition: The Canadian Fur Trade, 1779-1821*,**

*Canadian Museum of Civilization, Ottawa, ON, 11 September 2009 to 6 February 2011, curated by David A. Morrison, lead designer Stewart Bailey, INTUDESIGN.*  
<http://www.civilization.ca/cmcc/exhibitions/cmcc/profit/profitambitione.shtml>

*Reviewed by Paul Thistle*

Shooting the Rapids, the iconic painting by Frances Anne Hopkins illustrating a Montréal canoe plunging down a standing wave en route to Fort William, launches visitors into the Canadian Museum of Civilization's (CMC) exhibition *Profit and Ambition*. Centred around a replica of the 10-metre-long 5 tonne capacity Montréal canoe or canot du maître, the exhibition focusses on the short but significant 40 year history of the North West Company (NWC). The iconic introductory image, two other famous Hopkins original oil paintings of voyageur life, canoes, the maps, other graphics, and floor plan all emphasise the herculean human effort required to

overcome the difficult logistics presented by the 7,000 kilometre return trip supply line of the NWC between Montreal and Lake Athabaska—eventually extended across the entire continent.

The multi-ethnic “vertical mosaic” of the NWC is clearly portrayed using formal portraits of Simon McTavish, Alexander Mackenzie, and William Simon McGillivray. These counterpoint artifacts associated with the French Canadian voyageurs, Métis buffalo hunters, Aboriginal fur producers, and country wives who became the critical social brokers for the NWC.

A poignant and instructive interpretative walking play *A Trick of Truth* by Steven Gin winds its way through the exhibition. It adds important insights into the lives of the men and women of the fur trade and should not be missed as part of the experience.

Somewhat surprisingly, the exhibition contains a section on the rival Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). This is highlighted by the unknown artist's late 1700s painted panel from York Factory illustrating the relatively comfortable and comparatively static existence of the HBC.

Of course, among the 250 artifacts and works of art are a

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## *Profit and Ambition*

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requisite number of fur trade items, but a surprising number are attributed to the HBC. This is rather disappointing, given the prevalence of exhibitions of HBC materials already on view across Western Canada and the existence of collections of NWC artifacts, for example those resulting from underwater archaeology at Winnipeg River rapids NWC canoe upset sites (Lockery, 1978).

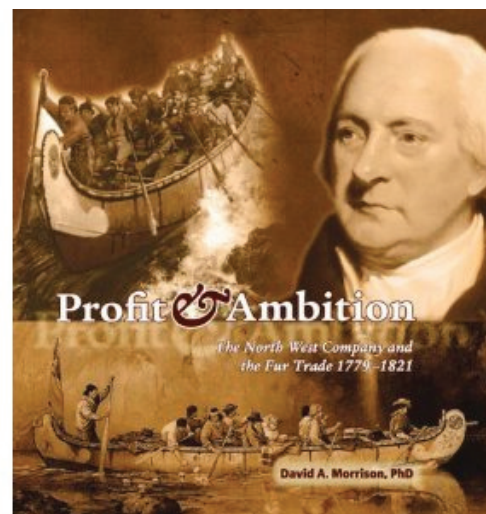
Another opportunity missed by the exhibition is a more nuanced interpretation concerning Native peoples' use of/dependence on European trade goods. Label copy refers to trade that had "by 1759, . . . radically altered Native life in the region." Striking artifacts on display, however, actually contradict this assertion. The obvious syncretism that combines a metal trade knife with Native materials and motifs in porcupine quills (not glass trade beads) on the knife sheath and pouch displayed with it demonstrates more "accommodation" than "radical change."

A similar label associated with a trade musket states: "For Aboriginal peoples, guns quickly replaced the bow and arrow for most methods of

hunting, . . ." Sadly, this overlooks long-accepted academic work to the contrary (Given 1995; Ray 1974, 79 *passim*).

To accompany the exhibition, curator David A. Morrison also has written a particularly handsome 64-page book *Profit & Ambition: The North West Company and the Fur Trade, 1779-1821* (Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 2009, \$19.95). It is strikingly designed using sharp high quality images of the art and artifacts in the exhibition. Even many of the historic maps can be read without a hand lens. Obviously popular, the English edition of the book was sold out on the day this reviewer visited the exhibition.

The book does present a good summary of the "vertical mosaic" human resources structure of the NWC. However, in the case of Aboriginal trappers, it asserts that the trade "had a significant effect on local economies, as people now spent much of the winter (when furs were prime) pursuing beaver and other fur-bearing animals, to the neglect of traditional activities such as subsistence hunting and



fishing" (p. 37). This statement depends on a debatable over-generalisation—especially for the time period 1779-1821 covered (cf. Thistle 1993, 127-9).

The book also provides a welcome reminder about the McGill University Digital Collections Programme web site, In Pursuit of Adventure: The Fur Trade in Canada and the North West Company. This site presents images of the original NWC manuscript pages combined with searchable full-text transcriptions and other valuable resources at <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/nwc/>.

Although the book and exhibition have minor shortcomings, both are well worth inspection. CMC has extended the exhibition run

*continued on page 12*



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## ***Profit and Ambition***

*continued from page 13*

until early February 2011. A travelling exhibition also is in the works.

### References

Given, Brian J. 1995. *A most pernicious thing: Gun trading and Native warfare in the early contact period*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press.

Lockery, Andrew R. 1978. Fast water archaeology in the Winnipeg River, Manitoba, Canada : A methodology for the location mapping and recovery of artefacts. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 7(4): 321-332.

Ray, Arthur J. 1974. *Indians in the fur trade: Their roles as hunters, trappers and middlemen in the lands southwest of Hudson Bay, 1660-1870*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Thistle, Paul C. 1993. Dependence and Control: Indian-European Trade Relations in the Post-Kelsey Era. In *Three hundred prairie years: Henry Kelsey's "inland country of good report,"* ed. Henry Epp. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina.

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## ***HEARNE wins four awards at the Trebas International Student Film Festival***

Written, produced, directed by Virginia Barter, HEARNE is the story of the 18th century English explorer Samuel Hearne and the French attack on Fort Prince of Wales (Churchill) and York Factory on the shores of Hudson Bay in 1782. Against the backdrop of the American Revolution, the story is told from the perspective of the French Admiral, Jean François de Galaup, comte de Lapérouse, who destroys the English fur trading posts and takes Samuel Hearne prisoner. In the course of the campaign, Lapérouse discovers Hearne's incredible journals of his two-year expedition from Hudson Bay to the Arctic coast (1770-1772). The intriguing and immense challenges

of Hearne's mission are revealed as Lapérouse reads the journals. The two men become friends. Lapérouse rises above the politics of the day and agrees to let Hearne go, under the condition that he return to England and have his journals published. It is a story of honour and friendship. But as Lapérouse concludes, their greatest challenges are yet to come. No one dies as a result of battle, but thousands would die as a consequence.

Barter's short film won four awards at the Trebas International Student Film Festival, held in September, including **Best Picture; Best Music; Best Sound Design, and Best Actor** to Stephen Cullen who played Samuel Hearne.



Pictures and the film's trailer are available on Virginia's website, [http://web.me.com/virginia\\_barter](http://web.me.com/virginia_barter). Any comments and feedback are welcomed and appreciated.

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## ***Remembrance Marker Erected for Isaac Batt and his Cree Country Wife***

***Cliff Spence, Descendant of Isaac Batt***

***Photography by Peter Melnycky***

In the early afternoon Sunday, September 19, 2010 a small group of descendants met and unveiled a small marker at Pikes Peak, Saskatchewan, which is a high hill located approximate 20 miles northwest of Maidstone, Saskatchewan. The marker was placed to honour the memory of Isaac Batt, a Hudson's Bay Company trader for approximately 35 years, who was killed on the site of Pikes Peak by Indians. The memory of his Cree country wife is also honoured - she may have been killed at the same time.

The short program included a brief explanation of the significance of the site of Pikes Peak, introductions of key local people who made the installation of the marker

possible, a moving prayer before the unveiling, and two beautiful violin pieces played



***Violin Soloist Amber Gordon playing in front of the Isaac Batt Marker***

by a young female descendant, Amber Gordon.

Following the unveiling, the group moved to the clubhouse of Silver Lake Golf Course for coffee and refreshments and a review of the key historical information relating to Isaac and his wife. Some of those in attendance also visited the site of the marker on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River which overlooks and explains the historical significance of Pine Island, where several forts and trading posts including Manchester House of the HBC were located during the latter part of the 1700's. Isaac Batt, accompanied by others, had departed from Manchester House on the hunting trip which ultimately led to his death.

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## ***New in Print***

***"Letters from the Fort William Jesuit Mission 1848-1862" and "Fort William Jesuit Mission House Diary": Translated by Shelley Pearen and Fr. Bill Lonc***

A book launch was held at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, September 9, 2010 for Shelley Pearen and Fr. Bill Lonc and their latest two books in their series regarding Manitoulin Anishinaabe history from the perspective of the Jesuit missionaries who lived with and proselytized the Anishinabeg. At the launch, Fr. Lonc delivered a biographical presentation about the Jesuits from that era. Regrettably, Mrs. Pearen could not attend. She did, however, prepare a presentation detailing the information gleaned from the letters regarding the Robinson Treaties. Alan Corbiere also delivered a brief presentation on the Robinson Huron Treaty.

Copies of the series can be purchased by contacting Fr. Bill Lonc at [wlonc@jesuits.ca](mailto:wlonc@jesuits.ca).

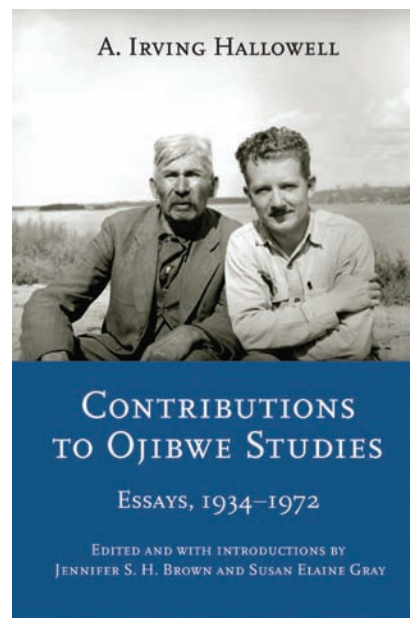
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## New in Print

**A. Irving Hollowell, edited with introductions by Jennifer S.H. Brown and Susan Elaine Gray: *Contributions to Ojibwe Studies Essays, 1934-1972***

From 1930 to 1940, A. Irving Hollowell, a professor of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, made repeated summer fieldwork visits to Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba, and to the Ojibwe community of Berens River on its east side. He traveled up that river several times to other Ojibwe communities as well, under the guidance of William Berens, the treaty chief at Berens River from 1917 to 1947 and eventually Hollowell's closest collaborator. *Contributions to Ojibwe Studies*, edited and with introductions by Jennifer S. H. Brown and Susan Elaine Gray, presents twenty-eight of

Hollowell's writings focusing on the Berens River Ojibwes. This collection is the first time that the majority of Hollowell's otherwise widely dispersed Ojibwe essays have been gathered into a single volume, thus providing a focused, in-depth view of his contributions to our knowledge and understanding of a vital North American aboriginal people. This volume also contributes to the history of North American anthropology, since Hollowell's approaches to and analyses of his findings shed light on his role in the shifting intellectual currents in anthropology over four decades.



For more information, see  
University of Nebraska Press  
<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu>

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**Ilya Vinkovetsky: *Russian America, An Overseas Colony of a Continental Empire 1804-1867***

Russian America was effectively transformed from a remote extension of Russia's Siberian frontier penetrated mainly by Siberianized Russians into an ostensibly modern overseas colony operated by Europeanized Russians. This book examines how Russians conceived and practiced the colonial rule that resulted from this transformation. Under the rule of the Russian-American

Company, the colony was governed on different terms from the rest of the empire, a hybrid of elements carried over from Siberia and those imported from rival colonial systems. This approach was particularly evident in Russian strategies to convert the indigenous peoples of Russian America into loyal subjects of the Russian Empire. The first comprehensive history bringing together the history

of Russia, the history of colonialism, and the history of contact between native peoples and Europeans on the American frontier, this work is invaluable for understanding the history of Alaska before its sale to the United States.

Forthcoming from Oxford University Press, April 2011.

For more information, please see [www.oup.com/us](http://www.oup.com/us)

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***Be sure to check the insert in this newsletter for special offers for Rupert's Land members on select McGill-Queen's University Press volumes***

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## New in Print

*piko kîkway ê-nakacihtât: kêkêk otâcimowina ê-nêhiyawastêki mitoni ê-âh-itwêt mâna Cecilia Masuskapoe, itasinahamiyiwa ôhi nîso, H.C. Wolfart êkwa Freda Ahenakew*

**Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics, Memoir 21 2010**

This book is the first collection of authentic Cree prose to be published entirely in the original language, in Plains Cree. The title – which can be translated into English as: There’s nothing she can’t do: The Reminiscences of Cecilia Masuskapoe, published in Cree – reflects the respect and admiration that all who know her hold for *kêkêk*, as she is called in Cree.

The reminiscences and

historical accounts preserved in this book were recorded between 1988 and 1996. In presenting the text unaltered, in a form that reflects the *viva voce* performance as closely as print permits, the editors respect the speaker’s prerogative to keep her own history. Like their earlier collections of Cree texts, this book documents an autonomous representation of what actually happened.

**Pp. vi, 178, illustrated; ISBN 978-0-921064-21-3 \$30 [Price includes carriage; not subject to GST/PST; no discounts or returns; for orders outside of Canada the price is to be read as US\$ or Euro; cheques payable to University of Manitoba - Voices of Rupert’s Land Fund]**

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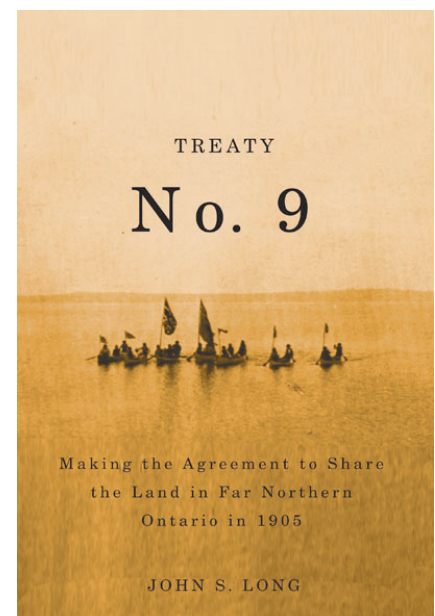
### **John Long: *Treaty No. 9: Making the Agreement to Share the Land in Far Northern Ontario in 1905***

For more than a century, the vast lands of Northern Ontario have been shared among the governments of Canada, Ontario, and the First Nations who signed Treaty No. 9 in 1905. For just as long, details about the signing of the constitutionally recognized agreement have been known only through the accounts of two of the commissioners appointed by the Government of Canada. Treaty No. 9 provides a truer perspective on the treaty by adding the neglected account of a third commissioner and tracing the treaty’s origins, negotiation, explanation, interpretation, signing, implementation, and

recent commemoration. Restoring nearly forgotten perspectives to the historical record, John Long considers the methods used by the government of Canada to explain Treaty No. 9 to Northern Ontario First Nations. He shows that many crucial details about the treaty’s contents were omitted in the transmission of writing to speech, while other promises were made orally but not included in the written treaty. Reproducing the three treaty commissioners’ personal journals in their entirety, Long reveals the contradictions that suggest the treaty parchment was never fully explained to

the First Nations who signed it.

Please see the Rupert’s Land Record Society Series insert for more information





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## New in Print

Carolyn Podruchny and Laura Peers, eds., *Gathering Places: Aboriginal and Fur Trade Histories*



*Gathering Places* presents some of the most innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to metis, fur trade, and First Nations history being practised today. Whether they are discussing dietary practices on the Plateau, trees as cultural and geographical markers in the trade, the meanings of totemic signatures, issues of representation in public history, or the writings of Aboriginal anthropologists and historians, the authors link archival, archaeological, material, oral, and ethnographic evidence to offer novel explorations that extend beyond earlier scholarship centred on the archive. They draw on Aboriginal perspectives, material forms of evidence, and personal approaches to history to illuminate cross-cultural encounters and challenge older approaches to the past.

**\*\**Gathering Places* includes contributions from many of our Centre's members and associates including: Heidi Bohaker, Jennifer Brown, Kevin Brownlee, Heather Devine, Susan Elaine Gray, Laura Peers, Carolyn Podruchny, Theresa Schenck, Germaine Warkentin, and Cory Willmott.\*\***

For a full table of contents and more information, see University of British Columbia Press at [http://www.ubcpress.ca/search/title\\_book.asp?BookID=299173168](http://www.ubcpress.ca/search/title_book.asp?BookID=299173168)

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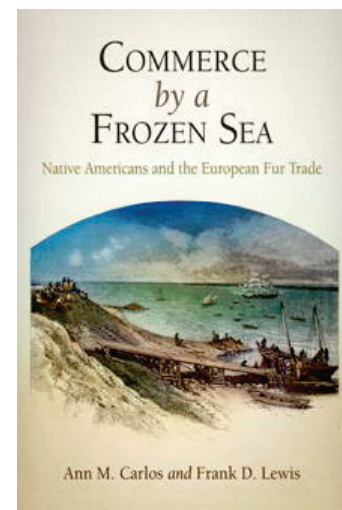
Ann M. Carlos and Frank D. Lewis: *Commerce by a Frozen Sea Native Americans and the European Fur Trade*

*Commerce by a Frozen Sea* is a cross-cultural study of a century of contact between North American native peoples and Europeans. During the eighteenth century, the natives of the Hudson Bay lowlands and their European trading partners were brought together by an increasingly popular trade in furs, destined for the hat and fur markets of Europe. Native Americans were the sole trappers of furs, which they traded to English and French merchants. The trade

gave Native Americans access to new European technologies that were integrated into Indian lifeways. What emerges from this detailed exploration is a story of two equal partners involved in a mutually beneficial trade.

For more information, see University of Pennsylvania Press

<http://www.upenn.edu/penpress/book/14718.html>





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