



Rupert's Land
Research Centre

NEWSLETTER

University of Winnipeg:
515 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 2E9



Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 2

Although there is no specific schedule for the publication of the Newsletter I sense that there has been too long a pause; however, I suspect that my explanation will be of great envy to many. I had the distinct pleasure of leading a tour of 22 people, many who are descendants of Selkirk settlers or Hudson's Bay Company employees, or who had been Company employees themselves, through England and Scotland in search of vestiges of history of the Company.

The tour began and ended in Winnipeg but in between we travelled from London to the Orkney Isles and thence back to London. It is probably more accurate to say that we visited what had been the sites of greater glories, a reality that was brought home on the first day when we attended a fur auction in what are still called the Hudson's Bay Company Fur Auctions but are now owned by a Scandinavian conglomeration of Swedish and Finnish enterprises. There were virtually no furs from Canada on hand although the warehouse was full of silver fox and mink pelts that were being auctioned that day. Most of them ostensibly came from fur farms in Poland although there was some intimation that Russia was also a possible point of origin.

I suppose that this is logical in the way that "what goes around comes around" because Russia and Europe had been the source of furs for western Europe before the North American influx began. The turn around was significant in another way because prior to leaving for England I had attended the ceremony marking the sale of the Hudson's Bay Company Northern Stores to a new Company that had hoped to use the name the North West Company as its public title. The date of this ceremony was May the 2nd in commemoration of the granting of the original charter in 1670. Unfortunately, although the point was mentioned in one of the speeches I doubt that many knew the significance of the date and the organizers were remiss in not elaborating. Similarly, I imagine that even fewer realized that the May 2nd date was under the Old Calendar but as with all of these things the ceremony is the thing. As Marshall McLuhan understood, the medium is the message.

Fears arose from the sale of the various portions of the Company about the status of the original charter but these were put to rest when it was determined that it still resided in the vault of the remaining portion of the HBC (apparently secure in a safe in the company office in Toronto). Interesting questions also arise about the status of the records of the

**The Lake St. Louis Historical Society
(Fifth North American Fur Trade Conference)**

Victoria Stewart, who was the driving force behind the very successful Fifth North American Fur Trade Conference in May 1985, has sent out a circular announcing the publication of the Selected Papers. The full title is, "Le Castor Fait Tout", Selected Papers of the Fifth North American Fur Trade Conference, 1985. The cost of the publication for those who attended the Conference is \$13.89 per copy plus postage and handling. This would suggest that they are being offered at cost, something that is to be commended in these days of spiralling publication costs. If you wish to receive a copy please write to Victoria M. Stewart at;

Casier Postal 1024
Succursale 'A'
Montréal, Québec, Canada
H3C 2W9

Cheques should be made payable to the Lake St. Louis Historical Society and will be \$13.89 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling for a total of \$16.39.

I am not aware which papers were selected but I have received several requests for information about papers that were given, therefore you will find a list of the titles and the authors at the end of this Newsletter.

XX

Sixth North American Fur Trade Conference

In the circular announcing the Selected Papers Ms. Stewart also confirmed that the Sixth Fur Trade Conference will be held on Mackinac Island, Michigan in 1990. This is excellent news and if the interest in the Fur Trade continues to grow the numbers attending should make it a success. The location certainly is attractive and appropriate. If you wish to receive further information write to;

Mr. Charles Hoover,
Executive Director,
The Historical Society of Saginaw,
P.O. Box 390,
Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. 48606

XX

Publications of Interest to Our Members

The following items are in a Short List entitled *Canadiana No. 85* circulated by Johnson & Small Booksellers, Box 805 Station "E", Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. V8W 2P9. Prices in brackets are in Canadian dollars.

Arthur R.M. Lower., 1973. Great Britain's Woodyard. British America and the Timber Trade, 1763-1867. 271 p. (25.00)

Archer Martin 1898. The Hudson's Bay Company's Land Tenures and the Occupation of Assiniboia by Lord Selkirk's Settlers. With a List of Grantees under the Earl and the Company. 238 p. (200.00)

Gordon Speck 1963. Samuel Hearne and the Northwest Passage 337 p. (25.00)

The books listed below are produced by the University of Manitoba Press and are distributed by the University of Toronto Press. Canadian Orders can be made from;

University of Toronto Press
5201 Dufferin Street
Downsview, Ontario, Canada
M3H 5T8

American Orders are shipped from;

University of Toronto Press
33 East Tupper Street
Buffalo, New York, 14203

Paul C. Thistle., 1986, Indian-European Trade Relation in the Lower Saskatchewan Region 148 p. (17.50)

Jacqueline Peterson and Jennifer S. H. Brown (Editors), 1985, The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Métis in North America 306 p. (15.00) new paperback ed., 1987.

Jennifer S. H. Brown and Robert Brightman (Edited and with notes and introduction), 1987, George Nelson on Cree and Northern Ojibwa Religion and Myth, 1823 250 p. (25.00)

Mary Kinnear and Vera Fast., 1987, Planting the Garden. An Archival Bibliography of the History of Women in Manitoba 352 p. (35.00)

Freda Ahenakew., 1987, waskahikanowiyiniwâcimowina Stories of the House People 176 p. (25.00) (Ten Stories of the House People, Plains Cree from north of the North Saskatchewan River, in Cree and English)

XX

Conference Announcement

"Aboriginal Resource Use in Canada: Historical & Legal Aspects"

An interdisciplinary conference will be held at the University of Manitoba on January 21 to 24, 1988 to explore a variety of aspects of Indian and Inuit resource use in Canada. There will be approximately 24 papers and a round table at which representatives of the legal profession will discuss, "Advocates and Witnesses: Case Law and Aboriginal Resource Issues." Participants include historians, anthropologists, lawyers, political scientists and geographers from across Canada. Of course, there will be related social events, including a banquet (with a special guest speaker) and a bus tour following the presentations.

For further information, please contact Jean Friesen or Kerry Abel, Dept. of History, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB. Canada. R3T 2N2

XX

Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society

Elizabeth Arthur, a member of the Rupert's Land Research Centre, has published a monograph on Simon J. Dawson, C.E. (35 p.). His life is divided into three distinct periods. 1821-1857 covers the period from his birth in

Scotland to his career as a surveyor. 1857-1875 finds him very involved in the opening of a route to Red River as western expansion was being promoted by some politicians in eastern Canada. The final period, from 1875-1891, sees him actively involved in the political process as he represents the vast riding of Algoma. A brief epilogue follows from 1891 when his political career ended to his death in 1902.

I assume that the booklet is available from the Society but I have no knowledge of the cost.

T.B

XX

PAPERS OF THE 5TH NORTH AMERICAN FUR TRADE CONFERENCE

Charles A. Bishop., "The Origin of the Ojibwa: Social Boundaries, Exchange Networks and the Early French Fur Trade."

Shepard Krech III., "The Early Fur Trade in Northwestern Canada."

Trudy Nicks., "Native Responses to the Early Fur Trade at Lesser Slave Lake."

I. Irma Eckert., "The Early Fur Trade at York and Churchill - Implications for the Native People of the North Central Subarctic."

Dominique Legros., "Yukon Athapaskan Acculturation: The Insignificant Weight of the Fur Trade."

William J. Samarin., "Workers and Women in the Emergence of Chinook Jargon."

Alfred Van Peteghem., "The History of La Compagnie des Indes."

John D. Haeger., "John Jacob Astor and the Economic Significance of the American Fur Trade, 1783-1840."

James P. Ronda., "Astoria and Empire: The Origins of the Pacific Fur Company."

James A. Ketz and Katherine L. Arndt., "The Russian-American Company and Development of the Alaskan Copper River Fur Trade."

Pierrette Désy., "The Rise and Decline of Revillon Frères in the Canadian North."

Michèle Therrien., "Analyse critique des carnets de voyage du Capitaine Thierry Mallet, président de Revillon New York et fondateur en 1901 des premiers comptoirs de traite des fourrures."

Lawrence Lande., "Exhibit and Commentary: Documents Relating to the Fur Trade 1646-1820."

Jasper Lesage., "Gift and Administered Trade on the West Coast of Vancouver Island in the Late Eighteenth Century."

James R. Gibson., "Degeneralizing the "Maritime Fur Trade of the Northwest Coast."

François Trudel., "Les Inuits du Québec nordique et la traite des fourrures au 19e siècle."

Frank Tough., "The Economic Relationship Between the Indians of Northern Manitoba and the Hudson's Bay Company: 1885-1930."

William Schneider and David Libbey., "Fur Trapping and Trading on the North Slope of Alaska: An Historical Analysis."

Evadene B. Swanson., "The Fur Trade in Alaska During the Russian Administration."

Bruce Cox., "The French Run Away With Our Trade: Another look at Early Trade Statistics."

Jean Morrison., "The North West Company's "Yearly Disbursements in Cash from the Office in Montreal."

Bruce M. White., "Montreal Canoes and their Cargoes, 1760-1790."

Rande Scott Aaronson., "Voyageur Contracts - An Analysis."

Edouard Doucet., "Le Voyageur, propriétaire ou fils de propriétaire foncier."

Ann M. Carlos and Elizabeth Hoffman., "Bargaining to a Joint Profit Maximizing Duopoly Contract Under Incomplete Information: A Case Study from the North American Fur Trade 1804-1821."

Conrad R. Heidenreich., "The Spatial Growth of the Montreal Based Fur Trade, 1650-1760."

Denys Delâge., "Les Mohawks, les marchands et la contrebande."

Gratien Allaire., "Le commerce des fourrures et Montréal, 1701-1760."

Thomas Wien., "Menues pelleteries" or "Small Furrs": Price Structures and Competition Between the Traders of Montreal and Hudson Bay in the 18th Century."

Robert Delort., "Les fourrures en France au XVIe siècle et au début du XVIIe siècle."

L.G.Turgeon., "Les pêcheurs basques du Labourd et la commerce de la fourrure dans le Saint-Laurent aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles."

Ralph T. Pastore., "The Beothuk Anomaly: An Investigation of Beothuk-European Relations in Newfoundland."

Bernard Hoffman., "The Early Distribution of Fur Trade Posts, Stations and Shores: From the Early 16th Century to the Middle of the 19th, and the Possible Implications of this Distribution for the Development of the Guardian Spirit Concept."

Norman Clermont and Claude Chapdelaine., "Trading as a Way to Become Alike."

John Dickinson., "Old Routes and New Wares: The Advent of European Goods in the St. Lawrence Valley."

Frederick Fausz., "Forgotten Men with Fruitful Dreams: The Significance of the Chesapeake Bay Beaver Trade, 1580-1660."

James W. Bradley., "Native Exchange and European Trade: Cross-Cultural Dynamics in the 16th Century."

George Hamell., "Under(Water) World Wealth and European Trade Goods: Mythical Realities and Historical Metaphors in the Northeast."

Richard Inglis and James C. Haggarty., "Cook to Jewitt: An Anthropological View of Early Contact on the West Coast of Vancouver Island."

George F. MacDonald., "Cargo Cults on the Northwest Coast."

James T. Axtell., "The North American Fur Trades in the 16th Century: An Overview."

Peter Marshall., "The Government of the Quebec Fur Trade: An Imperial Dilemma 1761-1774."

Colin G. Calloway., "Foundations of Sand: The Fur Trade and British-Indian Relations, 1783-1815."

John O. Anfinson., "Transitions in the Fur Trade, Transformations in Mandan Culture."

Nancy L. Woolworth., "Sisseton-Wahpeton Fur Trade 1820-1834."

John C. Ewers., "Soldiers of the Fort: A Mechanism Fostering Trader-Indian Relations on the Upper Missouri during the 19th Century."

Elizabeth Mason and Adele Rahn., "Web of Power In the Fur Trade of the Old South West: A Genealogical Approach."

William A. Sloan., "Company Policy, Changing Perspectives and Enlightened Response: Mackenzie Lowland Fur Trade, 1805-1815."

Harry W. Duckworth., "The Nipigon Trade to 1796."

Victor Lytwyn., "Ezekiel Solomon: Master Pedlar of the Little North."

Barnett Richling., "Without Compromise: Hudson's Bay Company and Moravian Mission Trade Rivalry in 19th Century Labrador."

Robert Jarvenpa., "The Hudson's Bay Company, The Roman Catholic Church, and the Chipewyan in the Late Fur Trade Period."

Michelle Guitard., "Quelques aspects techniques du commerce des fourrures à Montréal au début du XIXe siècle."

Elizabeth Mancke., "The Hudson's Bay Company and the European Fur Market, 1670-1726."

Ann Harper-Fender., "A Transaction-Cost Analysis of the Hudson's Bay Company."

Gerhard Ens., "The Political Economy of the "Private Trade" on the Hudson Bay: The Example of Moose Factory, 1741-1743."

Arthur J. Ray., "The Hudson's Bay Company at the Crossroads of Canadian History: Planning for the Future at the Time of Confederation."

Timothy Ball., "Selected Periods of Severe Weather and Their Impact on the Operations of the Hudson's Bay Company."

Mary Black-Rogers., "Varieties of "Starving": Semantics and Survival in the Subarctic Fur Trade, 1750-1850."

James Hannon Jr., "Rendez-vous Re-evaluated."

Gary Adams., "York Factory Archaeology: Things Are Not Always What They Seem To Be."

Debra Lindsay., "The Hudosen's Bay Company - Smithsonian Connection and Fur Trade Intellectual Life: Bernard Rogan Ross: A Case Study."

I. S. Maclaren., "The Landscapes of the Fur Trade: Aesthetic Responses to Nature by Black, Tolmie, Simpson and McLean."

Bryce Wilson., "The Orkneymen and the Hudson's Bay Company."

Jonathan E. Reyman., "Spanish Disruption of Trade Networks Between the Southwestern Pueblos and Mexico."

XX

The Sale of the Northern Stores of the Hudson's Bay Company

On May 2nd, 1987 a reception was held in the foyer of the Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg, followed by a ceremony on the deck of the Nonsuch, formalizing the sale of 178 northern stores. The new company is legally called Hudson's Bay Northern Stores Inc., and was hoping to operate

under the name the North West Company but recent reports are that this is not possible. The new President is Marvin Tiller, previously chief executive officer of the HBC northern stores division. Ownership of the new company is a partnership comprised of management from the old HBC northern stores and Mutual Trust Company of Waterloo Ontario. Other major investors include the Manitoba Teachers Society and Great West Life as part of a group of some forty participants.

The sale was apparently effected in order to improve the financial position of the HBC which has been showing heavy losses for some time. Ironically the northern stores division was making money, although it only accounted for \$400 million of the company's estimated sales of \$5.6 billion in 1986. It would seem that the deal allowed the HBC to raise some much needed cash while retaining a major control through continuation of all staff and operations. The bottom line is that it is only a minor transaction as far as the total operations of the HBC are concerned. What is significant are the apparent end of traditions and the sale of many of the historic functions of the Company.

The sale includes Hudson's Bay House, located on Main Street in Winnipeg across from the remaining gate of Upper Fort Garry. The 3000 ton freighter Kanguk used to supply the eastern arctic stores from the warehouse in Montreal and two planes were also sold as were the rights to market Inuit art and Hudson Bay Blankets. The last is, very symbolic of this sale.

The Royal Charter remains with the Hudson's Bay Company and is located in their office in downtown Toronto. As everyone knows the document grants the Company the right to operate within those lands that drain into Hudson Bay. It is a moot point but as it now stands the Company, by divesting itself of the northern stores, is not technically fulfilling the Charter. This would be an appropriate time for the Company to turn the Charter over to the Hudson's Bay Company Archives for safe preservation for future generations. It has been suggested that the Charter is still a working document but it would seem that this status has been abrogated to a great extent by the sale of the northern stores, if this did not occur with the sale of Rupert's Land to Britain.

There is much symbolism in this story and it is in the best traditions of the Company that stumbled, staggered and manoeuvred its way through over 300 years. After it sold the Fur auction houses in London it did not have control of the outlet for its product that had been the situation for most of its history. Many times in its history the Company had tried to get out of the Fur trade, or at least to reduce the dependence on furs by diversification, now they have succeeded. As with so many ventures of the past, the future will occur regardless of what is done. The difference now is that the future of

the north will be without the dominant presence of the Hudson's Bay Company and its trading posts.

XX

**Arctic Heritage
Proceedings of a Symposium**

Although the major theme of the Arctic Heritage Symposium "...was scientific and scholarly, dealing with the ecological, planning and management aspects of Arctic Heritage use and conservation, the Proceedings present information that might be of interest to our members. The Symposium was organized by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies and was held in Banff, Alberta from 24-28th August, 1985. Copies are available at \$27.50 (Cdn) from ;

Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
130 Albert Street, Suite 1915
Ottawa, Canada, K1P 5G4

XX

National Atlas of Canada Maps

Individual maps of the National Atlas of Canada are available from;

National Atlas of Canada
c/o Canadian Geographic,
488 Wilbrod Street,
Ottawa, Canada, K1N 6M8

The maps are approximately 80 x 90 cm (31" x 36") and can be ordered in French or English. There are many available but the following would seem to be most attractive to those interested in the Fur Trade.

1. MCR 4000 Canada - Census Divisions and Subdivisions (1971)
2. MCR 4001 Canada - Indian and Inuit Communities and Languages
3. MCR 4031 Canada - Indian and Inuit Population Distribution
4. MCR 4051 Canada - Confederation (1867)
5. MCR 4060 Canada - Territorial Evolution
6. MCR 4112 Canada - Water Transportation Infrastructure

Price - \$6 each (\$7 to U.S., \$8 elsewhere)

XX

**Rupert's Land Research Centre
Status Report**

We are pleased to report that the University has provided us with office space that is specifically for The RLRC. As everyone knows in the territorial world of bureaucracies, space is recognition of existence and in a smaller institute, such as the University of Winnipeg, it is particularly true. The need for space grew as we accumulated back issues of our own publications, built a collection of reference materials, and gratefully received the back issues of the Volumes of the Hudson's Bay Record Society.

The Company, through the good offices of Pat Easton, donated the Volumes that remained after the last of the complete sets had been sold. An agreement has been reached that will allow the RLRC to sell these Volumes and retain 50% of the proceeds. We have Volumes 27 to 33 available at \$40.00 (Cdn) each.

Membership continues to grow, although it has slowed recently. Another drive for new members is underway and we hope that the original pace of recruitment can be reached. Some private donations have been received and applications for grants are being processed.

We were in receipt of a personal donation of \$20,000 that must be used to fund small projects that directly relate to the objectives of the RLRC. The first use of this money was to process a marvellous collection of photographs of the peoples and fur trade taken by an employee of the HBC in northern Manitoba in the early part of the 20th century. Of course this is a good opportunity to remind you of the Western Canada Pictorial Index and its fine collection of photographs, based at the University of Winnipeg.

XX

Accommodation in Winnipeg

I am pleased to tell you that the Relax Inn in Winnipeg has agreed to extend its offer of special rates to members of the Rupert's Land Research Centre who are visiting Winnipeg. The Inn is ideally located at the corner of Portage Avenue and Colony street, only one city block from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and the University of Winnipeg. The rate is \$40.00 (Cdn) per night for any room to a maximum of 4 people and this is valid until May of 1988. This is made possible by the fact that members have been taking advantage of the offer.

XX

**National Historic and Sites Branch
Parks Canada**

A problem that plagues most bibliographies these days as new material is produced so rapidly and in such volumes is that they are dated so rapidly. Of course computers also allow more rapid updating of lists so that it is a double edged sword. I recently came across a copy of the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch 1983 Bibliography and was reminded of the extensive material available through that agency. The following is a list of the major divisions of the Bibliography;

1. Manuscript Report Series
2. Microfiche Report Series
3. Research Bulletins
4. Canadian Historic Sites
5. History and Archaeology. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History
6. Manuscript Report Series and Microfiche Report Series Depositories

Many of these are descriptive reports but they do provide a great deal of detail that can be of assistance to researchers, particularly for the reconstruction of living conditions and technological support. Copies of the Bibliography are available free of charge by writing to :

Research Publications
Parks Canada
1600 Liverpool Court,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 1G2

XX

**Call For Papers
RLRC Third Biennial Colloquium
June, 1988**

Paper proposals are invited on any facet of Rupert's Land historical, geographical, and anthropological studies, for the Third RLRC Colloquium, planned for Churchill, Manitoba. We look especially for papers presenting new and original data, ideas and approaches. Themes relevant to the Churchill area and the coasts of Hudson Bay are particularly welcomed.

Research need not be in final form; the Colloquium offers a forum for the presenting and discussion of ongoing problems and issues.

Send title and abstract of about 100 words to Dr. Jennifer S. H. Brown by March 1, 1988. Presentations will be 30 minutes in length. Proposals for panel sessions and for sessions comprising several short reports of research in progress in particular areas are also welcomed.

Mail proposals to:

Dr. Jennifer S.H. Brown,
Rupert's Land Research Centre,
515 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada. R3B 2E9

URGENT, URGENT, 1988 COLLOQUIUM

Plans are well under way for the 1988 Colloquium which will again include papers from researchers and archivists on subjects relating to the fur trade.

The Colloquium will be held in **Churchill, Manitoba**, in the week of **June 27th to July 1st, 1988**.

Reservations of 75 hotel rooms have been made for that period and a Canadian International Airlines Boeing 737 Jet aircraft (Capacity 122) has been chartered for the direct flight from Winnipeg to Churchill and return.

The conference will be held in the town complex which has a 300 seat theatre and adequate catering facilities. A major portion of 2 days will be assigned to the presentation of papers. The remainder of the time will be given to field trips in this historic area.

Plans include;

1. A visit to Fort Prince of Wales. The remarkable stone fort constructed by the Hudson's Bay Company between 1731 and 1761.
2. A visit to Churchill Factory, the site of the first Company post established in 1718 by James Knight.
3. A visit to Sloops Cove where the Company maintained its ships and Samuel Hearne and others carved their names in the rock.
4. A visit to York Factory, the most important centre and major depot for the Company for over 200 years. This visit would be done by air and would require a steady shuttle service of approximately 20 people at a time. Parks Canada are assisting in this visit.
5. It is also likely that air visits to points along the west coast of Hudson Bay can be included on a pay as you go basis.
6. A tour of the town site including a visit to the Lady Franklin window in the Anglican Church.
7. A visit to the gun battery at Cape Merry.

8. This is the best time of year for birds and arctic wildflowers and Churchill is one of the most diversified habitats in the world with boreal forest, marine, tundra and arctic species all overlapping

The cost has been set at \$520.00 (Cdn) which would include air fare and hotel accommodation plus ground transport. (Note that the regular return airfare Winnipeg/Churchill alone is \$480.00). Meals would not be included (except for a final banquet). There are at least three good restaurants in Churchill with meals at reasonable costs.

What we need to ensure these prices is a commitment from our members to attend such a Colloquium. The price is based on 122 participants and assumes two people to a room. A limited number of singles could be accommodated but would require a supplement of \$200.00.

In order to secure the hotel space we need a deposit of \$150.00 per person by November 15, 1987. The balance would be due by May 01, 1988.

Please complete the enclosed form and mail as soon as possible with cheque payable to the Rupert's Land Research Centre to:

Dr. Tim Ball,
Rupert's Land Research Centre,
515 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, MB. Canada, R3B 2E9.