



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 has chosen the name the Northwest 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 less 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.

All sorts of 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. Interesting questions also arise about the status 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,

XX

**New 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 remainder of the books listed 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)., 1987, The New Peoples: Being and Becoming Métis in North America 306 p. (15.00)

Jennifer S.H.Brown and Robert Brightman (Edited and with notes and introduction), 1987, George Nelson on Cree and Northern Ojibwa Religion and Thought, 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, wâskahikanowiyiniwâcimowina 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 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 ADuring the Russian Administration."

Bruce Cox., "The French Run Away With Our Trade: Another look at Eawrly 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 Furs": 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": Semantic 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 Hudson'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 Bay Northern Stores Inc., but apparently is going to operate under the name the North West Company. The new President is







**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. Reserach 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

**Commentary**  
Tim Ball

The second volume of Peter C. Newman's books on the history of the Hudson's Bay Company is due for release in late September or early October of 1987 from Penguin. It is titled "Caesar's of the Wilderness" and covers, among other things, the amalgamation of the HBC and the North West Company; the accomplishments of Mackenzie, Thompson and other early explorers and surveyors; and the activities of Sir George Simpson. Newman,

clearly conscious of the criticism directed at the first volume, went to a great deal of effort to obtain the opinions and reactions of several specialists. In some ways it was even more critical in this volume because it covers the period of expansion and widespread contact with the indigenous population, including the controversial contacts between European men and Native women and the trading and spread of alcohol.

I realize that many were not and are still not happy with the hardcover edition and the subsequent paperback in which several corrections and changes were made. As with so many of these things, some of the criticisms were valid and others were not. The level of acrimony surfaced during the discussion forum that was part of the 1986 Colloquium of the Research Centre. It was said that Newman was afraid to show up and confront his critics, a situation that was not true as Newman had advised the Centre much earlier that he had prior engagements. Since then he has generally responded to any published criticism and appears to demonstrate a willingness to assure an accurate publication in the second volume.

What has been interesting to me is the extent to which the book has been read across western Canada. I have been privileged to talk to many groups (over 30 with an average of 200 people at each) from Grande Prairie, Alberta, to Miami, Manitoba and in every single location at least one question has been raised about Newman's book. The fascinating part of this is that most of the groups have been people associated with agriculture and more concerned with the problems of that industry. There is, however, a growing awareness and interest in the stories of those who opened up the prairies to settlement, and excitement about the fact that Canada does have a history and heroes. The timing of Newman's book is such that, whether you like it or not, is finding a wide market in Canada and other parts of the world. The positive reviews it received in Britain and the United States from very prestigious newspapers greatly assisted sales in those countries.

The bottom line is that the book is receiving wide and favourable response from a broad section of the populace. I know that many believe that this is precisely the problem because they argue that it only spreads and entrenches the problems they identify. In my travels I met many people who had read the book, I met very few who had read any of the reviews and even less who knew of the controversies and criticisms. This would seem to suggest that the criticisms and concerns about the book were being expressed to those who already were knowledgeable about the Fur Trade. The errors in the book would not be known to a vast majority of the readers nor would they seriously affect anything. The charges of perpetuation of stereotypes is more serious but much more difficult to assess simply by talking to the readers. I did find that people were favourably informed about the extent of interdependence and involvement of the native peoples by reading the book. They also were eager to read the second volume. Many



expressed the opinion that the book should be required reading for Canadian students or at least used as a textbook for Canadian history. Their reasoning usually was that it was a very readable book and the sort that the average person was more likely to read, understand and enjoy. I have no knowledge of the possibility of it becoming a required text, however, I do know from my involvement with Manitoba Social Studies teachers that several are using it as a source book for their lectures on the Fur Trade and early Canadian history.

The situation is that the book is being well received and raising the public awareness of a significant portion of Canadian history. As I have argued before this should augur well for the historian and others who need funding to continue their specialized and painstaking sifting of material to produce the detail of the mosaic that is our past. As funding becomes more difficult to obtain the tendency is to cut those things that the politician believes are unimportant to the taxpayer. Canadians are more aware that they have a history and they also are beginning to realize that a national identity is to be found in this self-awareness, something Quebec has learned in the last 15 years. All of this is being greatly enhanced by the opening of historic sites and the refurbishing of historic buildings. The book does not hurt this trend.

I must admit that the reviews, letters, charges and countercharges have all served as classic material for seminar discussions on the role of popular history and the conflict between the academic and popular historian. It is likely that this will be the ultimate outcome of this conflict as the cooling of history adds its temper. I wait for the verdict on the second volume, although it will probably generate many of the same reactions, but I am particularly interested in the third volume. It will cover the period up to the present and will present original interviews with people actually involved in the decisions and events. Most people have conceded that Newman has captured the essence of the Company as a business which is not surprising considering that it is his daily and more familiar territory.