



THE GREAT CANADIAN EXPLORERS

An Introduction on the Great Canadian Explorers

The great explorers of Canada faced remarkable and spectacular difficulties. Canada's vast geography and northern character have meant that the exploration of the lands that now constitute Canada extended over three centuries, perhaps more. Canada fronts on three oceans — Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic — and the European discovery and exploration of Canada was undertaken by way of all these seas and their respective approaches to the adjacent hinterlands. The Bay of Fundy, the St. Lawrence River, and the straits near Newfoundland were vital waterways of approach for the Atlantic. For the Pacific, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Georgia, and the Inside Passage were

prominent in the approaches from saltwater. For the Arctic Ocean, Hudson Bay and the Northwest Passage were critical to the coastal exploration of northern Canada and the northern rivers such as the Coppermine and Mackenzie. One of the central features of Canadian geography is the Canadian or Laurentian Shield, which fringes the northern boundary of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, which drain to the Atlantic. The exploration of the St. Lawrence system, including the Great Lakes, was, like the exploration of much of the sea coasts of the country, a water-borne affair.

Canada's history of exploration and discovery rests on indigenous native contributions, French reconnaissance of the eastern seaboard and continental accesses, and British discoveries. In an earlier age, the Norse and Viking peoples explored parts of northeastern Canada but left comparatively little of record that would give them prominence among the list detailed here. In 1880, Britain transferred all its priority of discoveries, and its territorial acquisitions in northern North America, to the Dominion of Canada. By that date the general features

Bibliography preparation

Dr. Barry Gough, Department of History, Wilfrid Laurier University.

French-language consultant and contributor

Dr. Nicolas Landry, Department of History,
Université de Moncton at Shippagan.

Library consultant

Francine Vandentop, Reference Staff, Lethbridge Public Library.

Project Manager

Joanne Goodrich, Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University.

of a nation from sea to sea to sea — Atlantic to Pacific to Arctic — had been acquired. The process was very much a European contribution, by persons from Europe, or by French and English living in Canada. Spain made some contributions to Pacific Coast discovery, but constraints of space do not allow for their inclusion here; besides, none of the Spanish explorers ranks of greater importance than James Cook.

From the early European era of discovery, when Canada and New France were being developed, John Cabot, Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain stand out. Late in the seventeenth century Henry Kelsey reached the Canadian plains, and his amazing journey to open up trade with the Indians is central to the discovery of the continental interior.

The subsequent era, the eighteenth century, is equally rich in Great Canadian Explorers. Two whom we have chosen are La Vérendrye and James Cook. Fur traders also were vitally important in the discovery of North America, and in Canada in particular. Early in the century, the ill-fated James Knight sought the elusive Northwest Passage as well as gold and copper. Perhaps typical of the most advanced of the fur-trading explorers are Sir Alexander Mackenzie and David Thompson. Both traded for the North West Company, and Thompson later worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. British naval officers made profound contributions to the exploration of Canada, as well as to the hydrographic surveying of coasts, lakes and rivers. The greatest of these in Canada's history is Sir John Franklin. His death sparked further northern discoveries and the search for his remains (and that of his fellow officers and crew) continues. An explorer of the last classic phase of North American discovery, Viljalmur Stefansson, made

discoveries in northern Canada among the Inuit, powerfully completing the explorations begun three centuries before by Champlain and others.

Not included in this list are Etienne Brulé, Champlain's trusted lieutenant, who first reached Georgian Bay; George Vancouver, who made subsequent hydrographic explorations on the Pacific Coast of North America, fur trading explorers Samuel Hearne, Peter Pond and Simon Fraser, and Arctic explorers such as Thomas Simpson. The Geological Survey of Canada made many such additions to the knowledge of Canadian geography.

Those individuals that have been selected are regarded as prominent and significant, however their efforts were supported by countless others, such as native persons who had great knowledge of the nature (and resources) of Canada and North America. For the purpose of this guide, exploration is taken to be the pursuit, from European perspectives, of details or particulars about Canada's landforms and resources. The growth of Canada in the early modern and modern period was very much tied to economic pursuits, including fishing, hunting, trading and agriculture. Mining and manufacturing prospects were also part of the quest. All the explorers, and the works that discuss their explorations, reveal the several motives behind exploration. It is noteworthy that Cabot and Cartier began searching for a passage to Cathay and Cipangu, and that Franklin and Stefansson made the final, on-the-ground discoveries that completed the general outline of the Canadian landmass. What started out as a European search ended up as a Canadian enterprise, with Canadian knowledge being accumulated about Canada's lands and

resources. In this process, the Indian, Métis and Inuit contribution was significant and even vital. It deserves to be acknowledged as part of the record of achievement, even if it

is not written down in the journals and diaries that recount the lives of these Great Canadian Explorers.

GENERAL SOURCES

Litalien, Raymonde.

Les explorateurs de l'Amérique du Nord, 1492–1795. Sillery (Québec): Septentrion, 1993.

Raymonde Litalien received her PhD in History from La Sorbonne in Paris. She is presently Head of the Paris Bureau of the National Archives of Canada. Her book is an overview of the major explorations carried out in America by European and North American explorers from 1492 to 1795. Its six chapters describe the high points of the exploration of the continent's main regions, but emphasize North America. This book doesn't lend itself to partial consultation and should be read as a whole. However, the tables and original maps are easy to find and to use for teaching purposes.

McGhee, Robert.

Canada Rediscovered. Canadian Museum of Civilization and Libre Expression, 1991.

Canada Rediscovered is representative of the books published by the Canadian government agencies whose mandate is to preserve and promote the Canadian heritage. Somewhat like Raymonde Litalien's, this is a general work, covering several explorations. With its glossy paper, large font, abundant drawings, photographs and period engravings, it is very attractive. Following the new trend in Canadian historiography, the first chapter deals with the First Nations and their European origins. The Scandinavian explorations and their settlement at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland, come next, then Jean Cabot, and in Chapter 8 the more modern era of Verrazano and Cartier. The author discusses Acadia, the French fishing expeditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the whale hunts. Chapter 9, entitled "Hochelaga", recounts the main points of Cartier's voyages to Canada. A section of Chapter 5 on the ships used for exploration from the 15th century onward is well researched and illustrated, including a beautiful color reproduction of a galleon.)

Vachon, André, with the assistance of Victorin Chabot and André Desrosiers.

English translation by **John F. Flinn.**

Taking Root: Canada from 1700 to 1760. Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, c1985.

This book contains a short but useful section dealing with the period of French expansion to the north-west and the Prairies during the first half of the 18th century, including the travels

of Pierre Gaultier de la Vérendry. Born at Trois-Rivière, this soldier was over 40 years old when he began to take an interest in the commercial potential of the Canadian West in 1728. It was both for exploration and business purposes that he set out on his first trip in 1831. By 1743 he and his sons had widened the French zone of influence to include Saskatchewan.

Vachon, André, with the assistance of **Victorin Chabot** and **André Desrosiers**.

English translation by **John F. Flinn**.

Dreams of Empire: Canada Before 1700. Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, c1982.

This collection gives the reader access to reproductions of documents dating to the early French regime in North America. The first section is a historical overview of the explorations by John Cabot, Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain. Among the documents reproduced in this work are the patent letters given to John Cabot and his sons by Henry VII, King of England, to set out on an expedition of discovery; and an excerpt from an account book dealing with the payment of 6,000 pounds awarded by the King of France to Jacques Cartier to finance his explorations. *Dreams of Empire* includes segments of Cartier's journals and of Champlain's numerous documents dealing with his travels in Acadia and in the St. Lawrence Valley. The illustrations include maps of Port-Royal and Québec and engravings depicting Indians.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

John Cabot

Beaudoin, J.-D.

Jean Cabot. Lévis, Québec: Pierre-Georges Roy, éditeur, 1898.

This short book is a typical biography of the end of the 19th century. It does not include any table of content or bibliography, although footnotes provide some references. Its age notwithstanding, it presents some precisions on a confusing period of our history, the era of the great explorations. Using sources considered new at the time, the author strives to correct the theories put forth by 19th century chronicles. His work shows a good knowledge of contemporary American and European historiographies. John Cabot's biography begins on page 9. His name seems to appear in the archives of the city of Venice for the first time in 1476, although the same archives indicate that he had been a resident since at least 1461. In the conclusion of his book, Beaudoin reiterates the undeniable fact that John Cabot is the true discoverer of North America.

Brady, Bernard.

John Cabot: The Discovery of Newfoundland. St. John's, Newfoundland: Creative Publishers, 1994.

Newfoundland-born Brady draws heavily on his experience as a land use technician and cartographer and has presented a thorough study of John Cabot, the Genoese navigator, who sailed for the English crown and the merchants of Bristol in 1497 to find Cipangu and a way to Asia. Brady divides his study into six chapters: Cabot's antecedents (how the Vikings discovered and used L'Anse Aux Meadows as a Newfoundland winter base of trade and occupation; Bristol merchants' desires to develop western trade; the ship Matthew, so significant in oceanic discovery; the England of this era, also the era of Henry VII; Cabot's landfall at Bonavista and discoveries elsewhere; and the follow-on (1498) voyage by himself and son Sebastian Cabot. John Cabot has been commemorated by a fine statue at Cape Bonavista. Upon his arrival, he named this area "new-founde-land." This book, valuable for juvenile as well as adult readers, also shows how John Cabot and the voyage has been portrayed in Newfoundland and Canadian stamps. Cabot ended his life in mystery, aspects of which conclude this trust-worthy account, which has good maps, illustrations and bibliography.

Pope, Peter E.

The Many Landfalls of John Cabot. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997.

Where John Cabot landed during his famous 1497 voyage from Bristol to the "new founde land" is not known. Archaeologist Peter E. Pope of Memorial University of Newfoundland,

St. John's, explores in detail the various possibilities of what happened on that remarkable day, 24 June 1497, one of the most significant dates in Newfoundland and Labrador's, and Canada's histories. More than five hundred years later, we do not know the exact location, though Bonavista is one likely prospect for the claim. Pope traces various landfall theories which have placed the landing in locations from the Strait of Belle Isle to Cape Breton. The evidence is sketchy and contradictory and, Pope argues, has allowed nationalists in both Newfoundland and Canada to shape the debate about Cabot's itinerary. This also allows for various interest groups to claim Cabot as their own. Pope is sympathetic to native interests, and argues that the invented term "discovery" has allowed Europeans and their descendants to overlook the fact that native peoples lost land and original identities. This engaging book is well-illustrated with period maps, engravings and stamps. It is a valuable book, not only for saying a good deal about Cabot and his time but serves as a means of exploring how centennials shape the study of history. It also shows how the public, for tourist purposes, sometimes misuses history.

Weare, G.E.

Cabot's Discovery of North America. London: John Macqueen and Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1897.

Given its age, this isn't a recommended teaching reference, except as a complementary source. The book include eleven reproductions of period illustrations. Of interest are a depiction of John Cabot describing his discoveries to King Henry VII; the North-American segment of Cabot's map of the world published in 1544; and a picture of a vessel of the same type as the *Matthew*, which Cabot sailed on to America. The book includes a very good index of place and person names but no bibliography.

Jacques Cartier

Jacques Cartier

The Voyages of Jacques Cartier, with an introduction by Ramsay Cook. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993.

This edition, concise and handy, records Cartier's three remarkable voyages to discover the water approaches to Canada and its heartland. Ramsay Cook, distinguished Canadian historian, provides a brief introduction which places Cartier in his times and examines his important contributions to the gathering of data about this part of northern North America. Cartier was a citizen of Saint-Malo, famous port of Brittany. In 1534, in the service of King Francis I of France, he sailed with two ships and a small company, presumably in search of a Northwest Passage. He made a landfall off Newfoundland, then proceeded into the ice-cluttered Gulf of St. Lawrence. He skirted the west side of Newfoundland and the Magdalen

Islands. He discovered Prince Edward Island, explored beautiful Chaleur Bay, then proceeded northward to Gaspé Bay. He continued to Anticosti Island, then returned to France.

In 1535 he made his second voyage, and learned from Indians of a mysterious kingdom called Saguenay located in the interior. He continued up a great river, the St. Lawrence (of which he is credited as discoverer) and came to Stadacona, where modern Québec is located. Another Indian village, Hochelaga, he found (now the city of Montreal). He returned to Saint-Malo the following summer. In 1541 he made his final expedition, undertaken for the colonizer Roberval, designated the King's lieutenant general.

Cartier's accounts are important in two ways: they tell of Cartier's voyages and discoveries; and they are early contributions to Canadian literature and narratives. They provide credible descriptions of the land and its indigenous peoples. Cook's essay, entitled "Donnacona Discovers Europe: Rereading Jacques Cartier's Voyages," explains how Cartier took the native chief Donnacona to France, and did so against the latter's wishes. Two other Indians were taken at the same time. Cook uses this particular set of details to discuss how Europe discovered North America and vice versa.

Samuel de Champlain

Armstrong, Joe C.W.

Champlain. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1987.

Champlain, called the Father of New France, was significant in the early development of colonial settlements in Acadia and in Québec. He contributed to the military defence and fortifications of New France, and led military expeditions against enemy Indians. He was a Geographer Royal of France, a skilled mapmaker, and an energetic community builder. A zealous Christian, he pushed strongly for the evangelization of North American native peoples.

The author is an enthusiast for Canadian history. The book examines early documents, particularly maps and charts, is well illustrated, and contains 40 visual contributions pertinent to Champlain, the colonies, and the discoveries. Armstrong divides his study into 28 chapters. He discusses New France and France in the age of Champlain. He discusses Champlain's early life, mainly as a soldier and then his various voyages to Spain, the West Indies and Central America. Armstrong describes Champlain's first (1603) voyage into the St. Lawrence and then his voyages to Acadia and the settlement at Port-Royal (abandoned 1606–7). The main theme of the book is the planting of the base at Québec, and the fortunes of the French flag there. The 1609 battle against the Iroquois, and the 1610 battle at Sorel, are then analysed, as is Champlain's return to France in 1612. Subsequent explorations of the Ottawa and Hudson rivers, Lake Nipissing and Huronia (Georgian Bay of Lake

Huron), the Kawartha Country, and the winter in Huronia, 1615–1616 are discussed. Part of this story is the work of Etienne Brulé, and the remarkable contribution of Recollet and, subsequently, Jesuit missionaries. The book closes with the difficulties of the colony of Québec, and the death of Champlain (1635).

Mathieu-Loranger, Francine.

Les Mémoires de Samuel de Champlain. Collection Les Bâtisseurs, Montréal: Éditions Héritage, 1981.

This is one of a series of books edited by Francine Mathieu-Loranger which deal with the men and women who built New France. Why did they stay, and what challenges did they have to face? The books in this collection are not teaching manuals, according to the author, but more informal tools for learning about history and the people who have made it happen. The twelve chapters of *Les Mémoires* recount Champlain's career from 1580 to his death at Québec in 1635. Written in the style of a novel with short paragraphs and illustrations, this is an easy read for high school students.

Morison, Samuel Eliot.

Samuel de Champlain, Father of New France. Toronto and Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1972.

This book is to be compared favourably to Joe Armstrong's and in many instances is the better work, completed as it is by a sailor and historian of thoroughness and compassion. Champlain, says Morison, was a born explorer, with a great deal of energy and inquisitiveness. He established peaceful relations with the Algonquin and Huron, made an attempt to settle Acadia, which failed, then founded the colony of Québec. He charted the Atlantic Coast from Newfoundland to Cape Cod, explored the coasts of Maine and Acadia, and then explored the western rivers as far as Georgian Bay. For thirty years he devoted all energies to securing French colonial interests (trade and settlement as well as native alliances) in North America. He was a true empire builder.

Morison explains how Champlain was also an artist and illustrator, a military engineer and designer, a mapmaker and cartographer, and a skilful writer whose *Voyages* are a rich source of Canadian history. His *Treatise on Seamanship*, printed in this book, is a practical handbook of navigation for that time. This book prints many of his illustrations. Exploration and colonizing activity required courage, leadership and dedication. Morison depicts Champlain as one of the most remarkable explorers of world history, arguably the most important in Canada's early and subsequent history. This book is based on an excellent knowledge of the literature of exploration, of early Canadian history, and of the waters and rivers of North America as appreciated by a sailor-historian.

Henry Kelsey

Henry Kelsey

The Kelsey Papers, with a New Introduction by John Warkentin. (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1994).

Often called the Boy Kelsey, or the boy Kelsey, this remarkable explorer is known to those interested in the earliest discoveries of the continental interior of North America — from the North. Born about 1667 (he died in 1724) he extended the Hudson's Bay Company's trade to the Saskatchewan River. He is famed for having discovered the Canadian prairies. At a time the Cree were attempting to monopolize the trade of the Canadian prairies, Kelsey was quietly sent from Hudson Bay to make contact with them, and to convince their rivals the Gros Ventres and Assiniboine to enter the trade. Kelsey, a good linguist and robust traveller, loved travel with native peoples. He respected the Indians and was benign and humane in his relations with all native peoples. He made two expeditions: one, 1688–1690, to the “northern Indians,” north of Churchill River; the other, 1690–92, to the prairies. On the latter he was accompanied by an Assiniboine leader. The journal he left is both unscientific and not detailed. He seems to have travelled up the Hayes River to the Fox, thence to the Saskatchewan, perhaps near present-day Battleford, Sask. He returned to York Factory in 1692, and had thereafter a long career in the Hudson's Bay Company. To his death, he claimed that he had never been given due credit for his discoveries. His journal, eventually discovered in 1926, tells of his wanderings, viewing musk-ox and North American buffalo. This book prints the known documentation on him, including a fine poem by Kelsey, and has illustrations, maps and an introduction by John Warkentin, expert on western travel literature and geography.

James Knight

Geiger, John and Owen Beattie.

Dead Silence: The Greatest Mystery in Arctic Discovery. Toronto: Viking, 1993.

In 1719, James Knight, sometime overseas governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, the builder of Prince of Wales Fort at Churchill River, and an experienced ship master, sailed from London with the two ships Albany and Discovery. They were sent by the company to search the west coast of Hudson Bay north of 64 degrees N for a Northwest Passage. They were also to search for gold and copper rumoured to exist in that area. The ships disappeared into history, and for almost 50 years nothing was known of the explorers' fate. In 1769 a HBC ship captain found evidence of Knight's house and ships on Marble Island off the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. Samuel Hearne, in 1769, learned that the members of Knight's expedition had died of sickness and famine. The Inuit fed some of the remaining

members of the party but in about 1722 the last of the exploring party perished. Archaeological investigations and superb photography, plus careful historical recreation of the episode and the search for Knight and his men make for an excellent, exciting book. Readers will appreciate the chronology included, which helps to explain the complicated details of the story. Written by the authors of *Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition*, this book is a fine recounting of an early chapter in northern Canadian history.

La Vérendrye

Champagne, Antoine.

Nouvelles Études sur les La Vérendrye et le poste de l'Ouest. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1971.

The La Vérendryes, father and three sons and a nephew (La Jemeraye), came from a prominent Québec family. The father, born in Québec 1685 (he died in Montreal in 1749), is important in Canadian discovery as he was one of the first North American born explorers to search out the details of his native continent. His significance in Québec history is told in this fine book, which explains how trade and the cross went hand in hand. The La Vérendryes extended trade and discoveries to Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis; searched for the much advertised Mer de l'Ouest, or Western Sea; and from 1731 to 1743 traded through much of this northwest based around the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. They travelled to the Mandans on the Missouri River in 1738–39. They built eight posts in the interior, including Fort la Reine. Two of the sons, in 1743, made a great western journey that took them as far as the Bighorn range of the Rockies, east of Yellowstone Park, and to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Included in this work is a section on Jesuit missionaries in the west, 1731–51. This book contains a useful family chronology, signatures of all family members and their associates, various family documents, excellent line drawings of some of the trading establishments, and is an interesting tour of the historical horizons of the West at that time and of the family's remarkable contribution to its history. It displays altogether a fine contribution to Québec's exploration of what was then its Great West.

James Cook

Efrat, Barbara S. and W.J. Langlois, eds.

Captain Cook and the Spanish Explorers on the Coast: Nu.tka. Victoria: Royal British Columbia Museum, 1978.

In March 1778 Captain James Cook of the Royal Navy, in the course of his third voyage of exploration to the Pacific, called at Yuquot, a summer village of Nuuchahnulth peoples, sometimes called Nootka (or Nu tka). His visit of a month's duration was important in many

respects as this book describes. Cook and his officers kept meticulous journals and notebooks, and many fine illustrations were completed, some of which are reproduced here. The Vancouver Island landscape and the natives were attractive to the explorers and posed no difficulties to them. It was a time of mutual discovery, with Cook remarking that the natives were keenly interested in property and rights of ownership. This book consists of the following: Barry Gough's long essay "Nootka Sound in James Cook's Pacific World," which places this visit into the larger world of Pacific exploration; Christon Archer's "Spanish Exploration and Settlement of the Northwest Coast in the 18th Century," which explains follow-on Spanish discoveries; and academic contributions on Nootkan music, native botany, and native linguistics. Altogether, this is an excellent, scholarly introduction to the subject, and is available from the publisher. This book is the best treatment available of the friendly encounter of British and Nuuchahnulth in 1778.

Villiers Alan.

Captain James Cook. New York and Toronto: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967.

Written by a master mariner who had sailed many of the same seas as James Cook, this book tells of the early days of training, the years as a surveyor in the Royal Navy, and the extensive official explorations by Captain Cook—explorations, then as now, that link Newfoundland and Labrador with Québec, Halifax, Vancouver Island, New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere. A Yorkshireman, James Cook was in Halifax during the Seven Years' War and surveyed the River St. Lawrence preparatory to General James Wolfe's successful military campaign at Québec in 1759. Cook then surveyed Newfoundland waters after the Seven Years' War, the purpose being to mark out British zones of fishing. After two explorations to the South Seas, in March 1778 Cook arrived at Yuquot (or Nootka — also spelled Nu tka) and put Vancouver Island "on the map," so to speak. He was killed by Hawaiians. This book is about sailing and discovery, and about how Cook contributed to these explorations through surveying. As a brief recounting of the mariner's life it is unsurpassed. The book's extensive Canadian content is placed within the larger world framework of the era.

Sir Alexander MacKenzie

Gough, Barry.

First Across the Continent: Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1997.

This book is about Mackenzie's search for a Northwest Passage, and the link from Canada to Russia, Japan and Cathay. He drove himself and his men tirelessly by canoe and portage across the northern landscape of Canada. In 1789 he went from Lake Athabasca, his base of operations, to the Arctic Ocean by way of the great northern river, the Mackenzie. In 1792–93 he went upriver on the Peace River and then overland to the headwaters of the Fraser River, thence across land to Dean Channel. By age 31, he had earned the distinction of being

first to travel across the continent north of Mexico, opened the continent to further exploration and trade, and ended speculation about a Northwest Passage in those latitudes. This book shows Mackenzie as an individual of enormous ambition and ego. He had left Scotland in destitution, but through determination and skill worked his way up in the fur trading business, the Northwest Company. In later years he fought unsuccessfully against Selkirk's scheme to settle Red River. His book *Voyages from Montreal*, published 1801, influenced many, including Thomas Jefferson, who was inspired to send Lewis and Clark on their western discoveries 1805–6. Often forgotten in Canadian and American history, Mackenzie's life as told by this author is a re-examination of the importance of exploration, and of fur traders' contribution to discoveries. It is also an examination of how the Canadian economy functioned in the late 18th century. Mackenzie was knighted for his achievements, and he developed various commercial designs for Canadian trade to China, some of which involved American shipping and financial interests. He fought against the monopolistic interests of the Hudson's Bay Company, as his book shows. Heavily illustrated, this is a compact introduction to the topic.

Lamb, W. Kaye, ed.

The Journals and Letters of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1970.

This compendium of material on the prominent explorer of northern and western Canada, Alexander Mackenzie, is invaluable as a reference. It contains the principal particulars of Mackenzie's action-packed life, especially as seen through the *Voyages from Montreal* (1801) which are printed here as journals. The journal of the first voyage survives in a manuscript copy; the journal of the second voyage, however, only survives as Mackenzie printed it in his 1801 book. Lamb adds important notations, and he identifies all the main personages mentioned by Mackenzie. Mackenzie was a fine draughtsman, and the engravings of his maps, approved by Mackenzie for printing, are included here. This book also prints Mackenzie's surviving correspondence with various persons, most notably his cousin Roderick, other traders and bankers, and various government officials. These letters help explain Mackenzie's after-exploration purposes. They show that he was interested in exploration for business and imperial purposes. Exploration to Mackenzie was a way to an end, and that end was financial power and imperial benefit. This book is not a biography as such, though it does include (as an introduction) a concise life of the subject. Rather, it is a new working up of *Voyages from Montreal* accompanied by related documents. All of them, when taken together, reveal a great deal about the character and career of a remarkable, demanding, and highly-strung leader.

David Thompson

Belyea, Barbara, ed.

Columbia Journals of David Thompson. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1994.

David Thompson ranks among the great explorers of North America. The empirical data that he accumulated in the course of extensive, pioneering explorations in the vast reaches west and northwest of Lake Superior constitute an immense body of historical material about the state, trade, geography and native peoples of those places in the early 19th century. Biographies of Thompson have been written, but the best way of showing Thompson at work is through his journals. This book examines Thompson's activities in the Columbia River country for an 11-year period beginning in 1800. After Mackenzie's famed 1793 expedition from Lake Athabasca to Pacific tidewater on the British Columbia coast, follow-on explorations and map-making had to be done. The task was undertaken by David Thompson. The text of this book consists of journal fragments, and the editor has provided notations and other explorations plus an introduction to the whole. The work is illustrated and contains copies of some of Thompson's map segments. It also has an index and bibliography. The editor is interested in the texts as literature and as a record of time and circumstance, and is thus less interested in the significance of Thompson as part of the general record of Canadian achievement in exploration and discovery. Readers will, therefore, find little drama here. Even so, the texts speak from themselves and are now available for others to draw their own conclusions — a vitally important contribution.

Hopwood, Victor G.

David Thompson Travels in Western North America, 1784–1812. Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, 1971.

David Thompson, undoubtedly one of Canada's greatest explorers and mapmakers, was also one of the finest travel writers of his era. His own account of his years in western Canada was still incomplete when he died in 1857. This book prints key selections from Thompson's narrative, and blends with them sections from the numerous journals and reports. This is, therefore, the first modern edition of the work for general readers. Thompson landed at Churchill Factory, Hudson Bay, as a boy apprentice, in 1784. From that time until he left the west, in 1812, his account is one of eloquence and authority. He tells the story of 28 years of travel across 55,000 miles. His duty to his employers, the Northwest Company, was surveying. He carried out great surveys and explorations reaching to Sault Ste. Marie, to the sources of the Mississippi, to the upper Missouri, and to northeastern British Columbia, and finally to the west side of the Rocky Mountains, including the northeastern tributaries of the Columbia River, and the great river itself from its headwaters to its estuary on the Pacific Ocean. This book details Thompson's achievements as scientific explorer, geographer, cartographer, and naturalist. It also includes a careful analysis of Thompson as a skilled writer, and shows Thompson's narrative as one of the world's great travel books.

Sir John Franklin

Beattie, Owen and John Geiger.

Frozen in Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1987.

One of the most provocative, compelling books about Sir John Franklin's third and final Arctic expedition (1845–48), this book reads like a detective story. It is meant to be the story of how a mystery was solved. Franklin's ill-fated expedition was shrouded in mystery for nearly 140 years. The disappearance of the two Royal Navy vessels *Erebus* and *Terror* captured the imagination and horror of the Victorian age. Only one scrap of documentary evidence (on paper) survived, indicating a sketchy and inconclusive theory about what happened to the survivors. In 1981, Beattie, an anthropologist, found part of a bleached human skull. This led to further investigations and findings, using forensic evidence and techniques, and examining three well-preserved bodies of three seamen, exhumed from the permafrost of Beechey Island over 138 years after their death. Haunting photographs tell a gruesome tale. Laboratory tests revealed lethal doses of lead poisoning. Well-illustrated and engagedly-written, this investigation into the tragedy has become a classic. That lead poisoning killed other sailors on the expedition is not known, but the theory is tempting and has invited commentary from other northern scholars of this famous expedition.

Neatby, Leslie H.

Search for Franklin: The Story of one of the Great Dramas of Polar Exploration. Edmonton: Hurtig, 1970.

Considered a classic, this book examines the search for Captain Sir John Franklin, his officers, men and ships. Based on a thorough knowledge of the histories and narratives of Arctic travel in the mid-and late-nineteenth centuries, author Neatby has painstakingly pieced together the story. He gives a brief history of early attempts to find a passage, then describes the disaster, and then looks at all significant attempts by various seekers, including the Americans, to find Franklin. He gives a full bibliography of works consulted and tells not only about Franklin, but discusses Kennedy, McClure, Belcher, Lady Jane Franklin, McClintock, Kane and others — all of whom were involved in this engaging chapter in Canadian northern and Arctic history.

Woodman, David.

Unravelling the Franklin Mystery: Inuit Testimony. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1991.

In 1845 two British warships, *Erebus* and *Terror*, manned by 129 officers and men under command of Captain Sir John Franklin, were seen disappearing into the pack-ice of Davis Strait. They had been asked by the British Admiralty to find the Northwest Passage and to

put an end to the speculations about the details of such a strait. In the end they may have found that passage, but they died in the attempt. Though never seen again, various traces of those who tried to make an escape from their ice-bound ships towards the south have been found, including graves of some of the men. This book reconstructs the mysterious events surrounding the tragic expedition. Woodman is the first to give serious attention to Inuit testimony, and to analyze it in depth. He concludes that the Inuit probably visited Franklin's ships while the crew was still on board and that there were some Inuit who actually saw the sinking of one of the ships. He maintains that fewer than ten bodies were found at Starvation Cove and that the last survivors left the cove in 1851, three years after the accepted account assumes them to be dead. He disputes the view that lead-poisoning was a major contributing cause of the disaster. This is a good detective story, full of insights and is based on fresh research.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson

Hunt, William R.

Stef: A Biography of Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1986.

Stefansson was a rebellious explorer, a great innovator of Arctic travel, and promoter of northern Canadian and polar development. Manitoba-born Stefansson attended university in North Dakota and Iowa, and then studied anthropology at Harvard, reading about diets of northern peoples. He was brought into various exploration projects of Mikkelsen and Leffingwell, and in 1906 his experiences led to a study of the Mackenzie River Indians, or Dene, whom he reported as being kept in place by the Hudson's Bay Company. Acquiring skills in the native languages of the north, he developed a preference for the study of the Eskimo or Inuit in and around Herschel Island, near the Canadian-United States boundary, and enhanced his beliefs about the ease of men living in the "friendly Arctic," or "hospitable north." He further developed a theory that the "Copper Indians" of Victoria Island, in the central Canadian Arctic, might be descendants of the Norse peoples or of the lost Sir John Franklin party. In 1913 he headed up the Canadian Arctic Expedition, and proceeded from Victoria to Nome and thence to the western Arctic Ocean. Here the ship *Karluq* met with disaster. Stef, meanwhile, had gone on alone (as was customary) and made further journeys in northern Canada. The expedition was covered in controversy owing to the loss of the *Karluq*, the Canadian-American rivalry over Wrangel Island, and the infighting of various jealous civil servants and scientists in Ottawa and elsewhere. Hunt's masterly biography presents his subject "warts and all," and as such, contributes mightily to the annals of polar exploration and Canadian northern discoveries in particular.

CD-ROMs

Fenêtres sur l'histoire: de l'Empire français d'Amérique au Canada contemporain. Micro-Intel and Ministère de l'éducation du Québec. Montreal: CRAPO, 1995.

Veritable databank of the history of Canada, with emphasis on Québec. It includes hundreds of reproductions of 17th and 18th century French documents, maps, engravings, etc., a subject index, an index of person and place names, and a chronology; it illustrated with some of the Heritage Canada vignettes broadcast on Canadian television channels on a regular basis.

Camirands, Charles with Jacques Lecavalier, Nelida Pinto, Frédéric Amyot.

Voyage en Nouvelle-France. Le Groupe Micro-Intel Inc. and Ministère de l'éducation du Québec, 1991.

This CD-ROM proposes a role-playing game allowing the student to explore the lives of an explorer, a trader, a farmer or a member of a religious order. To win the game, he or she must complete five tasks contained in an envelope, using a prepared tool kit. A dictionary, an atlas, period documents, a chronology and relevant illustrations are provided. This is a good teaching tool, but a copy must be installed on each hard drive for all the students of a group to benefit.

Les voyages de Jacques Cartier: Jacques Cartier est reconnu comme le découvreur du Canada.

L'est-il vraiment? David M. Stewart Museum and Groupe Micro-Intel Inc. Director: Frédéric Amyot (1992–1995).

This CD-ROM is ideal for class presentations since it isn't designed to be individually interactive. Its purpose is to allow for linear consultation of sources dealing with Cartier's exploration of Canada, and provides extracts of his journals and period maps and portraits. This is a quick reference to 15th century explorations and explorers like Verrazano, Cabot and Corte-Real.

WEB SITES

General

<http://lib-www.ucr.edu/cbs/britem.html>

This site is an overview of the evolution of the British Empire between 1497 and 1800. The information was compiled by Michael S. Smith for the English Short Title Catalogue. It is organized in columns: territories, dates of acquisition, date of cession to another country as a result of a war or treaty, and re-acquisition if such is the case.

<http://www.baldwin.qc.ca/history/>

Mainly written in English with a few sections in French, this site is geared to teaching at the college level. It is organized into seven modules about the history of Québec and Canada from the beginnings to the present; it includes evaluations (multiple choices and short-answer questions), maps and graphs. Module 1, entitled “The French Empire in North America”, deals with exploration.

<http://www.mvnf.muse.digital.ca/somm-fr.htm>

This site developed by the Canadian Museum of Civilization is entitled Virtual Museum of New France. Its material is easily and quickly accessed, abundantly illustrated, and is geared to students and general readers. The sources available allow for either a factual approach of the history of New France, or for an approach by subject.

John Cabot

- <http://hss.sd54.bc.ca/School/Pages/student/Enriched/RussBoyd/voyage.html>
- <http://www.nald.ca/province/nfld/nfitcou/ldcjc.htm>
- <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/exploration/cabot.html>
- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/E/MSN/11/11844.html>
- <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/publications/nl-news/1997/may97e/e12.htm>
- <http://www.schoolnet.ca/collections/cod/cabot.htm>
- <http://www.cabot.ac.uk/Matthew/landfall.htm>
- <http://www.matthew.co.uk/johncabot/>
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?>

Jacques Cartier

- <http://www.win.tue.nl/cs/fm/engels/discovery/cartier.html>
- <http://www.greencastle.k12.in.us/stark/cartier.htm>
- <http://www.cdrom-depot.qc.ca/logi/n0396.htm> (français)
- <http://www.cancom.net/-encyspm/Cartier.html> (français)
- <http://www.lkwdpl.org/schools/emerson/cartier.htm>
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?>

Samuel de Champlain

- <http://www.mvnf.muse.digital.ca/reper/glossair/r-gf-04.htm> (français)
- <http://www.mvnf.muse.digital.ca/cartes/small6-e.htm>
- <http://personal.nbnnet.nb.ca/yoyo/carte.htm> (français)
- http://www.gov.on.ca/MBS/english/its_ontario/gall/sdec.html (photo only)
- <http://www.rescol.ca/collections/acadian/francais/fb41755/lords/champlai/champlai.htm> (français)
- <http://www3.sympatico.ca/cousture/CHAMP.HTM> (français)
- http://www.yahoo.ca/Arts/Humanities/History/Exploration/Champlain__Samuel_de__1567_1635_/
- <http://www.mlink.net/~lfournie/champlai.html> (français)
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?>
- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/E/MSN/34/34875.html>

La Vérendrye

- <http://www.cielaverendrye.mb.ca/laverendrye.html> (français)
- <http://www.plpsd.mb.ca/amhs/history/laverendrye.html>
- <http://www.dlcwest.com/~acfc/Historique/Hommesmetis/verand/ptitre.htm> (français)

James Cook

- <http://www.bena.com/lucidcafe/library/95oct/jcook.html>
- <http://www.jetcity.com/~kirok/cook.htm>
- <http://members.tripod.com/~cuculus/cook.html>
- http://www.campus.bt.com/CampusWorld/pub/Ultimate_Challenge/northw.html
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?>

Sir Alexander Mackenzie

- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/F/MSN/00/87.html> (français)
- <http://www.wildcanada.com/amcabin.htm>
- <http://www.onf.ca/FMT/E/MSN/11/11359.html>
- <http://www.amvr.org/>
- <http://www.cmcc.muse.digital.ca/membris/fph/inuvial/exploref.html> (français)

David Thompson

- http://comptons2.aol.com/encyclopedia/ARTICLES/04761_A.html
- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/E/MSN/34/34875.html>

Sir John Franklin

- <http://www.tesseract.bc.ca/home/rowena/sjf.html>
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/exfranklin.htm> (english/français)
- <http://www.umanitoba.ca/cm/vol4/no18/acrossfrozenseas.html>
- <http://home.navisoft.com/ekhs/frank1.htm>
- <http://www.vif.com/users/Inularit.Resolute/>
- <http://vvv.com/~rowena/rhde.html>
- <http://gedds.pfir.alaska.edu/aurora/english/bio/Franklin.htm>
- <http://www.umcs.maine.edu/~orono/collaborative/ice.html>
- <http://www.ric.edu/rpotter/sjfranklin.html>

- <http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/frank5.htm>
- <http://radio.cbc.ca/radio/programs/performance/2newhours/erebus.htm>
- http://www.campus.bt.com/CampusWorld/pub/Ultimate_Challenge/northw.html
- <http://www.voicenet.com/~jstewart/nwt/nwt.html>
- <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/explorer.htm?>

Vilhalmur Stefansson

- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/E/MSN/15/15233.html>
- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/F/MSN/03/3166.html> (français)
- <http://www.nfb.ca/FMT/E/MSN/34/34875.html>