

is a most welcome addition to the literature. We need more books like it for other mining areas.

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Robert E. Ficken. *Unsettled Boundaries: Fraser Gold and the British-American Northwest*. Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2003; 208 pp., 18 ill., 3 maps, notes, bib., ind., paper, \$19.95.

The story of the 1858 rush to the Fraser River has often been told: the discovery of gold, the spread of rumors down the coast, and the subsequent movement of thousands of Californians north to New Caledonia. The hardships and realities of mining in that cold country caused most stampeders to become discouraged and return home to blessed California, all the while cursing the new gold diggings. In *Unsettled Boundaries*, Robert Ficken puts the rush into its international context. He also reviews the old tale of failure reported by Californians and turns that assumption on its head.

Ficken, an independent scholar of Northwest history, begins with the Hudson Bay Company and the role of trading posts in managing this rapid increase in population, a population that threatened the existence of British authority. The efforts to establish a government that maintained rather than blurred the boundary at the forty-ninth parallel is a major theme. That a large number of Californians failed to return to the Fraser River in 1859 gave local authorities—especially Governor James Douglas, also chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company—needed time to respond to the influx of miners. Douglas' central governmental control is unique among the gold rushes, and, fortunately, he maintained, for the most part, an even handedness. Ficken also discusses the evolving society of British Columbia and the impact of the rush on Native Americans.

One cannot review *Unsettled Boundaries* without comparison to Netta Sterne's *Fraser*

Gold 1858!: The Founding of British Columbia, also published by Washington State University Press, in 1998. Sterne provides a good chronicle of the rush, with extensive quotes from period documents which bring the reader into the scenes of 1858. Ficken, similarly chronicles the rush, but provides the broader context and carries the story beyond 1858 into the period of the opening of the Caribou Country and the rapid rise of gold production. He also more thoroughly documents events, especially through the use of regional and Hudson Bay Company archives.

Both books are worthy additions to one's library about gold rushes, the evolution of British Columbia, and the international landscape. However, Ficken provides a well-written and researched history of the rush that improves upon and replaces all previous works.

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Carol Arlen. *Colorado Mining Stories: Hazards, Heroics, & Humor*. Montrose, Colorado: Western Reflections Publishing Company, 2002; 176 pp., photos, glossary, paper, \$12.95.

Eric Twitty. *Riches to Rust: A Guide to Mining in the Old West*. Montrose, Colorado: Western Reflections Publishing Company, 2002; 383 pp., photos, drawings, maps, appendix, notes, bib., ind., paper, \$24.95.

Both of these books offer the reader fascinating insights into mining, and, as a definite plus, each discusses twentieth-century mining. Writer Caroline Arlen spent two years traveling around Colorado interviewing men and women whose lives were touched by or involved with mining; Eric Twitty spent even more time examining sites.

Arlen's interest started in 1997 at Silverton's Hardrockers Holidays. "I knew one of the miners. I sat with him and his friends and listened to them tell stories. I did a lot of listening that day [5]." Out of that experience