

## *Book Reviews*

**Maps of Indian Reserves and Settlements in the National Map Collection. Volume 1: British Columbia.** Compiled by Linda Camponi, Diane Tardiff-Cote and Guy Poulin. Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, National Map Collection, 1980. xx, 157 p., illus. ISBN 0-662-50525-5, pa.

The travail of some 2,000 Indian settlements and Indian Reserves in British Columbia has been a complicated process of reserve allotment, survey and resurvey, reduction, cut-off, surrender, confirmation, erosions and accretions, special grants, purchases by missionaries and many other transitions. There have been agreements between Chiefs and Governors, visits by commissioners, resistance to surveyors, protests by non-Indian settlers, trespassings and encroachments, removals and in some cases compensation in the form of new lands. One result of this process has been the creation of a remarkably rich cartographic record which can help us reconstruct the history of Indian lands and the social and economic history of Indian communities as well.

The National Map Collections' listing provides those interested in the study of the British Columbia Indians with an initial glimpse into that world of vast cartographic sources. Unfortunately, it is a rather brief and incomplete glimpse. The listing is little more than a published shelf list, arranged alphabetically by reserve, of the Record Group 10 (records relating to Indian Affairs) holdings of the National Map Collection and contains few of the features one would expect of a preliminary inventory or guide to a record group.

The introduction is most inadequate. It provides only the vaguest notion of the history of Indian Reserves and does not really describe the methods of allotment, survey, approval and registration—all having a direct bearing on the creation of the cartographic record. An explanation of the context of the creation of these records would be of value to researchers. Nor are there administrative histories of the agencies responsible for creating the sketches, maps and plans. One might not expect a full-fledged administrative history of the survey functions of the Department of Indian Affairs, or indeed of other departments involved in this activity, but an introduction would have greatly enhanced the worth of this volume.

There is no mention of the more significant documentary sources helpful to the use of maps and plans, such as the Indian Affairs Branch's 1943 *Schedule of Indian Reserves in the Province of British Columbia* (the most informative of all the 20th Century schedules) and the *Report* (4 volumes) of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia, 1916. Indeed there is no discussion at all of the reports, schedules and lists of reserves that are necessary tools of research with cartographic records. Again, one would not expect an extensive bibliography, but highlighting the important ones should have been done. There is also no mention of Surveyor's Field Books. In many cases, the Field Books were created at the same time as the plans and in some cases by the same person creating the maps and plans. At the least the plans and maps were drawn from the Field Books which are thus an inseparable part of the record.

Since the list is essentially a shelf list, there is no indication of what is missing. There is no discussion of the types of tracings and surveys that exist elsewhere for many of the reserves included in this listing. For example, one could be misled if one thought the 1911 plan of the

reserves of the Boothroyd Band was the first plan ever made of these reserves. As indicated elsewhere, a complete list of all cartographic records is beyond the stated parameters of this volume, but a more thorough discussion of other sources is in order.

The listing does provide an example of the type of cartographic record available for the study of Indian settlements in British Columbia. One is introduced to Indian Reserve Commission tracings, B. C. and Dominion Land Surveyors' surveys and plans, Indian Affairs Branch survey records, Dominion Township plans for the Railway Belt and Peace River Block, and Indian Agency maps. Also included are some very interesting special maps, like the one prepared by the Seabird Indian Band in 1917 showing locations of family forms, buildings, the CPR station, the church and the cemetery. There are illustrations, which for the most part are adequate, of these types of records.

The compiler has included a disclaimer (p. ix) about the listing's not being definitive, not dealing with records of other federal departments and not discussing current record systems, which researchers, archivists and other users should bear in mind when considering the listing's limitations. Perhaps some of the criticisms offered here might be incorporated into the promised periodic revisions so that a preliminary inventory might emerge from this initial list.

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**Maps of Indian Reserves and Settlements in the National Map Collection. Volume 2: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories.** Compiled by Linda Camponi, Diane Tardiff-Cote and Guy Poulin. Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, National Map Collection, 1981. xxiv, 153 p., illus. ISBN 0-662-51523-4, pa.

All researchers in Canadian Indian history welcome the appearance of new finding aids to the widely-scattered sources in their field. The National Map Collection (NMC) series under review is no exception, as it is the first full-scale attempt to list, for public use, both official and non-governmental maps of Indian reserves across Canada. The heavy labour needed to assemble this catalogue, and the care given to its editing and layout, have resulted (with some qualifications detailed below) in a reference aid useful in both general and specialist research.

This volume, like its predecessor volume on British Columbia also reviewed in this issue, lists the most "significant" National Map Collection holdings of maps and legal plans of Indian reserves and related lands such as "settlements", certain specialized Crown Lands and Indian school sites. It covers the Prairie Provinces, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories roughly for the period 1871 to 1930. It also includes a selection of general reference maps, from Alexander Henry's of 1775 to the main economic, legal and ethnological review sheets of the 1980s. The appendix, which lists existing and vanished "numbered" reserves and settlements, is probably the most complete and accurate compilation of its kind to date.

The Introduction, intended to orient the user to the history of Indian land tenure in the West, is brief and cogent. In its general review of treaties and land administration, however, little is said of the specific processes by which the reserves catalogued here were brought into being. This is a more or less inevitable omission, since this aspect of Indian history is as yet very poorly understood. For now, it seems, a conscientious recital of legal agreements, legislation and administrative structures must stand in for a more specific overview of reserve choice and establishment.