

***Cork Lines and Canning Lines: The Glory Years of Fishing on the West Coast.* By Geoff Meggs and Duncan Stacey. (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1992. Pp. vi + 166, ISBN 1-55054-050- 5 cloth.)**

Irene Martin

Volume 19, Number 1, 1997

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1087661ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7202/1087661ar>

[See table of contents](#)

**Publisher(s)**

Association Canadienne d'Ethnologie et de Folklore

**ISSN**

1481-5974 (print)

1708-0401 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

**Cite this review**

Martin, I. (1997). Review of [*Cork Lines and Canning Lines: The Glory Years of Fishing on the West Coast.* By Geoff Meggs and Duncan Stacey. (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1992. Pp. vi + 166, ISBN 1-55054-050- 5 cloth.)]. *Ethnologies*, 19(1), 164–166. <https://doi.org/10.7202/1087661ar>

that the book is a useful contribution for researchers trying to understand the relationship between host and tourist.

### References Cited

Siemens, Alfred H. 1995. Rev. of *The Quest for the Other. Canadian Geographer/Le géographe canadien*. Spring/printemps: 93-94.

Stephen, Lynn. 1995. Rev. of *The Quest for the Other. Sociology of Culture*. July: 403-04.

BARBARA LE BLANC  
Université Sainte-Anne  
Point-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia

---

***Cork Lines and Canning Lines: The Glory Years of Fishing on the West Coast.*** By Geoff Meggs and Duncan Stacey. (Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1992. Pp. vi + 166, ISBN 1-55054-050-5 cloth.)

Great title. Wonderful photos. These were my first impressions of this book, and after setting it aside to reflect for a month, they are still powerful. The volume is approximately half text and half photographs, drawn from an impressive array of archival sources listed in the introduction. Each chapter begins with text and ends with several pages of photographs, a layout I personally enjoyed. Incorporating illustrative matter with a volume of this kind is always problematic, as there is the choice of interspersing photos with text, or of gathering all the photos into one or more signatures, to be grouped together or placed separately. This volume displays a different, and, I think, effective means of illustrating the text.

However, in coming back to the book after a month's rest, the biggest lack by far is an index and a bibliography. The omission was an inconvenience on the first reading, and became a serious problem during subsequent readings when attempting to refer back to specific passages in the book. It is almost inconceivable that a book of this quality would lack both indexing and documentation but such is indeed the case. Not only is there no bibliography, there are no footnotes, and no way to check quotations, assertions or historical

accuracy. An example occurs on page 8, where the authors mention canning innovations being brought in from the Columbia River. However, no sources for this citation are given, and there is little discussion regarding the few innovations mentioned. Further, elaboration on the B. C./Columbia River connections seems almost essential, given that George Barker, eventual head of B. C. Packers, learned the trade from the pioneers on the Columbia (Lyons 1969: 246-48). His brother, Fred Barker, was general manager of the Columbia River Packers Association from 1913-1928 (Smith 1979: 56). A similar point could be made about two references to Henry Doyle, who, incidentally, also had Columbia River connections. A photograph caption (p. 41) mentions that he was thrown out of B. C. Packers. Later (p. 47), the text claims that he was the saviour of B. C. Packers. The curious might like to know what happened between these two extremes, yet the text does not include this information, nor refer the reader to any source material, despite the existence of Dianne Newell's volume on the subject (1989). Yet another example occurs on page 22, where the illustration of a gillnet boat is listed as appearing in the *Bulletin of the U.S. Fisheries Commission*. However, the date of the *Bulletin* is not mentioned, nor is there any other documentation. The illustration is a familiar one to those involved in fisheries history, but liable to be difficult for anyone else to trace. Some photographs (p. 44, 50) do not cite a source, so that tracking down the location of the original is next to impossible.

Another curious omission is text relating to whaling and its part in the marine adaptation, despite the presence of pictures on this subject. Similarly, additional information regarding the trollers would be helpful. Who were they? Where did they come from? However, it was refreshing to see the issue of racism addressed, although the case could have been made that it was part of the larger society, not just peculiar to the fishery. It was equally refreshing to see the incorporation of information on native and Japanese fishers, too often neglected. I would have liked to see more direct quotation from the fishers themselves. Oral history of the caliber of the splendid quotation in the introduction would have provided richness and texture in the account. One or two quibbles with terminology should also be mentioned. The term "building gillnets" (p. 13) is unclear. Were the women knitting net or hanging net, or both? The caption (p. 145) regarding the photograph (p. 144) indicates the men are repairing nets. In fact, they are hanging a corkline on a gillnet.

There is much to applaud in this book in the extensive use of archival photographs, the outstanding quotation at the beginning, and the sheer scope of it. The beautiful layout and design create a powerful visual impression. The photographic reproduction is of high quality and the size of the photographs is

lavish, inviting the reader to linger and really examine them. Those interested in industrial history, fisheries, and West-coast history will find the photographs in particular to be extremely valuable and full of information. However, the lack of an index, footnotes and bibliography lowers the value of the text considerably, and substantially mars what could otherwise have been a truly outstanding volume.

### References Cited

- Lyons, Cicely. 1969. *Salmon and Our Heritage: The Story of a Province and an Industry*. Vancouver: B.C. Packers.
- Newell, Dianne (ed.). 1989. *The Development of the Pacific Salmon-Canning Industry: A Grown Man's Game*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Smith, Courtland. 1979. *Salmon Fishers of the Columbia*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press.

IRENE MARTIN  
Skamokawa, Washington

---

***The Missions of Northern Sonora: A 1935 Field Documentation.*** By Buford Pickens (ed.). (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1993. Pp. xxxii + 198, illus., bibliography, index, ISBN 0-8165-1342-2 cloth, \$13.95 US, 0-8165-1356-2 pbk.)

***The Colonial Architecture of Mexico.*** By James Early. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1994. Pp. xii + 221, illus., colour plates, bibliography, index, \$50 US, ISBN 0-8263-1474-0 cloth.)

*The Missions of Northern Sonora* is a compilation of three separate survey reports of Spanish mission churches researched by the U.S. National Parks Service in 1935. The missions, established during the 1690s and early 1700s in Northern Sonora, the border area between Mexico and Arizona, were studied as part of a planned restoration and development of the mission building