

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

grew *Colorado Mining Stories*, a bonanza of stories of hard rock, uranium, even a mention or two of coal mining, and some material on milling.

The book focuses on the San Juan mining district, which, for all practical purposes closed down in the early nineties as a major mining region. Arlen caught it just at the right time to preserve a vanishing bit of Americana: hard rock mining. While the book emphasizes the last two generations of the century, some of the stories take the reader back before that era.

A tremendous amount of mining insight may be gained from this volume. Sometimes one might wonder why miners go underground and risk their lives. Eli Romero answered for them. His father wanted him to go to college, "but I had mining in my blood [157]." Or, as Mark Parker remarked: "If you ever actually picked up a piece of rock and saw gold, it is pretty awesome. Something about it just grabs you [169]."

Mining archaeologist and historian Eric Twitty, in his *Riches to Rust*, explains how it all happened. He covers the nitty-gritty of mining, including the equipment, the surface plants, mine development, aerial tramways, and a host of other things. Take this volume into the field with you when you venture forth to look at mining sites.

The book covers the decades from the boom of the 1870s to the depression-locked 1930s. It is heavily illustrated with photographs, drawings, and building layouts—anything that would help the reader understand and visualize the mining West. His enthusiasm took Twitty throughout the West. Why? "Today gold and silver [mining are] largely gone, and many of the mining districts are empty, but here the wealth seekers left behind a legacy of historic townsites and mines which modern culture celebrates as the physical remnants of this fascinating bygone era [2]."

These two books are excellent, and recommended, as sources to start to appreciate and understand mining and its folks. Arlen discusses the people who made it happen

and Twitty the methods and equipment. Perhaps Twitty summed up the feelings of generations of Americans when he concluded: "The historic mine sites that dot the western landscape hold a place of great significance today. When we as visitors examine historic mine sites, we walk among the ghosts of one of the world's most incredible and exciting eras [303]."

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John Park. *Missouri Mining Heritage Guide*. Miami, FL: Stonerose Publishing Co., 2005; 279 pp., 160 photos, 103 maps, paper, \$22.95.

The *Missouri Mining Heritage Guide* by MHA member John Park is a new addition to his Mining Heritage Guide series. In 279 pages, he describes the geology, history, and economics of the many mining-related localities in Missouri.

The author does not stop there. Throughout the book there are cross references to the many mining personalities, sites, railroads, museums, visitors' centers, etc., relevant to the subject. In many instances, longitude and latitude are given for a mine, along with photographs, maps, directions, mining methods employed, references, websites, and telephone numbers. Descriptions of the principal mining districts, such as the lead mines of southeast Missouri and the southwest Missouri zinc mines of the Tri-State District, are exceptionally well done. As one who spent twenty years as a mining machinery salesman in southeast Missouri, I was amazed at how much information was new to me.

This publication is a must for secondary school teachers, as they can organize some good class field trips. For a person interested in the history of mining in Missouri, past and present, the guide is a great starting point from which one can delve deeper into the history of an area with further research. In short, this guidebook is probably the best