boundaries, and circles on the third map obliterate everything beneath them. In the center of plate 56, there is a multi-part, two-color graph of social welfare institutions that lacks a key to the colors; it is not hard to infer the meaning of the graph but that does not excuse the lack of a legend. At the top of plate 17, a map of fur production displays a network of heavy black lines (district bounds, perhaps) that are not identified in the legend or the text. The map of "Cleared Land, 1842" on plate 14 is a dot map on which the dots appear in interesting patterns within townships. As in all maps of this type, the number of dots (communicating quantity) and their positions (communicating pattern of distribution) are the key elements. How frustrating to learn from the back notes that the dots have been plotted according to a randomizing program, implying that the positioning of the dots is completely artificial and is not related to any characteristic of the data. However, the most frequent and frustrating experience is encountering maps that feature a spectacular but confusing mass of overlapping graduated circles (the quantitative symbol used most often). Inevitably, the reader is left wondering what can be inferred from such a display, other than an abundance of the particular phenomenon. No atlas as large, as complicated, and as densely packed with data as this one is can be entirely free of glitches and small errors in design and execution, but the problems described above are neither isolated nor unusual; they are representative samples of what too often confronts the map reader who examines the details of the plates and tries to grasp their message.

On a number of plates, the base maps employed to show distributions are colored to distinguish between "settled area" and presumably empty land. The term "settled area" is never defined. It could mean population density above some minimum level. A comparison with the dot maps of population distribution reveals a very close correlation between the distribution of people recorded in the censuses and the settled areas, although the 1851 "settled area" south of Dalhousie and Chaleur Bay is much larger than it is for later censuses and is larger than appears warranted by the population distribution map for 1851. Plate 5 implies that all land used by Indians in 1891 lies outside the settled areas, and that "settled area" means territory occupied by people of European background. The Indian reserves fall in the non-settled area. Perhaps by 1891 there no longer were any Indian settlements, and perhaps the key really is population density, but whatever the standard is, it should be made clear to the reader. This is more than a matter of voguish political correctness, for it bespeaks the editors' fundamental conceptions of the nature of Indian culture and of the subject matter of the atlas. It may be one of the issues of interpretation that later researchers will dig out of this "research quarry reflecting contemporary views."

How easy or difficult is it for a reader to find the information and insights that the authors and editors have poured into this book? That is a question that must be asked of every reference work. For example, can a reader quickly and easily find a long lost fur trading post or military garrison in this atlas? Trading posts and garrisons are mapped here, but, without an index, the answer is: no, it will require time and effort. Of course, anyone trying to compile an index would be frustrated by the floating maps and text because they bear no coordinate system with which to make references. What about plain topical research into a subject like population? Even though several plates are explicitly concerned with demography, information about population is also presented on a number of plates concerned with other subjects. The table of contents is a good one, but it is not meant to function as anything except a table of contents, and having to search it for the titles of maps and graphs on population is an unattractive chore. By the standard of accessibility, this atlas fails, and that may discourage readership.

Hundreds of talented, accomplished, and dedicated people, some of whom labored at this project for nearly two decades, did a marvelous job of gathering a treasure of historical knowledge and insight, and then they put it almost out of reach by casting it in a barely accessible form. Had more attention been paid to making the information highly accessible and to assuring clarity in the maps and text, this second volume of the Historical Atlas of Canada would have been the exemplary contribution its makers strove to achieve.

ATLAS REVIEW


Reviewed by Joseph Poracsky
Department of Geography
Portland State University

This regional atlas of the Pacific Northwest was first produced in 1953 and new editions have been published every four to eight years.
since. The edition previous to this
1993 edition was published in
1985. The volume is largely a
product of the Department of
Geosciences at Oregon State
University. Nine of the contribu-
tors (including the two editors) are
full-time faculty members and
three contributors are emeriti of
that Department. Other contribu-
tors are from the Marine Resources
Program at Oregon State Uni-
versity, the Geography Department at
the University of Washington, and
the Oregon Department of Trans-
portation.

Each chapter was prepared by
one or two of the sixteen contribu-
tors. The chapters range in length
from five to thirteen pages. The
first chapter provides a brief
introduction and spatial context
for the region. Seven chapters
cover human geography issues:
"Historical Geography," "Popula-
tion," "Transportation," "Land
Use," "Agriculture," "Manufac-
turing and Industries," and "Recrea-
tion Resources and Tourism."

Four chapters cover physical
environment issues: "Landforms
and Geology," "Climate," "Vegeta-
tion," and "Soils." Six chapters
cover some aspect of resources:
"Water," "Energy," "Commercial
Timberland," "Ocean Resources,"
"Minerals and Mining," and
"Hunting and Fishing."

The atlas combines text, tables,
maps, photographs, and other
graphics. There are a total of 159
maps, 31 photographs, 27 tables,
20 graphs, 5 illustrations, and 3
block diagrams. The volume has
an 8.5" x 11" page size, and is
bound as six signatures in a 32-32-
16-32-32 page sequence, and
utilizes what appears to be a 160
line dot tint. The four 32-page
signatures are printed on a bright
white un-coated stock in two
colors: black and a reddish-brown,
reminiscent of the color scheme
and appearance frequently found
in many textbooks. The middle
two 16-page signatures are printed
in four-process color, creating
visual variety and a different look
in this part of the atlas.

The body text is set in Times
Roman, 11/13 and 19 picas wide,
creating an uncluttered and
inviting appearance. A variety of
typefaces are used on the graphics,
including Times Roman, Bookman,
Futura, and Helvetica and the sizes
vary from 4 point to 20 point and
are very legible.

A number of map types are
used in the atlas to illustrate a
variety of distributions. Point,
line, and area shading symbols are
used to identify cities, highways,
parks, dams, major tectonic
features, etc. Isoline maps are
used to portray the distribution of
precipitation, temperature, mean
date of last killing frost, and
surface runoff. Dot maps present
information on population and
agricultural production. Gradu-
date pie maps relate patterns of
minority population by county,
surface water withdrawals by use,
and waterfowl harvest.

Choropleth maps portray popula-
tion density, percent of land in
farms, percent change in employ-
ment, and a variety of other
economic and agricultural data.

This new edition states that it
has "113 new maps and charts,
and several maps have been
redesigned for graphic clarity."
Although many maps are new,
most are simply reprints from
earlier editions. This mix results in
frequent shifts in style from map to
map that reflect the various looks
of several editions. This stylistic
contrast is especially apparent in
variations in line weight hierar-
chies, shifts in typeface selections,
and differences in base map detail.
These inconsistencies are particu-
larly noticeable when maps appear
side-by-side (as on page 28, where
one map uses a red-brown the-
natic layer on a gray flat tint base
and the other map reverses the
visual association and uses a black
thematic layer on a red-brown
base). This raises a basic issue
with regard to atlas design; should
a rigid set of design guidelines be
followed in an attempt to produce
a uniform "look?" Or should the
guidelines be allowed to vary in an
attempt to make each map distinc-
tive and thereby stand out in the
reader's memory? There is un-
likely to be a "right" answer to this
question.

Other graphic shortcomings of
the atlas include poor symboliza-
tion choices. This is particu-
larly apparent in the diagram on
page 87 and the maps on pages 96, 108,
134-5 and 138-9, where graduated
symbols would have been more
effective to show different quanti-
ties. There are also problems with
the photos; all but one or two of
them lack captions and their
connection to the text (if any) is
unclear. There is a sense that the
photos are included simply as
space filler and to provide visual
variety.

The most serious criticism of
this atlas relates to the documenta-
tion of information and data. The
atlas has no index--a situation that
might be excused by the topical
nature of the chapters and the
relatively ease of finding subjects
within such a structure. However,
there is no bibliography either.

Only one map and a handful of
the tables in the atlas cite their data
sources. Perhaps the most glaring
example of this problem occurs on
page 137, where the text discusses
a recent analysis "undertaken by
Swanson" and a map is presented
based on that analysis, but no-
where is there a bibliographic
citation of the Swanson source.

Three chapters do end with lists
identified as "Further Reading,"
"Sources," or "References." How-
ever, the omission of a proper
bibliography leaves the reader
with no springboard to explore
issues further.

Overall, a good job was done in
editing the atlas and few errors
were detected. The registration is