

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Ranald MacDonald. The Narrative of His Early Life on the Columbia Under the Hudson's Bay Company's Regime, of His Experiences in the Pacific Whale Fishery, and of His Great Adventure to Japan, with a Sketch of His Later Life on the Western Frontier, 1824-1894.* Edited by William S. Lewis and Naojiro Murakami. (Spokane: The Inland-American Printing Company for the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, 1923. Pp. 333.)

Northwest Americana has been enriched by the publication of this book. There is much of drama and pathos in the story of the original manuscript and the author's futile struggle toward its publication. A quarter of a century after his death, sympathetic hands have taken his loved manuscript and made of it a durable monument to the memory of Ranald MacDonald.

The energy which has made possible the present achievement of publication was supplied by William S. Lewis, an attorney of Spokane, who is one of the most active members of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society. He very modestly asks that the blame for any editorial errors or mistakes be put upon him while any merit in the work should be attributed to his associate editor, Naojiro Murakami. The latter is head of the School of Music and formerly was head of the Department of Foreign Languages in the Imperial University, Tokyo, Japan. At one time he was Commissioner of Historical Compilation for Japan. He is the author of many articles in English on subjects of Japanese and Pacific Coast history.

Ranald MacDonald's father was Archibald MacDonald, a Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. The mother was Princess Sunday, daughter of Comcomly, great chief of the Chinook Indians at the mouth of the Columbia River. The boy was given a good education but the great inspiration in his life came from some Japanese sailors who were wrecked on the Pacific Coast and who would not be permitted to return to their own country, then locked in strict seclusion. On attaining young manhood Ranald carried out his pondered scheme by causing himself to be set adrift in a small boat from a whaler near the shore of Japan. There he was made a prisoner and as such became the first teacher of English to the Japanese.

He was rescued in 1849 and two of his Japanese pupils became interpreters for Matthew Calbraith Perry during that American sailor's famous "opening" of Japan. In 1853, while visiting his father's home at St. Andrews, Quebec, he left his original manuscript with a family friend, Malcolm McLeod, a barrister of Ottawa. Ranald MacDonald returned to old Fort Colville. Several copies of the manuscript were made. Many publishers in England and America were appealed to in vain. Mr. MacDonald tried to raise the money to pay for the publication. His own copy of the manuscript was loaned to A. D. Burnett, a newspaper man of Spokane, who might help to get it published. On Mr. MacDonald's death that copy fell into the keeping of the society at Spokane. When Malcolm McLeod died his copy of the manuscript and correspondence about it were obtained by the Provincial Library, at Victoria, British Columbia. The present editors have carefully compared all these documents.

In the meantime, Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, of Oregon City, corresponded with Mr. MacDonald and later obtained from the Provincial Library a copy of the manuscript, which she used in preparing her own book, *MacDonald of Oregon*.

Besides reproducing MacDonald's own story, the present editors have amassed quantities of helpful materials, such as a biographical sketch, abundant footnotes, sixteen valuable illustrations, three maps, an appendix of historic documents bearing on the Japanese experience, a bibliography and an index. The book is well printed and substantially bound. One thousand copies were issued. These are being taken by libraries and subscribing individuals.

EDMOND S. MEANY.

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*Bering's Voyages, An Account of the Efforts of the Russians to Determine the Relations of Asia and America.* By F. A. GOLDER. (New York: American Geographic Society, 1922. Pp. 371.)

Much of the world's surface was made known by the adventuresome work of discoverers and explorers during the eighteenth century. Those who wrought under the flags of England and of France had their work given to the world in the substantial books of that era. Few such monuments were reared for those who sailed under the flags of Spain and Russia. This fact has given Professor Golder the opportunity of filling one of the most greivous