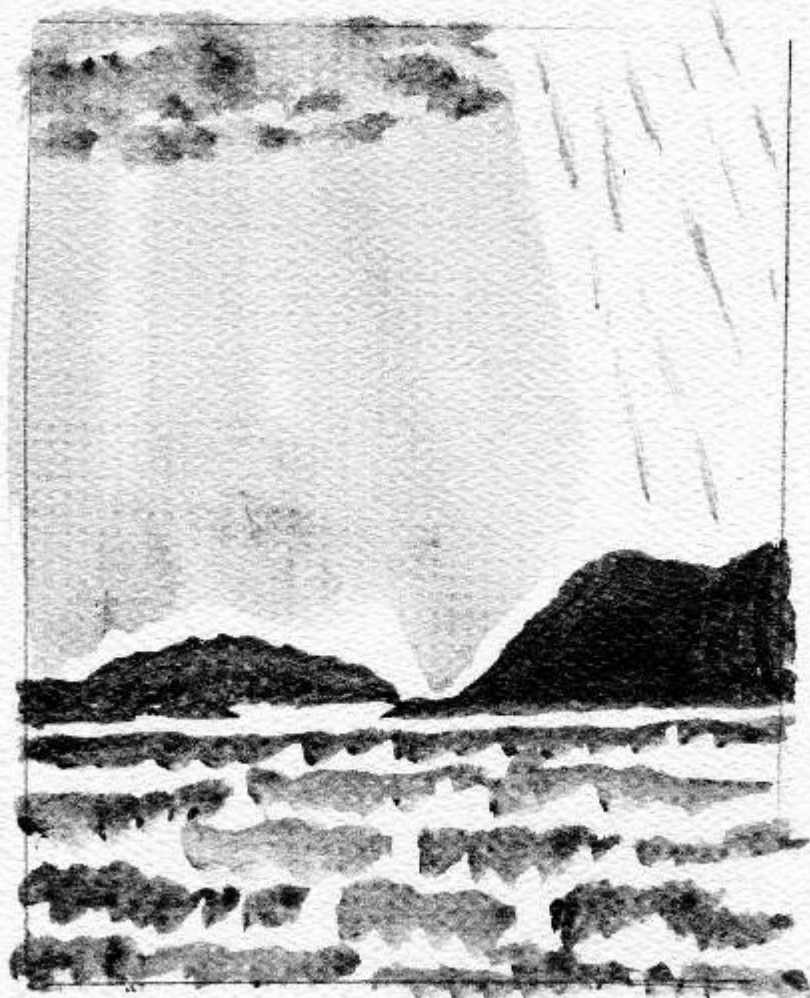


# BC STUDIES

*A Quarterly Journal of the  
Humanities and Social Sciences*



DOUBLE ISSUE Nos. 91-92  
AUTUMN & WINTER 1991-92

that "other unsavoury actions far more significant went unpunished. Some day the other aspects of the Sommers case may surface" (p. 132). Similarly, the later exposition of the Shoal Island log scaling controversy peters out with "[i]t would be interesting to know whether particular companies, such as those operating the offending dryland sorts, were generous donors of political money to the Social Credit party" (p. 219). In addition, some will say the authors are overly sanguine in their argument that small loggers could have been (or could be) transformed into successful small-scale tree farmers. But on the whole this is a fine book. All those interested in B.C. forest history should hope that it inspires other industry pioneers to have a go at setting down their experiences.

University of Victoria

JEREMY WILSON

*Landscape Evaluation: Approaches and Applications*, edited by Philip Dearden and Barry Sadler. Victoria: University of Victoria Department of Geography, 1989. Pp. xvi, 305. Illus. \$15.00 paper.

Rarely has a book so clearly relevant to current problems in western Canada been so understated. *Landscape Evaluation* was published in 1989, and the importance of its themes to public policy has grown over the ensuing years.

*Landscape Evaluation* looks at the visual aspects of the western Canadian landscape. Edited by Philip Dearden and Barry Sadler, both with long-standing associations with the Geography department of the University of Victoria, the book provides a key linkage between the emerging body of theoretical, technical, and policy literature on visual resources management that is being generated in the United States, and those issues specific to our region.

The book has chapters that provide a framework for landscape evaluation research and for looking at socially derived aesthetic values. Douglas Porteous' essay on Malcolm Lowry's vision of the landscapes of the British Columbia coast is intriguing, as is the photographic essay on the early years of Banff National Park. Both chapters explore the play between cultural themes related to the landscape and the implications to land use policy. Unfortunately, the most pressing landscape evaluation issue in British Columbia, managing the visual impacts of logging and setting socially derived standards for aesthetics, is barely mentioned.

*Landscape Evaluation* is part of a recent wave of new literature on visual resources management and provides some unique contributions — mainly grounded in the context of the dramatic landscapes of western Canada. However, the cultural milieu from which individual experience is in part derived is not as carefully described. Marsh's discussion of how postcards shape the tourist experience is probably the most region-specific.

Dearden and Sadler have compiled much for a key regional discourse, and the book warrants serious use in university programmes in landscape studies and environmental planning. The book is well produced, and the extensive reliance on photographs makes its points even more compelling.

*University of British Columbia*

GORDON BRENT INGRAM

*Landscapes of the Mind: Worlds of Sense and Metaphor*, by J. Douglas Porteous. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990. Pp. xv, 227. \$40.00 cloth.

Robert Bringhurst's "Sunday Morning" turns on these intricate metaphors for the mind:

The mind is the place not already taken.  
 The mind is not-yet-gathered beads of water  
 in the teeth of certain leaves —  
*Saxifraga punctata*, close by the stream  
 under the ridge leading south to Mount Hozameen,  
 for example — and the changing answers of the moon.

Such speculative epistemology might serve as the epigraph to J. Douglas Porteous's *Landscapes of the Mind*. The book is a relaxed and reverent meditation on the necessity of knowing the world "close-up," through the non-visual senses, and balancing and integrating such physical contact with apprehending through processes of metaphor (as duplicitous as in Bringhurst's poem).

Porteous proposes an interdisciplinary exploration of the sensory and existential ways in which we perceive the world — or, of the ways we could/should perceive world if the visual sense were not so dominant and imperialisitic. As a geographer, Porteous is interested in landforms and topography. As a humanistic geographer, he is interested not so much in the quantitative measures central to his discipline as in the human beings' *conceptions* of geography, in the connections between people's imaginative comprehension of landscape (in language, through literature — in par-