work that Mitham has put into the study and clearly demonstrates the respect and affection that those who supported Mitham's project have for the literary achievement of Robert Service. The conjunction of Peter Mitham and the Friends of the Work of Robert Service has resulted in an exceptional tribute to the man. The only difficulty I found with the book lay in trying to use it as a 'quick reference' for identifying a volume in hand. Locating the section that dealt with a particular title took some searching, a problem that might have been avoided by providing more details in the table of contents and index. One needs to familiarize oneself fully with the structure of the work to navigate the materials easily and quickly. On balance, however, this is a thorough and careful work, impressively presented. It is a 'basic book' for scholars, book collectors, and book dealers interested in Robert Service and in Canadian bibliography. It will make a fine addition to any private collection and should automatically find a place in the bibliographical reference section of any reputable research library.

TOM VINCENT

Royal Military College, Kingston

Robert B. Cave. *Roderick Haig-Brown: A Descriptive Bibliography*. Citrus Heights, Calif.: Privately published by the author, 2000. 332 pp. \$95.00 US (hardcover).

Robert Cave shows an awareness of the difficulties associated with preparing a scholarly bibliography of an author whose enthusiasts are not likely to be versed in title page transcriptions and collation statements, yet who deserves the rigorous attention a scholarly approach offers.

Cave's bibliography of Roderick Haig-Brown (1908-1976), the late British Columbia-based author whose writing on the outdoors and particularly fishing won him a devoted audience among anglers and conservationists, diligently records a tremendous output of books, articles, reviews, published letters, excerpts and reprints, and miscellaneous other material ranging from interviews and film appearances to a provincial park named in the author's honour. It is a landmark work for Haig-Brown enthusiasts. Cave ensures his work is accessible to his readers, whose familiarity with the descriptive

principles of Fredson Bowers he doesn't assume, by including a preface explaining the various elements in standard bibliographical description.

The book's expected audience of anglers is notable for by the lack of photos offering glimpses of the books described. Instead, most of the illustrations are images of salmon reproduced from federal government publications. These are an economical and perhaps even appropriate way to illustrate a work about Haig-Brown, but not very useful to those seeking title pages, manuscripts, rare wrappers, or decorative bindings.

What does add value to the descriptions are the substantial extracts from reviews and other material regarding Haig-Brown's books. These make the notes compulsory reading. They illuminate not only the production and reception of the books themselves, but also make available secondary material that is otherwise difficult to obtain. An example is the review of *Alison's Fishing Birds* (A194[b]), the presentation of which nicely complements a short history of the book's publication. The result is a ready guide to the critical reception of Haig-Brown throughout his 45-year career.

The drawback, however, is an occasionally haphazard pick of selections, not to mention a curious layout. The entire text of *Sport Fisheries-General Evaluation* (A168), for example, is centred on the page in a single narrow column. It occupies the equivalent of almost three pages, but there is little reason for its presence. Why reproduce the entire text of this one item, which Cave claims is the most available of any of the author's pamphlets?

The major difficulty, however, lies in the layout of the text itself. While Cave provides a wealth of information, it is visually overwhelming. Text-heavy pages and limited use of white space leave the reader unable to easily discern the relationship between the various works in the section of primary material. Although rules separate the individual titles, these are like rare fish in the thick bibliographical chowder Cave serves.

A brief chronology of Haig-Brown's life is missing, too, limiting the degree of context readers are able to gather about the items. This compounds the navigational difficulties arising from the lack of clear directions at the start of the work as to the arrangement of the bibliography. Though a number of helpful indices exist, along with a table of printing and sales records for many of the titles, there is no general index. There is merit, however, in the chronological arrangement of the entries, each with a unique identifier.

One idiosyncrasy of the descriptions deserves special mention: the frequent use of the capital letter "I" (the Roman numeral I), in place of the Arabic numeral 1. While the reader appreciates Cave's intended meaning, the description is compromised.

Overall, however, this is a solid bibliography by a competent bibliographer. Handsomely bound in durable maroon cloth boards, it is testimony to Cave's dedication and to the special, ongoing importance of Haig-Brown to those who know his work.

PETER J. MITHAM

Vancouver

Clara Vyvyan. *The Ladies, the Gwich'in, and the Rat: Travels on the Athabasca, Rat, Porcupine, and Yukon Rivers in 1926*. I.S. MacLaren and Lisa LaFramboise, eds. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1998. 364 pp.; \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 0 88 8643 020.

Clara Vyvyan's *Arctic Adventure*, originally published in 1961, recounts the journey of two women into country most published accounts of which, at least in 1926, were by men writing adventures and/or narratives of geographical and scientific exploration. Vyvyan and her travelling companion, Gwendolen Dorrien Smith, probably benefited from the interest and deference accorded two educated English 'ladies,' but both also resisted the efforts of clerics, policemen, and Hudson's Bay Company employees to curtail their plans, or to insulate their exposure to social rough edges based on notions of what ladies might properly be prepared for. Both women were in their forties when they arrived in the North, with serious travelling experience already. They had travelled together in the Balkans in 1924, for example. Vyvyan had published two travel books on Cornwall, and Dorrien Smith had sold paintings to help finance travels; both were avid birders and plant collectors. Vyvyan's account of the preparation and execution of the journey bespeaks her experience and understanding of adventurous tourism, where one challenges one's limits in search of the rare and the remote.

The editors provide biographies of the three Gwich'in guides, Lazarus Sittichinli and James Koe, who took the pair up the Rat, and David Elias, who directed their journey down the Porcupine