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William E. Moreau, ed. *The Writings of David Thompson*. Vol. 1, *The Travels, 1850 Version*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009. 432 pp.; \$44.95 ISBN 9780773535589

In the first of the three volumes of *The Writings of David Thompson*, editor William E. Moreau contributes to the study of exploration literature by presenting not only “the complete text” (lix) of Thompson’s 1850 version of his *Travels* but also a picture of Thompson himself as a writer. Covering the period, from 1784 to 1807, dealing with Thompson’s travels taken during his employ with, first, the Hudson’s Bay Company and, then, the North West Company, *The Travels, 1850 Version* is “based on a fresh transcription of Thompson’s manuscript and a careful study of the evolution of the work through its surviving drafts” (xii). It represents “379” (lxii) of “702” (lv) manuscript pages and reveals Thompson’s writing process at the same time that it reflects his “last intended arrangement” (lix) of his unfinished text. Features indicating process include bracketed numerals, within the text itself, keyed to an appendix indicating the dates of composition for each of the text’s sections; retained cancellations and narrative repetitions, which serve as reminders that the text is “a work of retrospection and synthesis” (xviii); and footnoted references to Thompson’s unpublished journals and published writings where they parallel the text. These features indicating Thompson’s process speak of a writer’s consideration for narrative developed from reading and listening habits, which Moreau’s historical introduction describes.

The historical introduction provides a biography of Thompson that discusses his intellectual and philosophical interests in context of his historical moment rather than merely focusing on fur trade history. It describes Thompson’s writing of the *Travels*, and it also draws attention to Thompson’s other writings: the “[o]ne hundred and eighteen notebooks” (xi) that he wrote over much of his life and the articles that he contributed to Montreal newspapers. Moreau situates his own edition within context of the history of *Travels* editions, and

he discusses scholarly interest in the *Travels* – as a “geographical” (xiii) and “historical” source (xiv). Although Moreau believes that “exploration texts such as Thompson’s have come to be appreciated as literary works” (xvi), as evidenced by their inclusion in anthologies of Canadian literature, it is only with an edition such as he offers that the *Travels* can truly be understood as the literary work that it is.

Besides the historical introduction and appendix A, indicating section composition dates, the 1850 text is supported by a textual introduction, an appendix B, listing those emendations unaccounted for in the textual introduction, and informational footnotes. Appendix 1 presents a discarded manuscript page, of interest because Thompson uses a number of Cree names for North American animals, and appendix 2 comprises brief biographies for those persons mentioned repeatedly in the text. Moreau’s choice of retaining much of Thompson’s spelling and punctuation does not interfere with understanding the text because Thompson has a fluid storytelling voice. In choosing to insert paragraphs where Thompson has none, Moreau makes the writing more accessible. In foregoing chapter divisions in favour of sections headed according to the descriptions that Thompson provided in his indices to the *Travels*, Moreau reminds the reader that Thompson’s work was unfinished in his lifetime.

There are also photographic reproductions of manuscript pages prefacing each of the four larger divisions of the text and, reflecting the text’s two halves, two maps: one showing the routes of the journeys that Thompson took for the Hudson’s Bay Company and the other showing those that he took for the North West Company. On the verso of the half-title page is a photographic reproduction of Thompson’s “Map of the North West Territory of the Province of Canada” from Archives of Ontario, and, following the index, there are photographic reproductions of five sections of the National Archives of London copy of the same map; the sections are keyed to a map showing from which part of the whole they are taken – although Moreau does not explain why he chose these sections. Besides the key map and the two journey maps, there is one map showing the cultural areas of Aboriginal Peoples of the Northwest during the period that the text covers, and there is another showing the geographic zones. These maps give the reader a sense of the terrain through which Thompson travels and the ability to place the Peoples whom he meets; these also establish a relationship between mapping and writing that resonates with Thompson’s experience.

An innovation in editorial approach in the history of *Travels* editions, *The Travels, 1850 Version* is unlike the earlier editions – edited by J.B. Tyrrell (1916), Richard Glover (1962), and Victor G. Hopwood (1971) – not only because it reveals Thompson's process but also because it does not combine parts of both the 1848 and 1850 versions in an effort to complete Thompson's narrative of his employ with the North West Company and, thus, extend the *Travels* to 1812. Uninterested in presenting Thompson's text as a *fait accompli*, it nonetheless gains by the others' precedence. Tyrrell's edition brought Thompson to publication, Glover's published the 29 missing manuscript pages discovered by Hopwood, and Hopwood's provided a "popular edition" (xliii) that was the first "to include material from outside of the corpus of the *Travels*" (lix). In producing only the 1850 version of the *Travels*, Moreau highlights the text's archival origins – the legacy of a lifetime of writing.

For those familiar with Thompson, *The Travels, 1850 Version* offers an unfamiliar mid-sentence ending, "as befits [the text's] unfinished nature" (320n6) and such points of interest as sections on igloos and Inuit villages and an extended discussion of the aurora borealis. Reflecting Thompson's adulthood reading habits, the sections on igloos and Inuit villages include quotations from Sir John Franklin's and Dr Richardson's narratives of the first and second Franklin expeditions, respectively, and the discussion of the aurora borealis also mentions arctic explorer Sir William Perry. For those unfamiliar with Thompson, *The Travels, 1850 Version* offers an engaging narrative, for, as Moreau states, *The Travels* is "a distinguished literary work" (xiii). Moreau's editorial approach to *The Travels, 1850 Version* supports his statement. I look forward to the next two volumes.

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Martha Fleming, ed. "Allan Fleming's Many Worlds." Special issue, *The Devil's Artisan* 62 (2008). 96 pp.; ISSN 02257874

Martha Fleming, ed. "In Allan Fleming's Archive." Special issue, *The Devil's Artisan* 63 (2008). 124 pp.; ISSN 02257874

Graphic design historian Brian Donnelly describes the state of design history in Canada as "dispossessed because it has not been formally