MINING THE AMERICAN WEST

A Bibliographical Guide to Printed Materials on American Mining Frontiers in the British Library

by

DAVID J. WHITTAKER
FULBRIGHT FELLOW
ECCLES CENTRE FOR AMERICAN STUDIES
BRITISH LIBRARY

AUGUST 1994
PREFACE

There are few geographical regions in the history of the United States that lack a mining frontier. Almost from its discovery, the image of America as a land of golden wealth has presented a powerful image to the world. America's extensive economic resources have led some historians to suggest that the abundance of the land and its use by her citizens and governments is a key factor in shaping the national character. From different angles both Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" and David M. Potter's *People of Plenty* [1954] (Ac.2691.dw(26)) show the key roles of mineral wealth in the American experience.

There are many reasons why students of American history cannot ignore the mining frontiers. The discovery of precious metals hurried the westward movement of the nation. The discovery of gold in California in January 1848 and the Gold Rush the next year is only the most prominent example. The early history of many western states, especially Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, Arizona, Montana, the Dakotas and Alaska are intimately tied up with mining activities. These were linked to politics and the issues of statehood which were in turn, welded to the growth of American nationalism, encouraging as they did the development of regional and national transportation and communication networks. The international flavour of the mining communities also warrants closer examination for students of comparative history.

American land and water laws are other examples of continuing connections to western mining history. The urban frontier reflecting the boom and bust cycles of
mining communities, remain a factor in American economic history. The hundreds of ghost towns in the West are the most silent reminders of this aspect of mining history.

The investment of European capital in American mining provides another reason for taking a closer look at this area. American labor history is particularly tied into mining history. Additionally, the importance of the science of mining technology, much of which was developed in the American West, provides an important chapter in the history of technology. This includes the history of exploration and the growth of geological knowledge. Other dimensions are less positive. The environmental impact has been significant and remained for later generations to address. And the effects of mining rushes on the original or reserved homes of Native Americans was devastating. Then too, the few who got rich compared with the loss and destruction of so many others, requires continuing research and evaluation.

Yet there is little doubt about the great impact that the discovery, extraction and use of mineral wealth had in American history. While we tend to think of gold and silver, we must also include coal, oil, copper, gas and other extractive minerals.

This bibliography provides a basic guide to the printed materials on this important topic in American History as reflected in the holdings of the British Library. It does not claim to be comprehensive, but it will provide the serious student with a window to the literature on Western American mining history. Included is a short bibliography of the larger topic of world mining frontiers.
iii

David J. Whittaker
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. General Histories and Guides
2. California
3. Nevada
4. Colorado
5. Northwest
6. Southwest
7. Black Hills
8. Alaska
9. Comparative Mining Frontiers
   a. General Works
   b. Australia/New Zealand
   c. South America and Mexico
   d. Russia
   e. South Africa
   f. India
GENERAL HISTORIES AND GUIDES


--------, "Structure and Balance in Western Mining History," *Huntington Library Quarterly* 30 (November 1966):55-84. (P.P.6491.hhb.)


GIDDENS, Paul H., "One Hundred Years of Petroleum History," *Arizona and the West* 4 (Summer 1962):127-44. (P.710/1302)


--------, *Interviews With Mining Engineers* [Reprinted from "The Mining and Scientific Press"] (San Francisco, CA: Mining and Scientific Press, 1922). (07108.aaa.17)

--------, *The Romance of Mining* (Toronto, Canada: Macmillan Co. of Canada, 1945). (07107.v.24)


WEST, Elliott, The Saloon on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1979). (X.989/88414)


WOLLE, Muriel S., The Bonanza Trail: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of the West (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1960). (10293.k.7)

WOODARD, Bruce A., Diamonds in the Salt (Boulder, NV: Pruett, 1967). (X.200/5308)


CALIFORNIA


--------, Atlas, 1887. Folio (Maps 15.e.15)


BORTHWICK, J.D., Three Years in California...With Eight Illustrations by the Author (Edinburgh, Scotland: W. Blackwood & Sons, 1857). (10411.g.2)


CAUGHEY, John W., Gold is the Cornerstone (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1948). (W.P.14208/1) Reissued in 1975 as The California Gold Rush (X.319/16896 Woolwich)


EATON, Hebert, *The Overland Trail to California in 1852* (New York: , 1974).


HITTELL, John S., *The Resources of California, Comprising the Society, Climate, Salubrity, Commerce and Industry of the State*, 6th edition (San Francisco, CA:, 1874) (10413.bbb.29)


LYMAN, George Dunlop, *Ralston's Ring; California Plunders the Comstock Lode* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937). (10413.k.29)

MADSEN, Brigham D., *Gold Rush Sojourners in Great Salt Lake City, 1849 and 1850* (Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Press, 1983). (X.800/41387)


--------, The Rocky-Bar Mining Company. An Episode of Early Western Promotion and Finance (San Francisco, CA: Roxburghe Club and Zamorano Club, 1934). (Cup.931/40)


ZOLLINGER, James Peter, Sutter: The Man and His Empire (New York: Oxford University Press 1939). (10888.e.8)
NEVADA


--------, *Atlas* folio (Maps 20.e.25)


--------, *History of Nevada* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1973).


GOLDMAN, Marion S., *Gold Diggers and Silver Miners; Prostitution and Social Life on the Comstock Lode* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1982). (X.800/40044)


LYMAN, George D., Ralston's Ring: California Plunders the Comstock Lode (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937). (10413.k.29)


MATHEWS, Mary M., Ten Years in Nevada; or, Life on the Pacific Coast (Buffalo, NY: Baker, Jones & Co., 1880). (1560/4679)


TILTON, Cecil G., William Chapman Ralston, Courageous Builder (Boston, MA: Christopher Publishing House, 1935). (010886.g.11)

TWAIN, Mark, [Samuel L. Clemens, pseud.], Roughing It (Hartford, CT: American Publications Co., 1873). (10410.s.5)


COLORADO


GROWER, Calvin W., "Aids to Prospective Prospectors: Guidebooks and Letters from Kansas Territory, 1858-1860," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 43 (Spring 1977): (Ac.8531)


--------, ed., *Colorado Gold Rush; Contemporary Letters and Reports, 1858-1859* (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark, 1941). (9617.bb.5/10)


PAUL, Rodman W., "Colorado as a Pioneer of Science in the Mining West," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 47 (June 1960): . (Ac.8408/2)2Burch


NORTHWEST


BURCH, Albert, "Development of Metal Mining in Oregon," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 43 (June 1941):105-128. (Ac.8361/3 and Mic.B.602/20)


FELL, James E. Jr., *Ores to Metals: The Rocky Mountain Smelting Industry* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1979). (X.629/14920 Woolwich)


*The Oregonian's Handbook of the Pacific Northwest* (Portland, OR: 1894).


SOUTHWEST


Harrington’s Director of the City of Austin... for 1866. With a History and Statistical Review of the City of Austin and the Reece River Mining Region, by Myron] Angel (Austin, TX, 1866). (P.P.2535.lu)

History of Arizona Territory, Showing its Resources and Advantages; With Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery, Residences, Farms, Mines, Mills (San Francisco, CA: 1884).

JONES, Fayette A., New Mexico Mines and Minerals... Being an Epitome of the Early Mining History and Resources of New Mexican Mines (Santa Fe, NM: New Mexican Printing Co., 1904). (Pressmark Pending)


LOCKWOOD, Frank C., Pioneer Days in Arizona from the Spanish Occupation to Statehood (New York: Macmillan, 1932). (010410.eee.10)

MELZER, Richard, Madrid Revisited: Life and Labour in a New Mexican Mining Camp in the Years of the Great Depression (Santa Fe, MN: The Lightening Tree, 1976). (YA.1987.b.1079)

MYERS, John M., *The Last Chance; Tombstone's Early Years* (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1950). (10414.g.10)


BLACK HILLS


FIELDER, Mildred, ed., *Lawrence County, for the Dakota Territory Centennial* (Lead, SD: 1960).


HOFMAN, Heinrich Oscar, *Gold Milling in the Black Hills* (Chicago, IL, 1893?). (07109.e.20.(6))


KRAUS, Herbert and Gary D. Olson, eds., *Prelude to Glory* (Sioux Falls, SD: , 1974).


TALLENT, Annie D., *The Black Hills; or, the Last Hunting Ground of the Dakotahs: A Complete History of the Black Hills of Dakota from Their First Invasion in 1874 to the Present. . . .* (St Louis, MO: 1899).
ALASKA


HASKELL, William B., *Two Years in the Klondike and Alaskan Goldfields*... (Hartford, CT: Hartford Publishing Co., 1898). (010470.de.2)


INNIS, Harold A., *Settlement and The Mining Frontier* [part of Vol. 9 of *Canadian Frontiers of Settlement*] (Toronto, Canada: Macmillan, 1936). (010005.h.29/9)

KIRK, Robert C., *Twelve Months in the Klondike...* (London: W. Heinemann, 1899). (10460.bbb.24)

LYNCH, Jeremiah, *Three Years in the Klondike* (London: Edward Arnold, 1904). (010470.e.15)


SPUDE, Robert L., comp., *Chilkoot Trail* [Historic photographs] (Fairbanks, AK: University of Alaska, 1980).


**COMPARATIVE MINING FRONTIERS (Selected References)**

a. General Works


b. Australia/New Zealand


ALLEN, Charles Harris, A Visit to Queensland and Her Goldfields (London: Chapman and Hall, 1870). (10491.bb.19)


DAVISON, Simpson, The Discovery and Geognosy of Gold Deposits in Australia; With Comparison and Accounts of the Gold Regions in California, Russia, India, Brazil. . . . (London: Green, Longman, & Roberts, 1860). (7105.cc.11) [2nd ed., 1861] (7109.f.37)


ERSKINE, John E., Short Account of Late Discoveries of Gold in New South Wales (London: 1851) (7107.d.14) 2nd ed. (London, 1852) [with map]. (7104.b.20)

HARGRAVES, Edward Hammond, Australia and the Gold Fields. . . . (London: 1855). (10491.c.6)


PATTERSON, J.A., *The Goldfields of Victoria in 1862*

POTTS, Eli Daniel and Annette Potts, *Young America and Australian Gold: Americans and the Gold Rush of the 1850s* (St. Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland Press, 1974). (YA.1986.a.8077)


SMYTH, Robert B., *Goldfields and Mineral Districts of Victoria* (Melbourne, Australia: John Ferres, 1869). (7104.e.23)

WESTGARTH, William, *The Colony of Victoria: Its History, Commerce and Gold Mining...* (London: 1864). (10492.g.20)


--------, *Victoria, . . or Port Philip District of New South Wales; Being an Historical and Descriptive Account of the Colony and its Gold Mines. . .* (Edinburgh, Scotland, 1853). (10491.e.22)

WOODWARD, Harry P., *Mining Handbook to the Colony of Western Australia* (Perth, Australia: R. Pether, 1894). (07108.g.17)

c. South America and Mexico


d. Russia


SEMEVSKY, Vasily I., *Labourers in the Siberian Gold Mining Industry* (St. Petersburg, Russia: 1898). (07108.k.24)

e. South Africa


f. India


The Monongah Mining Disaster was the worst mining accident of American history; 362 workers were killed in an underground explosion on December 6, 1907 in Monongah, West Virginia. The majority of these fatalities occurred in Kentucky and West Virginia, including the Sago Mine Disaster. On April 5, 2010, in the Upper Big Branch Mine disaster an underground explosion caused the deaths of 29 miners. Controversies. Mines are often controversial in their local areas, with local residents split by those in favor particularly due to the economic impact of new jobs and those concerned by the environmental impact and occupational hazards.