



Clerics, Carpenters and Architects: Church and Temple Buildings on Vancouver Island and the Gulf of British Columbia

Steuart Beatie

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In a visual exploration of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands of British Columbia's spiritual heritage, Clerics, Carpenters and Architects, authored by Steuart Beattie, delves into the architectural, cultural and historical features of church and temple buildings, unearthing stories and photographic footage dating back to the nineteenth century and placing this archival footage alongside contemporary images taken by Beattie himself.

Beattie leads the reader on a tour of sorts, illuminating how the religious communities, and architectural fashions in these areas have changed over time. We see how the churches built in former times are later joined by spiritual houses of other faiths, such as Synagogues and Gurdwaras, and we also see the revival of the rich spiritual culture of the First Nations People, after failed attempts of past governments to achieve assimilation, all of which has redefined the islands' cultural anatomy. Many of the more recent structures show distinctive original accomplishment and skill in replicating, often in wood, the long established architectural and artistic traditions of the migrant communities.

Acting as a photographic guide for anyone with an interest in Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands of British Columbia's local history, its colonial past and its natural environment, Clerics, Carpenters and Architects comprises a detailed introduction, alongside a short history of each region and commentaries on selected buildings.

Before retiring, Steuart Beattie was Deputy High Commissioner for Canada in London, with postings in New Delhi and Bonn. He remained an enthusiastic photographer throughout his career and since his retirement he has focused his time on this passion.

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