



1877 · 1977

The Japanese Canadians
A Dream of Riches

日系カナダ人百年史

千金の夢

Un Rêve de Richesses

Les Japonais au Canada

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When we docked in Victoria (1899), I saw a lot of splendid houses. I was astounded that white people could build such great houses and I thought since I'm a man too, I should be able to build a house like that. I said to myself it's not impossible, and I did it ... And the white people would say, as soon as a Japanese makes money he goes back to Japan, you're all parasites. But I said I have children here so I'm going to live my life here and I don't look back to Japan.

ASAMATSU MURAKAMI

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UCLA Asian American
Studies Center

What British Columbians want to know is whether the Japs can be sent out of the country and kept out. We don't want to wave them a pier-head farewell, only to have them turn up on our doorsteps a few months or years hence with a perfect legal right to admittance ... Japs who leave Canada under protest will be like cats that hopeful householders try to lose in the country.

THE VANCOUVER SUN, AUGUST 1, 1945



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It's not my usual experience to be so moved at an archival exhibit. The Project team have done an extraordinary job mounting their display with exemplary tact, courage and skill The juxtapositions of photographs and texts in this exhibit owe their remarkable emotional impact to the universality of the story they tell so simply and powerfully. Hope, prejudice, violence, struggle, pride are terms that apply to the Japanese experience specifically but to all peoples as well. Visiting this exhibit is a seminar in self-knowledge for anyone who lives in BC, Canada or the world.

What's past is present: reflections of Japanese British Columbians.

RUSS WODELL: *Victoria's Monday Magazine*;
Volume 2, Number 26; August 29–September 5, 1976.

A Dream of Riches — *The Japanese Canadians 1877-1977*. Published by the Japanese Canadian Centennial Project. Size 8½" x 11", 190 pages, 262 photographs, text in English, French and Japanese. Paperback and hardbound.

It was in 1877 that Manzo Nagano, the first immigrant from Japan, arrived on these shores. The shiploads of settlers that followed were to play an important role in the mining, logging, farming and fishing industries of the fledgling colony of British Columbia.

Today, Japan is Canada's second largest trading partner, and for a full century her people and heritage have enriched the "mosaic" of the people termed Canadian.

Over the last two years, we of the Japanese Canadian Centennial Project have collected over 4,000 photographs, researched a vast body of historic material and taped over 100 hours of interviews across the country. **The Japanese Canadians 1877 - 1977**, a photographic and narrative exhibition of the history of our people, is the result.

In May of the Centennial Year 1977, the exhibition began its tour of major Canadian cities with an opening at the Museum of Man in Ottawa. Three days later the tour schedule of centres in Japan commenced in Osaka with over 5,000 people attending the opening ceremonies. Since then the exhibit has been enthusiastically received by well over 200,000 people.

A Dream of Riches is the permanent record of that exhibit. In publishing this book, we wish not only to honour the Issei, the pioneers of our community, but also to remind all Canadians of a significant part of their history.

The enabling legislation that destroyed the liberties of over 22,000 Japanese Canadians in 1942 was merely the culmination of a prevailing attitude of intolerance toward immigrant people. Both the attitude and the legislation, the War Measures Act, remain with us today.

There are dire predictions for the Japanese Canadians. Looking at the high rate of assimilation and intermarriage, some say we will soon disappear as a distinct group with a consciousness of our own history, values and character. Indeed, many Sansei (third generation) today know little and care less about their heritage. They are the sons and daughters of a generation that was too busy rebuilding shattered lives and perhaps too ashamed after the humiliation of the evacuation to provide much content to the Japanese identity of their offspring. The great reward to those of us who worked on this project would be, in some measure, to fulfill this need, to share the experience of discovery, growth and pride that is *A Dream of Riches*.