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Non-fiction writing is born of history. History is the seed bed of research. An acute observation of the present preserves morsels for the future. I fall in the class of poor, slaving researchers. I know nothing of the dead languages and in fact am a little shaking on the living.

How discouraging it is for the future there are too few writers of non-fiction dealing in the present, and perhaps too many, like myself, shovelling into the talas and dust of the past screening for gem stones of history, scarcely doing more than stirring up ~~the dust~~ a dust.

John Mason Brown had the kind of acuteness to be respected when he observed:

"We as writers stress the importance of words. But the words written in our time which will have the greatest impact on the future of this country were not written by authors. They were written by the Justices of the Supreme Court when three years ago they wrote their unanimous opinion against segregation in public schools." He made that statement in 1957!

History is not static.

Have fiction writers been tamed by the times? They would indeed be fools if they did not produce writings for the money market in our tired and frenzied ~~restless~~ prosperity.

Non-fiction, dealing with the past, requires research. How extensive is this becoming in the push button age.

The magnitude and complexity is illustrated in the field of science.

Imagine one-half million scientists at work churning out new facts at a rate doubling the world's scientific knowledge every eight or less years.

~~There are~~ More than one million research papers are published each year in ~~all languages~~ 100,000 and more technical papers in all languages.

Yet there is no tentral tracking office to keep track of all this mess.

Scientists may exhaust months of talent and expend unbelievable sums of money seeking an answer someone else has already found.

There is so much duplication some industries follow a rule. If a project costs less than \$100,000 it is quicker and cheaper to work out the problem than to wade through all the literature to determine if it has been done before.

There are known instances where companies have spent \$250,000 and even \$3 million and lost five years of time to find a solution that has already been determined. This is done with taxpayers money.

Think of the desirable and worth preserving writing which could be retained for the future if the money interest alone from such sums were spent on publications of another sort than publicity bureaus are familiar with.

Non-scientists in our region are fortunate through ~~such~~ fareight as those like the late Dr. Charles Gates, and of Dr. Herman Deutch and others who created the Council of Regional Historical Research in Progress. This is a sub-group of the Pacific Northwest History Conference of the State Historical Society. It establishes a listing of research in progress heads off duplication of effort and provides a way for researchers ~~to lead~~ ~~specific~~ into a specific subject to learn of repositories where this material is available. Normally such information would require years to track down.

Most writers usually become classified, irrespective of what pastures they forage in.

My pasture happens to be the American Indian.

There is one library that has 150,000 books alone on this subject. Judson lists 10,000 titles of which many concern Indians and a large share of Smith's 10,000 titles ~~of~~ relate to the same subject.

My 18 files, not to speak of cartons and boxes, 200 and more notebooks and some 1,500 photographs and negatives, as well as a long shelf of microfilm reels, I'll admit, are heavily ~~Indian~~ flavored with sounds of Indian drums and decorated with ~~xxx~~ feathers, beads and buckskins. But contrary to feelings of some lawmakers, Indians were and are a part of our Northwest history and you can't just close your eyes and

Indians still are in legal and moral possession of much valuable land. ~~xxxxxxx~~ And we have seen a transition from a frequent ~~and~~ incidental and haphazard approach to one more serious.

The contrast is becoming ~~xxx~~ more ~~noticeably~~ noticeable, in areas where integration is being demanded, and ~~contested~~ contested, and in Indian country where tribesmen are opposed to assimilation. What a difference, and in the same land.

But how fortunate we are to be living in a new land, our ties with source material frequently still unsevered or yet with many close attachments. What a contrast with the worn out earth of Europe. Even now forests and vegetation are overrunning cities and civilizations which so lately flourished in Mexico, Central and South America. Our potentialities of research and writing are scarcely penetrated and we have every advantage of nearness to time and distance for ~~prespective~~ perspective.

I have discovered there is a marked difference between Indian history and that of the white man. We know from research, not from schoolbooks, romantic histories, TV shows and movies, that perfection didn't exist among mortals. Like one old timer said, "I've sinned and not sinned and I confess, I like sinning the best."

I like to recall what Ben Ames Williams said: "There is no past, the past ~~is~~ is now."

As for personal tendencies, idiosyncrasies or what have you, I don't wish to be a bit critical. But I don't believe in doing what some writers and museums do, go on the same way, collecting words and relics and spending time and money dragging them out, dusting them off to put into print or on display on some shelf.

Have you ever realized that the history of the American Indian is the history of our country as ~~iddddd~~ migration and land settlement moved from east to west and that if you know the history of the American Indian you know the history of our country.

The little stories made up the ~~gréddd~~ greater warp and woof of the cloth of the larger story of America. Little stories are worth preserving if we believe they are the things that made America great.

Don't overlook the value of place names, Indian or non-Indian. The work of Robert Hitchman and Don Clark is important in this field. Lakes of Wash west of Cascades, Vol II east, 20 years research by Ernest E. Wolcott, Olympia.

I have a few boiled down (shall I say from bits of advice given me by consultants) They are for the beginner and reminders for the professional.

Don't tinker with facts.

Don't become embroiled in useless controversies.000

Never put words into mouths of dead men. (properly done)

It is wise to remember the event isn't too important. It is the human and individual involvement in response to any event which counts.

Take a new viewpoint on history . Make it come alive. Make it honest. Make it real.

Illustration 10 questions.

Know your source.

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And the library financing is a pitifully small part of your tax dollar.

Never fear, when you determine upon a subject and commence to gather material there will be a shortage of information. Usually your problem will be to weed it out, thin it down to where you can handle it clearly. Your biggest job will be to unravel, classify, evaluate and present the material honestly and accurately.

And for heavens sakes, don't , just because you have fallen heir to a cache of material, think you have something that "has to be written." Evaluate it.

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Non-fiction writing is based on history. History is based on research or an acute observation of the present. I fall in the class of researchers, much in the same manner ~~I~~ know nothing about the dead languages and am a little shaky on the living.

For the good of the future there are too few writers of non-fiction dealing in the present.

John Mason Brown had an acuteness when he observed: "We as writers stress the importance of words. But the words written in our time which will have the greatest ~~effect~~ impact on the future of this country were not written by authors. They were written by the Justices of the Supreme Court when three years ago they wrote their unanimous opinion against segregation in the public schools." And he made that statement in 1957!

Fiction authors have been tamed by the times. They would indeed be fools if they did not attempt to live in our false prosperity by producing writings that sell.

Non-fiction about the past is dependant upon research.

The magnitude and complexity of research is illustrated in the field of science.

Imagine one-half million scientists at work churning out new facts at ~~the rate of~~ a rate doubling the world's scientific knowledge every eight years. That's what's happening.

(more)

Realize there are one million research papers published each year in all languages of 100,000 technical papers.

Yet there is no central bureau to keep track of all this mass of material.

Scientists may expend months of talent and expend large sums of money seeking an answer already found. There is so much duplication some industries follow a rule. If a project costs less than \$100,000 it is quicker and cheaper to work out the problem than to wade through the literature to determine if it has been done before. And there are known instances where companies have spent \$250,000 and even \$3 million and five years of time to find a solution that has already been determined. And this is done with taxpayers' money. Think of the worthwhile material that could be preserved if the interest alone from such sums was devoted to publications!

It is fortunate. Non-scientists in our region fare better and surely with much less on their consciences. They have capable aides.

One is the Council of "Regional Historical Research in Progress," a sub-group of the Pacific Northwest History Conference of the State Historical Society. This provides a listing of projects in progress and resultant ~~knowledge~~ heading off duplication of effort, but cooperative dissemination or ~~known~~ repositories known to one individual but perhaps not to the writer concerned.

Irrespective of facts and personal beliefs, most writers usually become classified, relegated by friends and readers to a field. My sad lot happens to be the American Indian. There is one library that has 150,000 books alone on this subject. Judson lists 10,000 ~~xxx~~ titles of which many concern Indians and a large share of Smith's 10,000 titles deal with the same subject. My own files, 18 cases, 200 or more notebooks and 1,500 photographs and negatives are, I'll admit, heavily "Indian flavored." But I am satisfied that we have seen the transition in the Northwest from a frequent incidental and haphazard approach to ~~addddd~~ one more serious.

And how fortunate we are to be living in a new land, our ties with source material frequently still unsevered or yet with many close ties. Remember, the worn out land of Europe and that even now forest and vegetation are overrunning cities and civilizations which so lately flourished in Mexico, Central and South America. Our potentialities are scarcely penetrated.

I have discovered there is a marked difference between Indian history and that of the white man. We know from research, not from schoolbooks, romantic histories, TV shows and movies, that perfection didn't exist among mortals. Like one old-timer told me, "I've sinned and not sinned, and I confess, I like sinning the best."

I like to recall what Ben Ames Williams said: "There is no past, the past is now."

As for personal tendencies, idiosyncrasies or what have you, I don't believe in doing what some writers and museums do, and I don't wish to be critical because I'm a strict amateur ...who go on the same way, collecting words and relics and spending time and money in dragging them out in print or on display in some museum.

I have tried to realize that the history of the American Indian is the history of our country...as it moved from east to west ..and if you know the history of the Indian, you know the history of our country. And it is even now being made, because history is never stationary.

The little stories make up the greater warp and woof of the cloth of the larger story of America. .

Value of place names, research and how complete a history..the work of Robert Hitchman and Don Clark, needed, and ~~some~~ publisher realizing the value of ...

I have a few boiled down, shall I say from my consultants, bits of advice to the beginner and reminders for the professional.

Don't tinker with facts.

Don't get embroiled in useless controversies.

And don't put words in mouths of dead men .

It is wise to remember the event isn't too important. It is the human and individual involvement in response to any event.

Take a new viewpoint on history. Make it come alive. Make it honest.

Make it real. ~~It's~~ It is that very thing.

Illustration of 10 questions.

Know your source.

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And remember, your best friend is your librarian. She can save you hours and hours off digging inthe mines of responentories for the gems you are mining for. She is a trained expert in research, in knowledge of prime and accurate sources, realibility. She is an acute judge of history.

In nearly all cases, never fear, when you determine aOsd00jd upon a subject and start gathering material, researching in libraries and other stor@houses , but you will have an abundance of material . Usually your problem will be to unravel, classify, evaluate and present the material honestly and accurately asyou know how. That is your biggest problem. And for heavens sakes, don't , just becauseyou have fallen "heir" to a cashe of material, think you have something that "has to be written" for posterity. .

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