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**GREAT BRITAIN: Admiralty, Pacific Station Records**

**RG 8, III B**

**Finding Aid No. 762 / Instrument de recherche no 762**

Revised in 1984 by John Shields of  
the British Archives Section

Révisé en 1984 par John Shields de la  
section des Archives Britanniques

**Canada**

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GREAT BRITAIN: Admiralty, Pacific Station Records

Papers, 1858-1903. Originals, 2.10 m; Photostats, 30 cm; Microfilm, 1 reel, M-126. Finding Aid No. 762.

Correspondence, memoranda, and reports accumulated by the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Station and left at Esquimalt when the base was transferred to Canada in 1910.

The Pacific Station was created as a separate entity in 1837 and Valparaiso was named as its headquarters. From the year 1848 ships of the Pacific Squadron began to use Esquimalt harbour. During the Crimean War the first naval buildings were erected at Esquimalt in 1855 when Rear Admiral Bruce requested James Douglas, Governor of Vancouver Island, to provide a building to serve as a temporary hospital. Douglas prepared three buildings which, although not required for hospital accomodation, were soon utilized as a store and provision depot. In 1865 Esquimalt was made a permanent base by a British Order-in-Council and for all practical purposes the port soon came to be recognized as the headquarters of the Pacific Station.

The records of the Commander in Chief were arranged by geographical area until 1893, when Rear Admiral H.G. Stephenson assumed the command. Stephenson gave instructions that all records were to be filed chronologically in one general series. In 1896 Stephenson's successor made a partial reversion to the old system by setting up separate files for British Columbia, Esquimalt, and the Behring Sea but apparently continued the general series for other records. The three series which were re-established have thus a gap, 1893-1896, which may only be filled by reference to the general series.

In 1923 the Admiralty placed some of the records which had been left at Esquimalt on deposit in the Public Archives of Canada. An additional group from the same source was deposited in the British Columbia Archives in 1937.

Finding Aid No. 762 is divided into two parts. The first part consists of a shelf list of the contents, by volume, for the 39 volumes of original correspondence of the Pacific Station Records that were deposited in the Public Archives of Canada. Within some of these volumes there is a more detailed listing of the contents. Also, Manuscript Group 12, Admiralty 155, contains a subject index to the correspondence contained in volumes 1 through 22 inclusive. It is available on microfilm reel B-20.

Part II of the finding aid describes the contents of the records of the Admiralty Pacific Station which were deposited in the British Columbia Archives in 1937 and later copied by the Public Archives of Canada. The contents of these records are arranged in subject or case files. Each of the volumes includes a list of the files bound in it. The finding aid is an edited version of these lists with the addition of certain information (notably page numbers).

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The original Pacific Station records on deposit in the Public Archives of Canada are organized as follows:

Vols.	
1-20	General Correspondence, 1893-1903
21-22	Esquimalt Correspondence, 1869-1893, 1896-1900
23-32	Behring Sea Correspondence, 1890-1899 (Includes vols. of published correspondence)
33	Rough contemporary table of contents relating to vols. 1-32
34	Copies of letters relating to Russian territory, 1858-1873
35	Copies of letters relating to international subjects, 1859-1865
36	First Report of the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the Defence of British Possessions and Commerce abroad, together with the Minutes of Evidence and Appendix, Confidential, 1881 (Sir John A. Macdonald represented Canada before the Commission)
36	Third and Final Report of the Royal Commissioners appointed to enquire into the Defence of British Possessions and Commerce abroad with the Appendix, Minutes of Evidence and Digest of Evidence. Confidential, 1882. (Incomplete)
37-39	Correspondence and reports relating to San Juan Island, 1859-1872.

The following volumes were deposited in the British Columbia Archives in 1937:

Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, 1848-1857  
 Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1857-1860  
 British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, vol. 1, 1866-1879  
 British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, vol. 2, 1874-1881, 1900  
 British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, vol. 3, 1880-1898.

These volumes have been copied by the Public Archives. The first two were microfilmed in 1954 (reel M-126); the last three were photostated in 1937.

August 1984  
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British Archives

GREAT BRITAIN: Admiralty, Pacific Station Records

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PART I

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Original</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Micro.</u> <u>Reel</u>
1	(1)	General correspondence to and from Rear Admiral H.F. Stephenson C.B., 1893 See index in Volume 1 for detailed listing of letters and subject matter	C-12602
2	(2)	Correspondence Part I Behring Sea Fisheries, 1893 Part II Royal Marine Artillery, Esquimalt, 1893-1894  Part III Marine Railway, Esquimalt, 1893-1894	
3	(3)	General Correspondence, 1894 See index in Volume 1 for detailed listing of letters and subject matter	C-12602 C-12603
4	(4)	Correspondence Part I Revolution in Sandwich (or Hawaiian) Islands, 1893-1895  Part II Necker Island, Survey by H.M.S. "Champion", 1894	
5	(5)	Correspondence, Behring Sea, 1894 Seizure of sealing schooners	C-12603 C-12604
6	(6)	Correspondence, Nicaragua, Affairs In, October 1894 to July 1895. Occupation of the Port of Corinto by the British	
7	(7)	Correspondence, Behring Sea, 1895 Letters and Reports of Proceedings of H.M.S. "Pheasant", employed on patrol duties; seizure of British schooners by American cruisers	

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Original</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Micro.</u> <u>Reel</u>
8	(8)	General Correspondence, 1895 See index in Volume 1 for detailed listing of letters and subject matter	C-12604 C-12605
9	(9)	General Correspondence, 1895 See index in Volume 1 for detailed listing of letters and subject matter	
10	(10, 11)	Miscellaneous Records, 1893-1897 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12605 C-12606
11	(12, 13)	Miscellaneous Records, 1896-1898 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12606 C-12607
12	(14)	Miscellaneous Records, 1896-1900 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	
13	(15)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1899-1903 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12607 C-12608
14	(16)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1899-1901 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12608 C-12609
15	(17)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1900-1901 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	
16	(18)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1901-1903 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12609 C-12610
17	(19)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1902 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	
18	(20)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1900-1902 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12610 C-12611
19	(21)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1901-1903 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12611 C-12612

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Original</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Micro.</u> <u>Reel</u>
20	(22)	General Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1903 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	C-12612
21	File I	Correspondence, Esquimalt, 1889-1900 1) Traffic Regulations, Esquimalt 2) Quadra Street Cemetery, Victoria 3) "Phaeton", Pay-off and Recommission at Esquimalt, 1900  4) "Egeria", Pay-off and Recommission at Esquimalt, 1900 5) Purchase of Navy Bills by Bank of British Columbia at Vancouver and Nanaimo Branches 6) Navy Bills at Esquimalt: Agreement with Bank of British Columbia 7) Bridge over Lagoon, Fisgard Island, its construction and demolition by a storm, 31 December, 1891 8) Vessels in reserve at Esquimalt: H.M.S. "Virago" and torpedo boats, 1897-1898  File II Correspondence, Esquimalt 1) Magazine Island, 1889-1890 2) Remuneration to Church of England, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Clergymen, and Roman Catholic Priest, 1893-1898 3) Pacific Station, Miscellaneous Papers, 1883-1892  File III Correspondence, Esquimalt 1) Duty levied on articles imported for use in the Naval establishments; Route for sending telegrams to Esquimalt 2) Erection of a 20 ton crane on end of Esquimalt jetty, 1888-1892	
22		Correspondence, Esquimalt 1) Recommission of H.M.S. "Pheasant", 1897 2) Regulations respecting Memorials in Hospital and Dockyard Chapels, 1898 3) Advantages of the alternative cablegrams routes from Esquimalt to a) London b) South American Coast, 1898	

<u>P.A.C.</u>	<u>Original</u>		<u>Micro.</u>
<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reel</u>
22 (cont'd)		4) Establishment of a Marine Guard for protection of magazines at Cole Island, 1897-1898 5) Correspondence relating to the building of an additional shell store at Cole Island, 1897 6) Building of two coaling scows, 1894-1896 7) Esquimalt and Coquimbo, Storage capacity for coal and oil, 1895-1896 8) Offer of City Council of a Residence and grounds for the Commander-in-Chief 1896-1897 9) H.M.S. "Icarus", Correspondence relating to leaky bolts; estimate for refit for recommission; paying off and recommission 10) Clearance of goods for officers and men of the fleet through customs at Victoria, January, 1899 11) Esquimalt, encroachments on canteen ground of bowling alley, pavilion etc. authorized, 1899	
23		Further Correspondence respecting the seizure of Canadian vessels by United States' Revenue - cutters in Behring's Sea, 1889	C-12612 C-12613
24		Further Correspondence respecting the Behring Sea Seal Fisheries	
25		Correspondence and Records, Behring Sea sealing question, 1888-1889	
26		Correspondence, Behring Sea Fisheries, 1886-1889	C-12613 C-12614
27		Behring Sea Fishery, 1891, Seizure of Sealing Schooners "E.B. Marvin" and "Otto"	
28		Behring Sea Records, 1896	

<u>P.A.C.</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Original</u> <u>Vol. No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Micro.</u> <u>Reel</u>
29		Behring Sea Records, 1897	C-12614
30		Behring Sea Records, 1898	C-12615
31		Behring Sea Records, 1899	
32		Behring Sea, Miscellaneous Papers 1893-1895	
33		Draft Index of Correspondence for Volumes 1 to 32	
34		Records, Transcripts of Correspondence, relating to Russian Territories, 1858-1873	
35		Transcripts of Correspondence relating to international subjects, 1859-1865 See enclosed index for listing of subjects	
36		First report of the Royal Commissioners Appointed to inquire into the Defence of British possessions and Commerce Abroad	C-12615 C-12616
37		Transcripts of Correspondence dealing with the occupation of the island of San Juan by the troops of the United States of America, 1859-1860	
38		Transcripts of Correspondence, Occupation of San Juan, 1860-1870	
39		Transcripts of Correspondence, Occupation on San Juan, 1865-1872	



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PART II

The following volumes were deposited in the British Columbia Archives in 1937:

Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, 1848-1857, 1860

Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1857-1860

British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Vol. 1, 1866-1879

British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Vol. 2, 1874-1881, 1900

British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Vol. 3, 1880-1898

These volumes have been copied by the Public Archives. The first two volumes were microfilmed in 1954 and are available on microfilm reel M-126. The last three volumes were photostated in 1937 and should be ordered as RG 8, III, B, b, Volume            Part            . A list of subject files in each volume follows. In using these lists, the outside dates of the file should be considered only as indications of the chronological extent of the file for frequently a letter will contain enclosures which pre-date the outside dates assigned to the file. Also, the series is not complete for there are gaps in the numerical sequence and in one or two instances files which are noted in the lists are not in the volume.

Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands  
1848-1857, 1860

Microfilm Reel M-126

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
31 October 1848	Privy Council report on Vancouver Island	1
13 January 1849	Extract from grant of Vancouver Island to Hudson's Bay Company	2
29 January 1852- 4 February 1853	Instructions - discovery of gold in Queen Charlotte Islands and visit of H.M.S. THETIS	3
2 March 1853	Desirability of frequent visits by warships to Vancouver Island	4
23 July - 13 October 1853	Discovery of gold in Queen Charlottes and visit of H.M.S. VIRAGO	5
11 May 1854	Neutrality of Hudson's Bay Company territory and also that of the Russian American Company during the war	6
3 August 1855	Resources of the colony for supplying the fleet	7
15 December 1853	Colonial secretary recommends that stores and provisions be sent to the colony for the fleet	8
28 November 1856	Recommendation that a naval depot be established on Vancouver Island	9
12 January 1857	Honolulu and San Francisco preferred to Vancouver Island as source of supply	10
10 January 1848- 28 February 1857	Spars for the Navy	
10 November 1860	Indian disturbances at Fort Rupert	

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
Vancouver Island and British Columbia, 1857-1860		
Microfilm Reel M-126		
28 June - 20 December 1858	Naval force for the support of the civil authority	12
2 November 1858- 12 June 1860	Admiralty land at Esquimalt	13
10 January 1859- 9 September 1860	Establishment of a coal depot at Esquimalt	14
14 June - 15 August 1859	Discovery of coal in Burrard Inlet	15
9 January - 11 January 1860	Plan and correspondence - Admiralty land in Burrard Inlet	16
7 December 1858- 2 August 1860	Vancouver Island as headquarters of the Pacific Station and a naval depot	17
27 November 1858- 29 January 1860	Employment of gunboats on the inland waters of British Columbia	18
9 August 1860	Diving dress and apparatus recommended to be supplied to the Senior Officer's ship at Vancouver Island	19
21 June 1859- 24 March 1860	Establishment of a powder magazine at Esquimalt	21
25 August 1858- September 1860	Correspondence - Royal Marine detachment sent from China	22
4 August 1859- 10 September 1860	Indian disturbances; employment of military and naval forces	23
28 October- 31 October 1859	Possibility of a warship being sent to the south-west coast of Vancouver Island	24
1- August- 13 September 1859	Warship to visit Queen Charlottes; report of Mr. Downie on a party of miners	25

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1857-1860		(cont'd)
8 September 1859	Appointment of James Douglas as Governor of British Columbia	26
31 August 1859	Rules and regulations for working gold mines	27
16 May 1860	Proclamation establishing municipal government in New Westminster	28
1859	Election of representatives to the Assembly	29
18 January 1860	Proclamation establishing Victoria and Esquimalt as free ports of entry	30
3 April 1860	Fees in Vancouver Island courts	31
2 July 1857- 28 October 1859	Proceedings of Captain Prevost of H.M.S. SATELLITE in establishing the water boundary	32
British Columbia:	Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt <u>Volume 1, Part I, 1866-1879</u>	
8 February 1866- 9 June	Construction and maintenance of a church at Esquimalt. pp. 9-18	1
9 January - 13 November 1867	Lease of naval reserves at Burrard Inlet to a settler. pp. 19-26	2
22 February 1867	Authority to hire a vehicle for conveyance of mails between Esquimalt and Victoria. pp. 27	3
1 May 1867	Grant to resident clergyman at Esquimalt church. pp. 28	4
31 July- 2 September 1867	Construction of a graving dock at Esquimalt. pp. 29-43	5
12 November 1867	Imperial funds to be allocated for the hire of survey vessel BEAVER as the provincial government has been unable to make payments. pp. 44	6
27 November 1867	Rules and regulations governing naval prisoners in Victoria gaol. pp. 45-52	7
22 November 1867	Customs duties on articles required by the squadron. pp. 53-63	8

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume 1, Part I, 1866-1879 (cont'd)		
17 October 1867- 20 February 1868	Instructions - Landing of armed parties from the squadron. pp. 64-83	9
4 November 1867	Pilotage fees may be paid direct to pilots. pp. 84-89	10
4 December 1867 - 21 March 1868	Construction of roads through, and cutting timber on, Admiralty reserves. pp. 90-98	11
30 November 1867	Subsistence of naval prisoners in Victoria gaol. pp. 99-103	12
5 February - 8 March 1868	Construction of a rifle range on Lagoon Spit. pp. 104-106	13
5 February 1868	Capitation allowance allowed R.C. priest pp. 107-107a.	14
3-5 March 1868	Permission to Hudson's Bay Company to erect a pier in Constance Cove. pp. 108-110	15
30 April 1868	Effect on the Fisgard lighthouse of firing 32 pd. gun mounted on the spit. pp. 111-112	16
4 January 1869- 30 January 1873	H.M. ships to pay half of pilotage rates authorized by the colonial government. pp. 113-117	17
9 May - 10 December 1870	Marine guard at Government House, Vancouver Island. pp. 118-130	18
21 June 1870	Withdrawal of Marine guard at Government House. pp. 131-132	19
2 July 1870	Approval of flag to be used by Governor p. 133	20
12 July 1870	Punishment of abettors of deserters. pp. 134-140	21

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume 1, Part I, 1866-1879 (cont'd)		
7 December 1870	Queen's birthday. pp. 141-143	22
3 March 1871	Wreck of the FOREST KING and looting by Indians. Cruise to Neah Bay. pp. 144-164	23
<u>Volume 1, Part II</u>		
24-25 July 1871	Withdrawal of Marine Guard stationed at Government House. pp. 165-167	24
21 May 1873	Chart of the boundary line through Haro Channel. pp. 168-174	25
16 August 1873	Force for protection of British Columbia. pp. 175-179	26
8 December 1873	Grant to resident clergyman at Esquimalt. pp. 180-182	27
16 April 1874	Contribution of £30,000 pounds towards building a drydock at Esquimalt. pp. 183-185	28
11 November 1873	Fuel for St. Paul's Church, Esquimalt. pp. 186-187	29
1 December 1874	Desertion from H.M. Ships. pp. 188-198	30
16 March 1875	Capitation allowance to R.C. priest, Esquimalt. pp. 198-199	31
6 October 1875	Dominion quarantine regulations. pp. 200-203	32
6 March 1876	Stationery allowance of senior officer. pp. 204-205	32A
4 December 1874- 18 March 1876	Pilotage fees. pp. 206-212	33

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume 1, Part II, 1866-1879 (cont'd)		
12 October 1875	Two vessels to be stationed in British Columbia waters. pp. 213-215	34
20 May 1876	Gratuity to butcher. pp. 216-219	36
4 June 1875- March 1876	Removal of Snider ball ammunition belonging to Canadian	37
1 September - 19 October 1876	Grant for repair of St. Paul's Church pp. 233-239	38
31 October 1876	Assistant Paymaster of H.M.S. ROCKET not allowed extra pay as senior officer's clerk. p. 240	39
20 February 1878	Admiralty will not purchase land for recreational purposes in connection with Naval Club. pp. 241-243	40
14 September 1878	Grant to naval club. pp. 244-256	46
16 March 1878	Grant for R.C. chapel refused. pp. 251-254	41
20 May 1878	Instructions that certain channels are not to be used by H.M. ships except in emergencies. pp. 255-257	42
22 January 1878	Rewards for apprehension of deserters. pp. 258-259	43
25 July 1878	Reports of coal used on colonial service to be submitted. p. 260	44
16 August 1878	Gratuity to butcher. pp. 261-262	45
28 September 1878	Case of lighthouse keeper at Race Rocks conniving at desertion. pp. 263-301	47
31 July 1878- 12 June 1879	Expenses of officers in attending Provincial Parliament not allowed. pp. 302-303	48

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume I, Part II, 1866-1879 (cont'd)		
23 June 1879	Laying down moorings in Esquimalt unnecessary. pp. 304-305	49
26 June 1879	Lieut.-Gov. of British Columbia not entitled to salutes. pp. 306-307	50
1 July 1879	Grant towards R.C. church. pp. 308-309	51
May 1879	Passage allowance. p. 310	52
3 July 1879	Expenses of visits to Lieut.-Gov. and to Provincial Parliament. pp. 311-312	53
7 August 1877	Salutes on Queen's birthday. pp. 313-314	54
British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt Volume II, Part I, 1874-1881, 1900		
16 April 1874- 9 September 1880	Construction of a graving dock at Esquimalt. pp. 4-47	55
23 March 1876- 12 October 1880	Insurance of naval property on Thetis Island by Provincial Government and correspondence respecting the use of Thetis Island for construction of a coffer dam. pp. 48-96	56
1881	Title deeds of Imperial property on Vancouver Island and report on naval and military reserves. pp. 97-138	62
29 January 1881- 21 August 1900	Precedence of Senior Naval Officer, Vancouver Island, pp. 139-217	57



<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume II, Part II, 1874-1881, 1900		
15 July 1880- 9 May 1881	Capitation allowance to R.C. priest. pp. 219-223	58
30 June - 24 August 1881	Treatment of naval prisoners in Victoria gaol. pp. 224-230	59
26 July - 26 August 1880	Wines, etc. for Commander in Chiefs personal use when ashore exempt from customs duties. pp. 231-233	60
1878-1881	Defences of Esquimalt and Victoria; War Office stores supplies to the Dominion and Provincial Governments. pp. 234-413	61
British Columbia: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt		
Volume III, Part I 1880-1898		
1889-1894	Esquimalt Harbour - certain portions reserved for the use of H.M. Ships. pp. 1-76	1
1883	Protection of fisheries. pp. 76-95	3
1885-1889	Observance of Dominion Day by H.M. Ships in Canadian waters. pp. 96-103	4
1884-1889	Dry dock at Esquimalt, pp. 104-152	5
1884-1887	1. Defences of Esquimalt 2. Removal of remains of officers and men buried on Brother's Island to naval cemetery at Esquimalt. pp. 153-180	6

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>File</u>
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Records of the Senior Naval Officer at Esquimalt, Volume III, Part II, 1880-1898		
1880-1890	Treatment of naval prisoners in the gaol at Victoria. pp. 181-219	7
1884-1887	Indian unrest at Metlakaltah. pp. 218-270	8
1887	Report by Commander Nicoll of H.M.S. CORMORANT on the Alaska Boundary Commission. p. 271	9
1890	Attempted purchase of Coburg Peninsula (used as a rifle range) by A. de Cosmos. pp. 291-296	10
1896	Report on the Alaska Boundary question by A. Begg. pp. 297-300	13
1897	Plan of Constance Cove showing encroachments approved by the Governor- General. pp. 301-313	14
1898	Voting of officers and men at provincial elections. p. 314-325	18
1897-1898	Comox Rifle Range - miscellaneous correspondence. pp. 326-377	20-21