

For immediate release
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Folio Forum

When Britannia Ruled the Northwest

Four noted historians discuss the era of dual sovereignty in the Pacific Northwest

Co-presented by the British American Business Council (Northwest Chapter)

Wednesday, April 26, 7 pm

\$10 at the door \$5 for Folio Members Reception to follow

Folio: The Seattle Athenaeum 314 Marion Street, Downtown Seattle Parking tips and map: www.folioseattle.org

There was a fascinating period in Northwest history when it was not clear whether this region would be controlled by the British, who got here first in search of furs, or the Americans, who arrived later in larger numbers. Now, with greater cooperation among the Northwest states and British Columbia, it is interesting to relive these colorful times.

The panelists for this Folio Forum include local historians, teachers, and writers: Junius Rochester, David M. Buerge, Gar LaSalle, and Robert W. Merry, as well as moderator David Brewster.

About the Panelists:

Junius Rochester, Seattle historian, lecturer, and author of numerous books on local history, including "Roots and Branches, the Religious Heritage of Washington State" (with David Buerge) and histories of Madrona and Madison Park neighborhoods. Rochester will focus on the fur trade that brought two rival British companies into the region.

David M. Buerge is a Seattle teacher and historian specializing in the history of native groups. His new biography, "Chief Seattle and the Town that Took his Name," will be published by Sasquatch Books next

fall. Buerge will focus on the impacts of the white settlers and traders on native groups and the period of interracial cooperation that marked those early days.

Gar LaSalle is a Seattle-based filmmaker, doctor, and novelist. His trilogy of novels ("Widow Walk," "Isthmus," and "The Fairness of Beasts") explores the 1857 beheading of settler Isaac Ebey (of Ebey's Landing fame on Whidbey Island) by vengeance-seeking Northern tribes and the long search by Ebey's widow for her missing child. LaSalle will discuss Ebey, the Pig War, and the Northern tribes.

Robert W. Merry is a distinguished American historian and publishing executive who now lives on Whidbey Island. His biography of President James Polk (1844-48), "A Country of Vast Designs," recounts the momentous times that produced the settlement of the disputed Canadian/Northwest boundaries.

Moderator David Brewster is president of Folio. He collaborated with David Buerge in editing "Washingtonians: a Biographical Portrait of the State," published by Sasquatch Books, which Brewster founded.

About the British American Business Council:

The British-American Business Council (BABC) is the largest transatlantic business network, with <u>22</u> <u>chapters</u> including one in Seattle, and over 2,000 member companies based in major business centers throughout North America and the United Kingdom. Its membership includes many of the world's largest multinationals, as well as hundreds of middle market and smaller companies.

About Folio: the Seattle Athenaeum:

Now one year old, Folio is one of 21 membership libraries in North America. Most of the books in the library come from private libraries. Folio provides lovely and comfortable work spaces for readers, writers, and browsers. It also has a full schedule of programs and discussion groups open to the public. Members may borrow books and enjoy other perks. Membership is only \$10/month. Details at the website: www.folioseattle.org.

For Calendar Listings:

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