

Title: *Around One More Point*
Subtitle: *A Journal of Paddling Adventures*
Author: Mary Gazetas
Published: 2006
Publisher: TouchWood Editions, Canada
Website: www.touchwoodeditions.com
Contents: 84pp, illustrated throughout
Cover: softcover, landscape format
Size: 229 x 203mm
Price: \$29.74
ISBN: 978 1 894898 46 1
Availability: Book Depository (UK)
Review: Ginney Deavoll



In this beautiful collaboration of photos, drawings and snippets of memories Mary shares her spirit of adventure and love of the coastline.

Every turn of the page reveals a variation of the collage styled layout. Close ups of food, treasures, injuries, marine life and campsites are nicely balanced between crisp white lines and add detail to the memories shared in the text. There's a clear relationship connecting quick line drawings or more detailed sketches to the realism of the photographs. And notes about things to remember next time or to watch out for add a very real and personal touch. The photographs, although mostly old, tell the story of their adventures and add value to text. Black and white maps with a few place names provide orientation and clues to distances which are often left out of the story. Captions are overlaid on many photos however there are two different writing styles used. The first is in capitals and is easy enough to read, the second is a linked scrawl most of which is illegible to me.

Mary and Phoebe were obviously not 'hard-core expedition paddlers'. Although they took themselves to some very remote and extreme sections of the coastline, their purpose was to just 'be', to catch up on each other's lives and sometimes to share their adventure with others. They lived slowly and in the moment, ready for whatever nature wanted to show them. Their kayaks were loaded to the brim with camping and fishing gear and finding the perfect camp spot was always a priority. You would think that they would come home with light boats but no, far from it, if anything they were heavier due to their love of beachcombing. They took no watches and their plans were flexible and changed with the weather. Some trips were cut short while others took them further than expected but one thing was for sure; they would be back the next year to keep exploring. The west coast of British Columbia was for them was, 'a place to regenerate, forget, remember, regain, revisit, smell, see, look, hunt for things, stones, sticks, bones, feathers.'

Each section is short, just sharing a few special memories for that year's journey and leaving the reader curious as to what else is out there. In the last pages Mary offers the wisdom she has collected over the years. She shares all her 'tricks of the trade' from recipes, to water collecting, beachcombing and planning.

This treasure trove of memories presented in words, maps, diary notes, drawings and photographs collected over 30 summers of journeying is a delight to read. You can't help but feel Mary's passion and appreciation for her coastline and the value that it has added to her life.