

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY STATUES

The walls of the Legislative Library are decorated with statues of 14 figures from British Columbia's past. The figures were chosen by the Provincial Librarian, E.O.S. Scholefield, and made by Charles Marega and his team of stone carvers during the construction of the library between 1912 and 1915.



Sir Alexander Mackenzie - Fur trader and explorer. He became the first European to cross North America north of Mexico when he reached the Pacific Ocean near Bella Coola in 1793. He travelled the entire journey by canoe and on foot.

Simon Fraser - Fur trader and explorer. He established the first trading posts west of the Rocky Mountains and was the first European to follow what is now called the Fraser River all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

David Thompson - Explorer for the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company. Responsible for plotting and mapping nearly 4 million square kilometres (1.5 million square miles) of what is now known as British Columbia.

Sir Francis Drake - Sea captain and first British explorer to sail around the world. Although he was a hero in Britain, he was considered by the Spanish to be a pirate due to his raids on their ships and ports. Some people believe that he traveled as far north as British Columbia during his voyage around the world.

Captain James Cook - First British explorer to reach what is now known as British Columbia. His voyages took him all over the world, but he is best known for his travels to New Zealand, Australia, North America, and Hawaii.

Captain George Vancouver (pictured above) - British explorer. He returned to what is now British Columbia on two different expeditions after first travelling along the coast with Captain Cook. He spent several months making detailed maps of the coastline and is credited with being the first person to sail all the way around Vancouver Island.



Chief Maquinna (left) - Nuu-chah-nulth Chief who welcomed Captain Cook (1778) and Captain Vancouver (1792) to Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island. He established strong trading relationships with European explorers and other Indigenous peoples in the area.

Dr. John Mclaughlin - Fur trader and Hudson's Bay Company official responsible for fur trade operations in the Pacific Northwest. In 1843, he sent James Douglas to establish Fort Victoria because of growing tensions with American settlers around Fort Vancouver (now Vancouver, Washington).

Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie - Lawyer and first Chief Justice of British Columbia. He was the main legal figure in B.C. from 1858 until 1894. Today, he is known as "the Hanging Judge" because of the many hangings that happened in cases he presided over.

Lord Lytton - Author, Member of the British House of Lords, and Secretary of State for the Colonies. He oversaw that creation of the Colony of British Columbia after news of the Fraser Canyon Gold Rush reached London.

Sir Anthony Musgrave - Governor of the united Colony of British Columbia. He was appointed to this role in 1869 to ensure that B.C. joined Canada. His task was completed on July 20, 1871 when B.C. became the sixth Province of Canada.

Colonel Richard Moody - First Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of British Columbia and Royal Engineer. In 1858, he was sent by Lord Lytton to establish the new mainland colony and to chose the site for the new capital city, New Westminster.

Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken (right) - First doctor and surgeon at Fort Victoria. He served as Speaker of the Legislative Council from 1856 until 1871 and was part of the team that went to Ottawa to negotiate B.C.'s entry into Canadian Confederation.

