

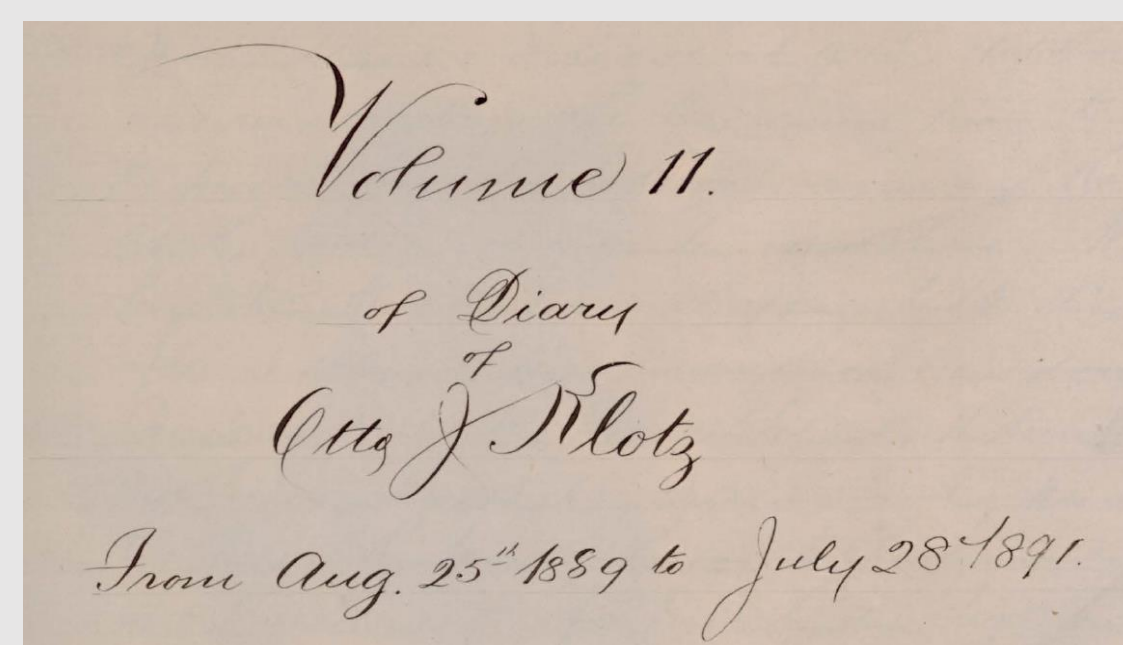
# Transcribing the 1889 diary of Otto J. Klotz

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## 1. Introduction

Canada, like many other nations, including the United States and Australia, is a European settler colony. From 1750-1950, many individuals were involved in the Indigenous disposessions and genocides that led to the creation of these nations. A radical transformation involved was to transform Indigenous lands into private property for sale to (mostly) white men. In considering this time period and this transformation, individuals emerge as people who were key in this process, people like soldiers, policemen, and land surveyors.

One such land surveyor was Otto J. Klotz. Klotz, born in Preston, Ontario in 1852, was an astronomer and dominion land surveyor. He worked extensively throughout Canada; notably his work included surveying for sections of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). This research involved transcribing part of his diary from 1889; at this time he was working on the Alaska Boundary Question.



This research is part of the first phase of *Stakeholders: Land Surveyors in the Global Settler Colonial Project*. In its final form, *Stakeholders* will make the study of land surveyors like Klotz easier for researchers around the world, as the text will be more easily read and searched in this transcribed form. For each diary entry, the website will have the original scanned image, the transcription, and a geo-tag. Researchers will be able to work with this data collaboratively using GIS and Omeka.

## 3. Results

This section, the beginning of Volume 11, dates from 25 August 1889 to 11 December 1889. Klotz chronicles his travels from Preston to Victoria on the CPR, up the coast of British Columbia into Alaska, north as far as the Muir Glacier, and down the American west coast as south as San Jose, California. He then returned home to Preston through Victoria to work on his report to the federal government.

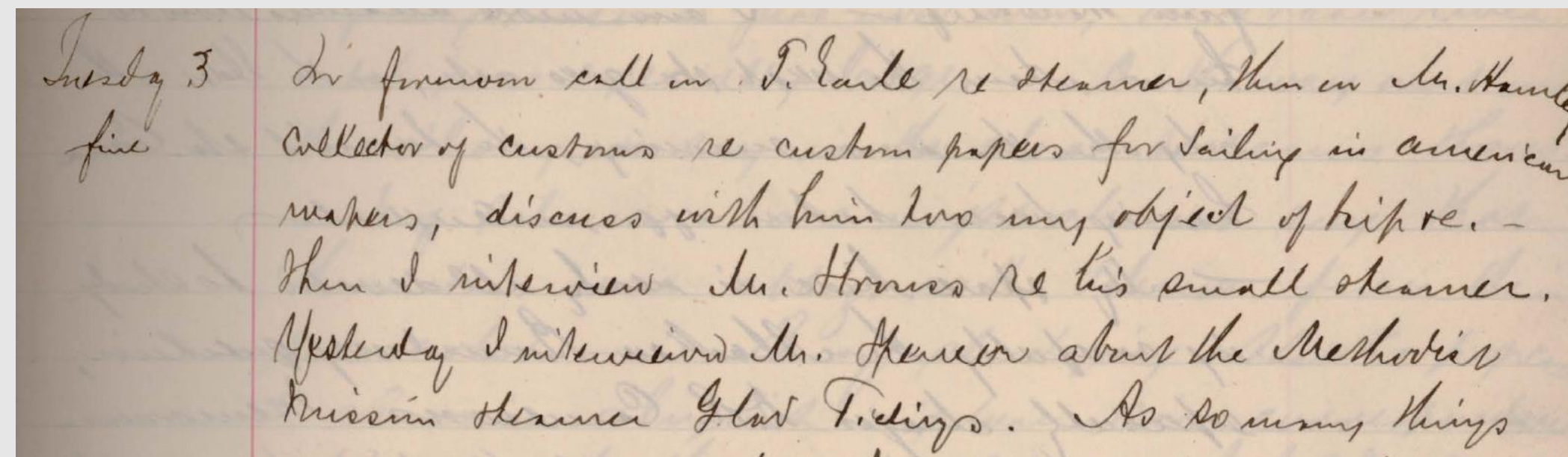
This was the beginning of Klotz's work on the Alaska Boundary Question on behalf of the Canadian Government. Although at this time he found the answer to be "by no means clear," as he continued his work through the 1890s, he later found that the evidence fell in favour of the Americans.

As this is Klotz's personal diary, most of his commentary is not on his official work, but on his day to day affairs. He describes his dealings with other people and the scenery along his travels extensively.

## 2. Methodology

Using a scanned copy of the Klotz's diary, each entry was transcribed into Microsoft Word in rich text. The goal is to reproduce the entry as faithfully as possible. When there is illegibility, uncertainty, or irregularity, square brackets are used. For example:

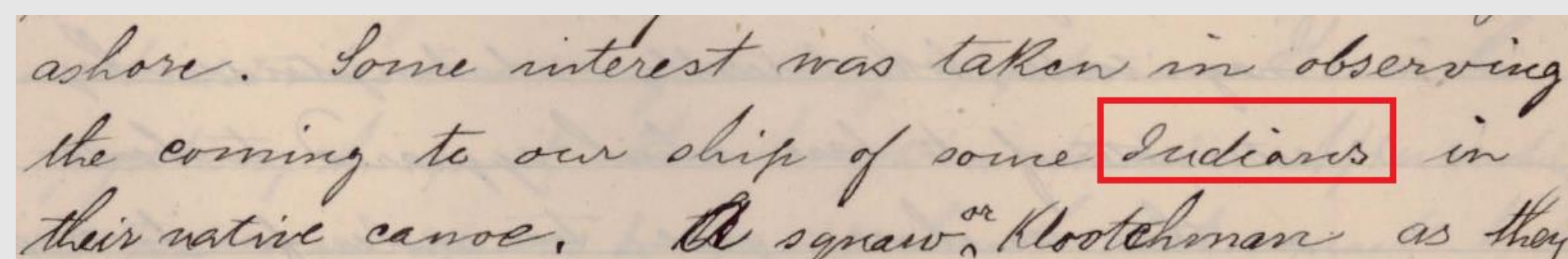
Completely illegible: [?], number of question marks indicates the number of consecutive illegible words  
Partially legible: [guess]



Tuesday 3 fine  
In forenoon call on [J. Earle] re steamer, then on Mr. [?] collector of customs re custom papers for sailing in American waters, discuss with him too my object of trip re.-- Then I interview Mr. [?] re this small steamer. Yesterday I interviewed Mr. [Spencer] about the [Methodist] Russian steamer [?]. As so many things depend upon one another I am as yet [?] to make any final

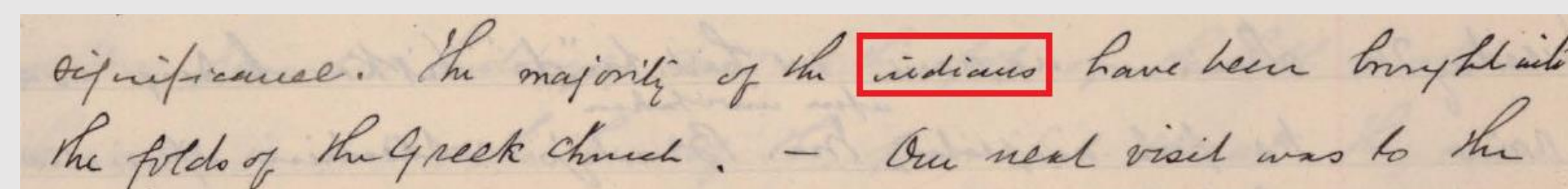
(3 September 1889)

Names of people and places: as given in each instance



While waiting here unloading some [shooks], time passed rather slowly as we were unable to go ashore. Some interest was taken in observing the coming to our ship of some **Indians** in their native canoe. A squaw or [Klutchman] as they

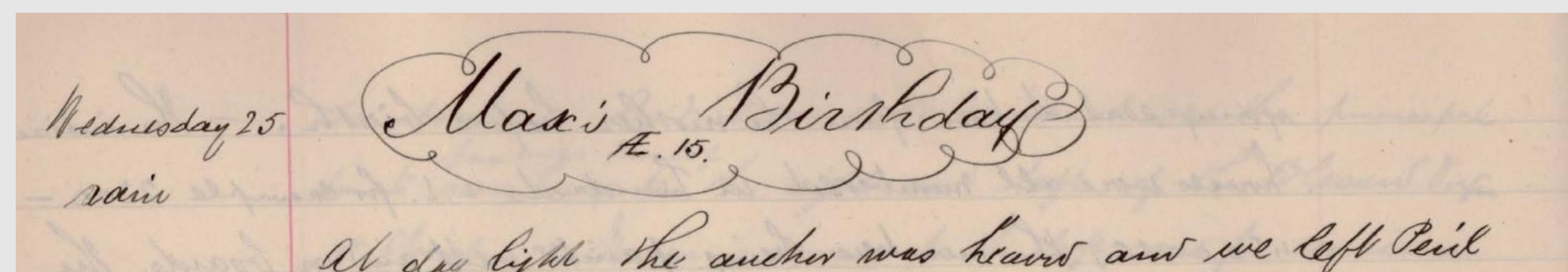
(20 September 1889)



wish, + was startled at the significance. The majority of the **Indians** have been brought into the folds of the Greek Church.-- Our next visit was to the suspension [fort] bridge across the

(24 September 1889)

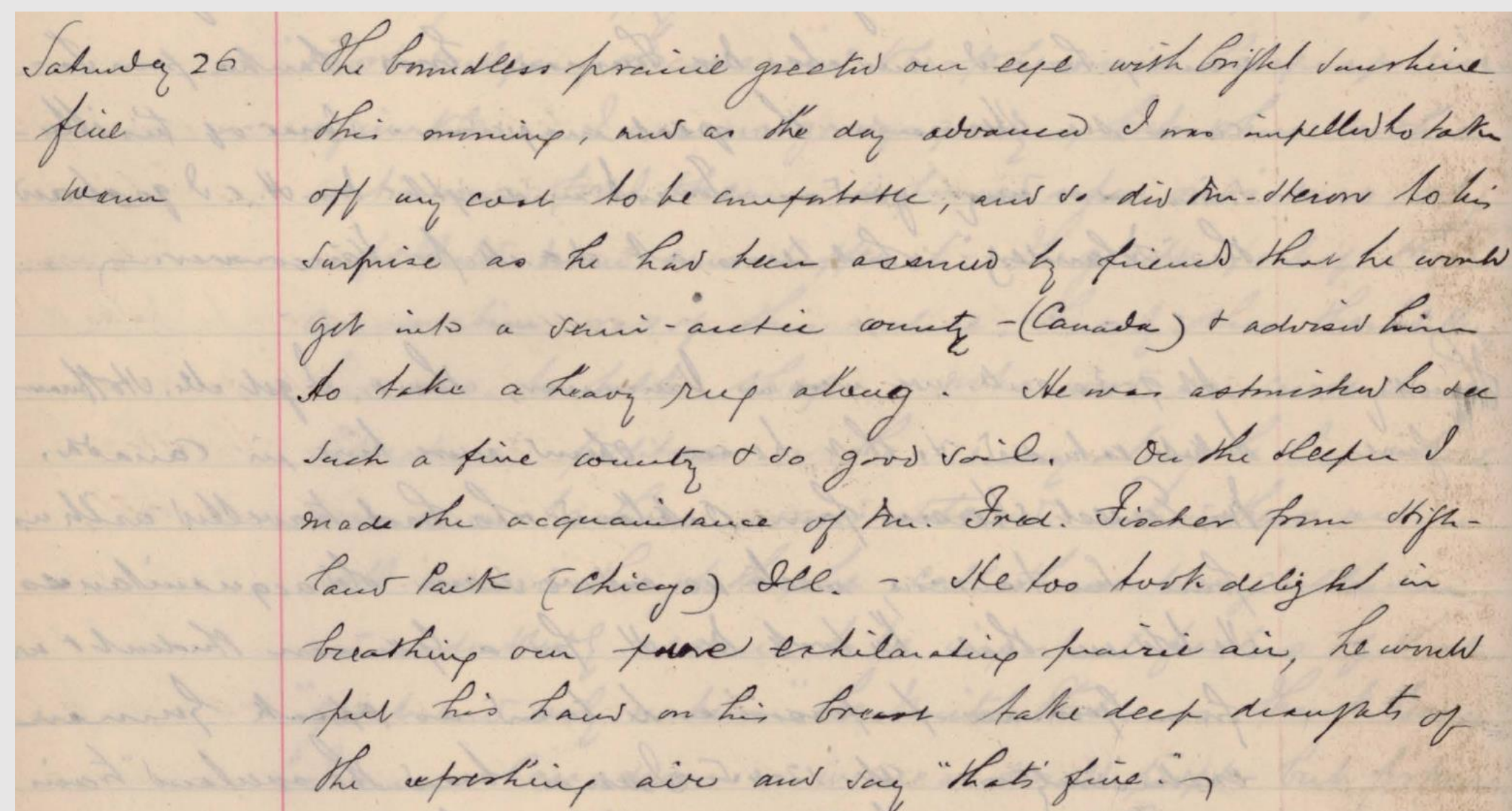
Irregularities: [described in square brackets]



Wednesday 25 rain  
[In large script and circled in a bubble] Max's Birthday Æ 15  
At day light the anchor was heard and we left Peril Strait crossed Chatham Sound in a

(25 September 1889)

An example of a single entry:



Saturday 26 fine, warm  
The boundless prairie greeted our eye with bright sunshine this morning, and as the day advanced I was impelled to take off my coat to be comfortable, and so did Mr. [Heron] to his surprise as he had been assured by friends that he would get into a semi-arctic country-- (Canada) + advised him to take a heavy rug along. He was astonished to see such a fine country + so good soil. On the sleep I made the acquaintance of Mr. Fred [Fischer] from Highland Park (Chicago) Ill.-- He too took delight in breathing our [?] exhilarating prairie air, he would put his hand on his breast take deep draughts of the refreshing air and say "that's fine."

(26 October 1889)

## 4. Conclusions

Although digitization and transcription of these texts definitely makes future research easier, it is very time intensive. Dr. Rück has mentioned that because of this fact and the size of the project, in the future *Stakeholders* may look to crowdsource future transcriptions.

This section alone would not be particularly useful for the study of the Alaskan Boundary Question, as Klotz mentions it only in passing; his work on this topic must have been documented elsewhere. He also mentions taking photographs. If located, these would complement his travels well for future study. Nonetheless, based on the content of his section of Klotz's diary, it could be useful for future study of many topics, including:

- Travel methods
- Tourism
- Racial attitudes
- Canadian nationalism vis-à-vis the United States
- German-Canadian culture
- Astrology and the Lick Observatory
- West coast industries, particularly salmon canning and mining
- West coast flora

## References

"Volume 11 of Diary of Otto J. Klotz" [diary]. 25 August 1889 to 28 July 1891.  
Richard A. Jarrell, "KLOTZ, OTTO JULIUS," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 15, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed March 8, 2017, [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/klotz\\_otto\\_julius\\_15E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/klotz_otto_julius_15E.html).  
Topley Series F. "Mr. Otto Julius Klotz." 1901. Photograph by William James Topley. Library and Archives Canada. Accession number 1936-270, item number 81044, online MIKAN number 3217818

Thank you to Daniel Rück for supervision and guidance on this project. Further thanks to the uOttawa Faculty of Arts, whose seed grant allowed *Stakeholders* to be started. Finally, thank you to the Institute for Canadian and Aboriginal Studies that provided access to space for a working research lab on campus.

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