how one man — an unimportant trader named George Nelson — was slowly transformed by his experience of the country as the years passed. Fred Crabb, himself a former Metropolitan of Rupert’s Land, grapples with the opposite reaction, pointing out mildly that the white men of the past knew nothing better than to attempt assimilation of the natives to their ways, though in a heroically honest conclusion he has to admit that the result was disaster.

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clarity, the comprehensive article by Fitzhugh and Arutunian is especially valuable to new students of this cultural area. This entire section is filled with detailed maps, charts and graphics to define and illustrate otherwise confusing dimensions resulting from waves of prehistoric developments across this huge geographic space. In particular, the article provides an excellent guide for charting the diagnostic stylistic differences in the art and artifacts through the ages.

The fourth section, "Thematic Views," covers almost every aspect of cultural life of the Bering Sea peoples. Starting with a small but elegant introduction to the ecology of the region by Milton Freeman and an accessible and interesting description of the linguistic complexities of the people by Michael Krauss, this section covers the socioeconomic and political life, spiritual life and domestic life of the Beringian cultures. In particular, Aron Crowell's article on dwellings gives insights into the rich diversity of the area. Bill Holm's beautifully written essay "Art and Culture Change at the Tlingit-Eskimo Border" is nicely paired with Fitzhugh's comparative article on the art of the North Pacific rim to give us insights into the exchange of ideas as recorded in the visual texts that make up this northern legacy. This section alone could constitute a worthwhile text for university students of arctic cultures.

The final section, and perhaps the one that I have the most difficulty with, is "New Lives for Ancient Peoples." With well-written but mismatched articles on contemporary Siberian and Alaska natives and a masterful essay by ethnographers Margaret Blackman and Edwin Hall on contemporary Alaskan artists, the section does have a certain appropriateness. However, its brevity and lack of introductory notes makes it seem more of an afterthought than a directed statement about continuity and connectiveness of Bering Sea cultures. I wish the authors/curators would have made a more explicit statement about why they included a section on contemporary Alaskan art, and I also would have welcomed a balancing article about contemporary Siberian visual arts. But this is a quibble and more than made up for by the fact that any contribution to contemporary native art history is a step in the right direction.

Another quibble is that nowhere in the text can one find a touring schedule for this incredible exhibition. (Perhaps at press time not all of the itinerary was established.) The exhibition opens in Ottawa's Museum of Civilization on 22 September 1991 and runs until 26 January 1992. From Ottawa it will travel to the Soviet Union for exhibition in Moscow, Leningrad, Yerevan and Novosibirsk.

The reciprocity that characterizes the book and the touring exhibition parallels the end of an era of political isolation in our present world — a kind of isolation, Fitzhugh and Crowell suggest, perhaps never known in an ancient tradition of trans-Beringian interchange.

This is one of those indefatigable books that almost anyone would take along to the proverbial desert island. It has the deep philosophical and scientific inquiry of profound scholarship, the excitement and romanticism of the early New World explorations, the intense thoroughness of historical reporting, over 470 outstanding colour and black and white illustrations to delight the mind and eye, enough new and rare reference data to engage even the most worldly bibliophile and, finally, the graceful elegance of the highest quality of printed design. This is a big and beautiful book, though my guess is that it will be found on more desks than coffee tables. This price is absurdly inexpensive for such an important and attractive book that will provide stimulation and enjoyment for years. My only fear is that its tremendous value to the specialist and non-specialist alike will not be realized before it vanishes into the terrible realm of "out of print" just as its predecessor Inua has done so soon after its release. This is a book that deserves a long life, one that should be in the classrooms and personal libraries of everyone interested in this vital part of our human history, our legacy connecting continents and cultures as we approach the crossroads of the new millennium.

Carol Sheehan
Faculty of General Studies
The University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2N 1N4

BOOKS RECEIVED


PAPERS TO APPEAR IN ARCTIC

WHITLOCK, C., and DAWSON, M.R. Pollen and Vertebrates of the Early Neogene Haughton Formation, Devon Island, Arctic Canada. REFINING, C.A. Of Mice and Ice in the Late Pliocene of North America. BENNIKE, O., and BÖCHER, J. Forest-Tundra Neighbouring the North