REVIEWS

Russian group, the year of the massacre, and the discovery and burial of the murdered men by another Russian killing party. This example demonstrates problem-definition (the attempt to document Aleut oral history), archaeological study, and linkage of the oral and archaeological evidence through historical research. The results are the elucidation of a historical event, interpretation of archaeological evidence, and corroboration of oral history. Such examples should serve the social science student well. Finally, the volume is enlivened by the inclusion of personal experiences shared with the Aleut people, told with a sense of humour on the part of both observer and observed.

There are some notable, and unfortunate, lapses including grammatical errors, repetitions and non sequiturs. Most disconcerting are occasional abrupt changes from very general to highly technical information and interpretation. The less knowledgeable reader may find these transitions difficult to follow, leaving one grasping for well-developed arguments and documentation to support specific conclusions. A major fault is the lack of any detailed map of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska Peninsula. The few maps included lack many place-names frequently cited in the text. Several Russian individuals are mentioned and cited with no explanation of their historical or current significance. In contrast, numerous good photographs of Aleuts and of researchers at work lend life and graphic detail to the book.

Despite specific faults, the work is wide-ranging and generally clear, and this is the beauty of this "small Aleut primer" (p. 2). There emerges a rich and complete picture of the Aleut people, their past and present and their way of being. More important than the time depth of their occupation of the Aleutian chain are the identification and description of strong biological and cultural adaptive mechanisms which have enabled the survival of the Aleuts and continue to support them. The strength and integrity of their culture, if as strong as Laughlin believes, are noteworthy for people working in cross-cultural situations and seeking positive adaptations to cultural change.

To reiterate, studies thoroughly integrating cultural, archaeological, physiological and linguistic information are rare, as the editors of this series (which consists of some 95 case studies) recognize. This work reflects the best of what research anthropology as a whole produces, as well as Laughlin's considerable abilities as both physical anthropologist and archaeologist. The perspective brought to northern studies and to anthropology by the general scholar who has control of diverse realms of data is a major contribution to the study of the Aleuts and of mountain environments.

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Although there is still no Jacques Cousteau for mountain environments, concern for them is belatedly coming of age. Dr. Price's well written, amply illustrated, and thoroughly documented book focusing on the processes and environments of high mountains is one indication of this concern. The apt quotations at the beginning of chapters convey a sense of the author's feeling for the subject matter.

It is an ambitious undertaking because of the many developments which have taken place since publication of Beattie's classic Mountain Geography 45 years ago. There has been an expansion of substantive knowledge and increased awareness of man's impact on these fragile environments, while the treatment of the topics, especially human-related ones, has changed from being almost purely descriptive to incorporating analytical approaches.

The short (five-page) first chapter on defining mountain environments, along with the more detailed second chapter focusing on cultural attitudes towards mountains, present a human viewpoint for unfolding the mountains' physical features and the processes which shape them. These six substantial chapters deal with the geologic origin of mountains, weather and climate, landforms and geomorphic processes, soils, vegetation, and wildlife. The last three chapters return to the human theme, treating the implications of mountains for people, agricultural settlements and land use, and human impacts on mountain environments.

Although most of the earth's mountain areas are represented, an overabundance of examples from the United States makes the presentation more parochial than need be. Equally relevant examples from the Canadian Cordillera are lacking; a future edition could easily include an overview of mountain environments in the Andes, Alps, and Pyrenees. All mountain areas are touched on travel by mountain topography. In this case the first east-west transportation route went through the U.S. (Washington State). This route was later followed by a long, tortuous and twisting one across the southern Purcell, Selkirk, and Monashee mountains. Completion of the Rogers Pass section of the Trans-Canada Highway across the Selkirks took place in 1962.

It would have been valuable to have included a map of the world's major mountains and mountain ranges as is routinely placed in travel by mountain topography. In this case the first east-west transportation route went through the U.S. (Washington State). This route was later followed by a long, tortuous and twisting one across the southern Purcell, Selkirk, and Monashee mountains. Completion of the Rogers Pass section of the Trans-Canada Highway across the Selkirks took place in 1962.

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people in the framework of migration theory; the location of settlements in light of settlement theory; and the location of various land uses by invoking such concepts from economic geography as land use competition, modifications of von Thünen’s model, and cost-benefit analysis. Despite these shortcomings, Professor Price has written a sensitive and scholarly book which should serve to stimulate further interest on this important and too-long-neglected topic. Both those interested in mountains as such and those interested in mountain regions in their broader context will find it to have a solid base, contain a mountain of information, and, after having step-by-step unveiled its secrets, will be rewarded with a sense of accomplishment on achieving its summit.

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BIG GAME IN ALASKA, A HISTORY OF WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE.

The epic poetry of Robert Service romanticized the Great Alaska Wilderness, Congress politicized it and many books have popularized it. True understanding of the Alaska wilderness comes more slowly and only to those who spend time with it, like Morgan Sherwood.

Sherwood dispels many myths about early Alaskans and their conservationist inclinations. Particularly interesting were those chapters about Ursus horribilis, native hunters and the Euro-American hunters.

This book certainly should be read by all special-interest groups that are vying for Alaska’s national interest lands and game. The uncertainty over the status of land in Alaska today is being resolved. The status of the one group of Alaskan inhabitants that had neither vote nor lobby groups, the fish and wildlife, was historically the subject of heated political and economic controversy which continues even to the present.

Sherwood traces man’s relationship with game animals from the earliest recorded days in Alaska to more modern times. To those who desire an in-depth study of the evolution of game laws in Alaska, this book can be highly recommended. It is well annotated, factual, and put together in a logical manner.

It is not the type of book which contains a collection of spellbinding tales about pioneers and their trials and tribulations. There is no edge-of-the-seat narrative to capture the interest of the lay person. The book appears to be directed toward the reader with an interest in history or wildlife management.

Sherwood’s frequent choice of uncommon words will, no doubt, send the reader without a formal liberal arts education to the dictionary. The frequent use of footnotes, which professionals find so necessary, can be troublesome and irritating to the lay reader.

I was somewhat disappointed that more time was not devoted to the current problems surrounding the subsistence issue. In 1978, the Alaska State Legislature passed what is commonly referred to as the “Subsistence Law” (Chapter 151, Session Laws of Alaska, 1978). The same criticism is made with reference to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 2 December 1980. An important positive result of this Act has been to ensure a much greater degree of wildlife protection than previously existed.

Sherwood gives the reader a superb foundation for understanding the evolution of the first comprehensive Alaskan game laws which came to pass shortly after the turn of the century. Few people have as great an understanding of the issues raised by General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. In his confrontation with the Alaska Game Commission as Morgan Sherwood. With General Buckner’s death, however, at the close of WW II, Sherwood’s book comes rather abruptly to a close, and one is only given a cursory glance at the post-war years. The giants in the environmental spotlight were dead.

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There is an ambiguity one feels in reading through this collection of papers on an ambiguity that was clearly felt by the symposium participants. Several contributors, while acknowledging the enormous importance of the problem addressed, wondered aloud as to the utility of yet another northern conference with all of the expected platitudes, prejudices, and repetitious, impotent statements of high ideals. E. F. Roots, in his closing address titled “Can we talk our way into a better northern resource management economy?” suggested that, despite the feeling of deja vu, the conference was indeed useful. Judging from this collection of papers, he was right.

The symposium focused on the question which might be paraphrased “What is the importance in northern regional economies of renewable resources which never enter the market system and how should northern developmental planning incorporate these values?” Because caribou meat is not often bought at the Co-op, economists tend to underestimate its value. But, does placing a dollar or caloric value on caribou meat adequately reflect the commodity’s importance to northerners? This is clearly a central problem in development of northern policies which cater to northern needs.

What becomes clear in this collection of papers is that the present deficiency is not so much in the database as it is in philosophy and in cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. When land capabilities, annual wage-earnings or harvest rates are discussed, one feels a comfortable solidarity and confidence. But when discussion turns to values, attitudes and goals, the authors flounder about unashamedly and self-admittedly. Such painful, and occasionally boring, exercises are clearly necessary in the continuing process of sharpening and articulating hazily defined attitudes.

The paper by W.A. Fuller and B.A. Hubert will be one of the most widely quoted of the symposium. They conclude that the protein content of N.W.T. fish and game resources would support a maximum of double the 1976 human population, but that this population level will be reached as soon as the end of the century.

Several other contributors discuss fisheries and wildlife management in the north and unanimously conclude that the scientific problems of management are trivial in comparison to the human ones. P. Usher argues forcefully for the view of hunting and fishing as central to native northerners’ cultural self-perception and for the re-establishment of customary law as the jurisdictional basis of wildlife management. Articles by C. Hobart and F. Berkes complement Usher’s, both philosophically and empirically.

Included are several papers outlining resource use and current research in other circumpolar nations. Topics range from bowhead whale hunting in Alaska through history of resource use in Spitsbergen to attempts to engineer the genetically perfect northerner in Siberia.

The proceedings conclude with the reports and recommendations of a series of specialist workshops on northern scientific needs which will doubtlessly be influential in steering future research. Unfortunately, there was no workshop convened to discuss how respect for other life-styles should be engendered and implemented into the policy sphere. That this is our greatest need is the clearest message of the symposium.

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