WORLD GLACIER INVENTORY WORKSHOP (PROCEEDINGS).
Published by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, 1980. 351 p. $39.00 U.S.

The World Glacier Inventory project slowly came to life in the 1960's as an outgrowth of the International Hydrological Decade. The project, now under the auspices of the International Commission on Snow and Ice, is designed to generate a data base that can be used for studies of water resources, climate change, etc. An international workshop on the inventory project was held in Switzerland in September 1978 to deal with techniques and problems of inventory, and this proceedings volume of 42 short papers is one result.

Rather than being restricted to methodology papers, the book is best described as a mixed bag of things glaciological, including such interesting but not-too-relevant subjects as shapes of glaciated valleys and models of climate/glacier relationships. Many of the papers do deal with methodology: each participating country seems to have encountered its own particular difficulties regarding glacier mapping, and many of these problems are outlined by respective authors. A significant amount of coverage is given to the problems some countries (such as Canada) are having trying to conform to the standard classification scheme prescribed by the ICSI. Other difficulties mentioned include lack of decent base maps and the killing of a field assistant by irate Afghans. A number of papers dwell at least in part on problems of distinguishing glacial from non-glacial ice, and estimating ice volumes beneath debris covers.

Other papers present preliminary results of inventories in various countries; many of these are of particular interest as they deal with regions little-known to most Westerners, such as the Tibetan Plateau and Chilien Shan regions of China. Russia and the Himalayas of India, Nepal and Pakistan are fairly well represented. These papers are not consistent with regard to subject matter; some concentrate on numbers and surface areas of present-day glaciers, others on present and/or past equilibrium-altitudes or mass-balance variations. One deals with iceberg counts in Greenland, another with snow and ice over the whole world.

Of great value in this volume are the bibliographies that follow most of the papers; these lists include an abundance of literature on glacier distribution, mass balance, and related topics in foreign journals that North Americans would not ordinarily run across. Also of interest are transcripts of discussions that followed some of the original presentations at the workshop. The only editorial problem I perceive in the book is that several of the abstracts are quite useless in terms of the amount of information contained in them.

The book has at least something of interest to just about any glaciologist, and would be useful as well to global lumpers, splitters and counters in other fields (insofar as it shows that no two countries can agree on how an inventory should be run). It may be ordered from the IAHS Treasurer, 2000 Florida Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, U.S.A.

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Hudson’s Bay Trader is a republication of the original edition issued in 1951. The book is the diary kept by the author during a year (1938-1939) in the service of the Hudson’s Bay Co. at Cape Dorset, Baffin Island. In the introduction, the author points out that at first, while writing the diary, he did not have the intention to publish it. (p. 15; the reference numbers in parentheses are given for information only, because it does happen that one theme recurs many times). Therefore, one should not expect a structured and exhaustive description of the life in Cape Dorset, but one can find here a lively review of the events that particularly impressed the author. It is his first book (writer and high-ranking official who was at the time Governor-General of Canada), who initiated the publication of this diary.

The purpose of Lord Tweedsmuir’s stay on Baffin Island was very likely due to a need to recover his health after a long tropical disease (16). This convalescent man who recovers his strength little by little embarks on many exciting outings, tours and hunting trips. His descriptions, however succinct, form the structural body of this book.

The author quite easily wins the reader over because he expresses such rare honesty towards his misadventures; his story is absorbing and humorous with a message. He is a true observer; seem him even at the most insipid moments. He is a true observer; seem him even at the most insipid moments. He is a true observer; seem him even at the most insipid moments. He is a true observer; seem him even at the most insipid moments. He is a true observer; seem him even at the most insipid moments.