

here. If the Antarctic Treaty, as R. M. Laws says, is robust enough to survive, future ecological investigations will make other than proper management of Antarctic resources unthinkable. (Professor N. B. Marshall, 6 Park Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex).

INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA

HANDBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS. 5. ARCTIC. Damas, D. (editor). 1985. Washington DC, Smithsonian Institution, US Government Printing Office. 862 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 185-8. US \$ 29.00

The *Handbook of North American Indians* is a twenty-volume series designed as an encyclopaedia of the prehistory and anthropology of the aboriginal inhabitants of North America. The first volume is an introduction to the series, and the final volume is an index. Two volumes form a biographical dictionary of fieldworkers and native peoples, and five volumes are thematic, covering such topics as 'Indians in Contemporary Society' (Volume 2) and 'Languages' (Volume 17). Each of the remaining eleven volumes covers an environmental region and discusses the cultures which inhabited that region. There is a separate editor for each volume but the production is coordinated by the permanent *Handbook* editorial committee at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The series is aimed at universities and libraries; however, volumes can be purchased individually. To date two volumes have appeared that would be of special interest to *Polar Record* readers. 'Subarctic' (Volume 6, 1981) covers the Indians of Alaska and the tundra regions of Canada. 'Arctic' (Volume 5, 1984) discusses the Eskimos and Aleuts. The remarks below deal specifically with the Arctic volume although the comments on production are also true of all the six volumes so far published.

It is often difficult for an individual when approaching a new subject to know where to start. This is especially true for those wishing to begin a study of Arctic peoples. The earliest information about these people is scattered throughout the accounts of explorers, whalers and traders. It was not until the late nineteenth century that ethnographic fieldwork was undertaken, and during this period and the early twentieth century several classic ethnographies were published. Since then the trend has been towards articles which appear in specialist journals and are often inaccessible to the general public. By gathering much of this information into a single volume, 'Arctic' provides a much needed starting point and reference manual for anyone interested in Eskimos or Aleuts.

There are fifty-nine articles by forty-four authors in this book, a fact that alone could have resulted in a very disjointed work. However, the volume has been carefully structured and manages to avoid this problem. The first section introduces the volume and includes an important note on the transcription of native names. Several articles provide an overview of the history of academic research in the region. A general outline of the Arctic environment and ecosystems is presented, as well as an introduction to Eskimo and Aleut languages and physical anthropology. The rest of the monograph is divided into four sections; the Western Arctic, Canadian Arctic, Greenland and The 1950-1980 Period. The first three sections share a common structure. The prehistory of each area is discussed first. This is followed by an article on the history of exploration by non-natives and their contact with the natives. The main body of each section is devoted to articles which treat the different sub-groups of the Eskimos separately. The cultures are usually described as they would have existed in pre-contact or early contact times, and then the changes that occurred following contact are outlined. Articles of this sort form the major portion of the book. They have been carefully structured so that

cross-referencing is made simple by a series of headings and sub-headings without constraining the styles of the different authors.

The final section, The 1950–1980 Period, looks at the process of acculturation and the massive disruption of native cultures caused by the greatly increased interaction between natives and non-natives which was a product of World War II and the Cold War. This section and the book concludes with a paper on the history of the Pan-Eskimo movement and the development of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) by Robert Petersen.

This book is not simply a collection of papers containing facts about the Eskimos and Aleuts. The articles are all written by leading scholars in their fields. Don Dumond's paper 'Summary of Eskimo Prehistory' discusses some of the current controversies in Arctic archaeology. Several articles contain information which is unavailable elsewhere; for example Donald Clark's article 'Pacific Eskimo: Historical ethnography' and Charles Hughes' article 'Siberian Eskimo' both contain data from sources written in Russian, while other articles such as David Damas' 'Copper Eskimo' contain information from unpublished manuscripts and the author's field work.

I have only one reservation about this volume. In most articles the intellectual culture of the people receives very little attention. Only in Peterson's article 'Greenlandic Written Literature' are there extracts of poems or tales. This is a pity when one considers the rich oral heritage of these people. There are also cases where the information presented can be understood only by someone who already has some knowledge of the people. One example of this is the treatment of Nuliayuk or 'the woman who lives at the bottom of the sea'. This woman controls the sea mammals and is known by many names across the Canadian Arctic, among them Nuliayuk, Takkanaluk and Sedna. Sedna is mentioned in the article on the Copper Eskimo by Damas but it is not until two articles later that we discover who she is and the legend surrounding her origins (discussed in 'Iglulik' by Guy Mary-Rousseliere). Unfortunately in this article no reference is made to the name Sedna. It is only by reading all the sections on religion and beliefs of the Canadian Eskimos that one is able to piece together the synonymous names of Nuliayuk and her importance in the intellectual culture of many Central Eskimo groups. This may be the result of the emphasis of anthropology in the region over the last twenty years which has been oriented towards two major concerns; the effects of rapid acculturation on the people and man-environment relationships in the pre/early contact period.

The production of this book is superb. It is illustrated with hundreds of photographs many from private collections and archival sources which were selected by members of the permanent editorial staff. The figures are clearly drawn and the type face is large enough not to strain one's eyes. Very few errors were noted in either the text or the bibliography. Both the bibliography and the index are well prepared and invaluable to the specialist fieldworker and the interested layperson. It is impossible to overstress the importance of this work as a reference manual for students of Eskimo and Aleut cultures. That this opinion is shared by many others is borne out by the fact that the first printing was sold out within weeks of publication. (S. Rowley, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB5 0ND).

CONSERVATION IN THE SUBANTARCTIC

CONSERVATION OF ISLANDS IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN; A REVIEW OF THE PROTECTED AREAS OF INSULANTARCTICA. Clark, M. R. and Dingwall, P.R. 1985. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, IUCN. 192 p, illustrated, softback. ISBN 2-88032-503-X.

In a crowded world, subjected to increasing exploitation, there is growing interest in the