

AND POLITICAL ECOLOGY. Broadbent, N. (editor). 1989. Umeå, Center for Arctic Cultural Research (Miscellaneous Publications 9) 184 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISSN 0283-9687.

These two publications from the energetic leader of the Center for Arctic Cultural Research are welcome additions to the growing English language literature on the Sámi. They also illustrate the length of the continuum between independent research, unattached to a particular political agenda, on the one hand, and the 'committed' analysis of individuals, often not themselves members of the minority group, who have taken on the task of representing these people in disputes with national authorities. It is difficult to document this range in a short review. The first volume has a number of fine historical studies, most notably from Roger Kvist, which enable one to see the changing nature of contact between the Swedish government and the Sámi. The fine historical records of a country not involved in war for almost 200 years, and not fought over for rather longer, enable the scholar to follow the administrative changes by which a group of hunters evolve into reindeer herders, or in other parts of the Sámi domain become small-scale farmers. Nobody could categorize this process as painless; in the long evolution there have been many setbacks to the legitimate aspirations of the Sámi minority. However *Readings in Saami History, Culture and Language* does, though its various contributors, show the real concerns that have been expressed from time to time by the national government concerning the fate of the Sámi.

The second symposium is much more strident in its tone, stemming from an Inter-Nordic symposium in Helsingør, Denmark, in 1988. The various papers illustrate changes in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Greenland. An appendix provides a 'Nordic statement of principles and priorities in Arctic and northern research', with a translation into Russian. This is often quite unexceptional, especially when stressing the fragility of Arctic ecosystems, which must be protected. However when it is stressed that research proposals and results should be translated into the languages of the people who are affected, we are moving on to idealistic but often impractical ground. If the requirement were limited to 'people most closely affected' I would not be concerned. But the implication of such far-reaching requirements could mean that much northern research should be translated into 15 or 20 minority languages — patently impossible. Judge Berger's procedure, in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, of consulting directly those affected is attainable, but Canadians (for example) are well familiar with the difficulties and expense of providing editions of many documents in the two languages. To start publishing studies of sea ice conditions in Inuktitut, in Chukchi, in Nentsy, or in Sámi — to mention just four groups — is altogether beyond practicality.

There are some interesting papers on Iceland, which, however, has little in common with the other areas, except an Arctic climate. A particularly controversial paper is

that of Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, who has discovered the new crime of 'linguicism'. As she herself insists of writing about 'the United Kingdom/Queendom', some of us may be excused wondering whether that sort of nonsense also requires legislation, if only to reduce the amount of printer's ink and paper expended. My own personal view is that this second collection of papers is itself an excellent documentation of the impracticalities which many academics espouse. (Ian Whitaker, Department of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada V5A 1S6.)

#### MUMMIFIED GREENLAND ESKIMOS

THE MUMMIES FROM QILAKITSOQ: ESKIMOS IN THE 15th CENTURY. Hart Hansen, J. P. and Gulløv, H. C. 1989. *Meddelelser om Grønland: Man and Society* 12. This is a first-rate collection of papers dealing with the eight mummified Eskimo found in the Uummannaq district of Northwestern Greenland in 1972. The intensive examination of the bodies, as well as of their clothing, presents a scientific landmark. The majority of the analyses were non-intrusive, involving X-rays, dermatological studies, analysis of collagen and glycosaminoglycans, electron microscopy, histopathological studies of the eyes, study of faeces and bone mineral content, histomorphometric analysis of cortical and trabecular bone, and trace metals in hair. The subjects of the study died about 1475, just at the time when the Viking settlements in Greenland were either being abandoned or died out. The studies of fungi, head lice and mineral grains also tell us about environmental factors present. The tattoos on some of the bodies help to amplify the relatively sparse ethnohistorical material on this practice. An analysis of diatoms in the bodies unfortunately is inconclusive about the cause of death: it must be presumed from the disposal of the corpses that the individuals all died within a brief time-span. All in all this fine book shows what may be learnt by post-mortem procedures conducted with care and respect upon mummified remains. We may expect other opportunities, either from burials in permafrost, or, as here, in climatic conditions that promote mummification. The results are far more wide-ranging than the professional labels of the researchers imply. (Ian Whitaker, Department of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada V5A 1S6.)

#### ALASKAN EXCAVATIONS

THE 1981 EXCAVATIONS AT THE UTQIAGVIK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE BARROW ALASKA. Hall, E. S. and Fullerton, L. (editors). 1990. Barrow Alaska, North Slope Borough Commission on the Inupiat History, Language, and Culture (IHLIC). Three volumes, 1254 p, illustrated. Soft cover, US\$60.00.

In 1981 the City of Barrow initiated a cultural resource mitigation project in response to the proposed construction of a natural gas line through a district known to contain numerous proven archaeological features. Essentially a collection of 60 anthropogenic mounds — elevated com-

ponents ascertained to be result of human activity and often prehistorically abandoned semisubterranean structures — these features had for years been plundered by curiosity seekers and amateur archaeologists alike. Faced with a programme of cultural analysis, the Public Archaeology Facility of the Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, undertook an innovative enterprise which transcended an orthodox programme of artifact excavation, recovery, identification and conservation. Alternatively, articulating the project mandate of determining cultural change during what is now determined to be the prehistoric/early historic period of the Inupiat community at Utqiagvik, the study combined heretofore exclusive aspects of cultural analysis in consort to address common research problems.

The project synthesized 19th century ethnographic accounts, ethnohistorical sources and local oral traditions offered by the community elders with archaeological data. Indeed, included in the first volume are 58 pages of ethnohistorical chronicles, in addition to interviews and accounts by locals of the history of the area, geomorphological history of the site during the present lifetime, past settlement patterns and an inventory of traditional land use. Through two excavation seasons all manner of local involvement was encouraged: elders were interviewed, student assistants performed field and laboratory work, and liaison was undertaken with the Borough regarding plans for a museum to display recovered artifacts.

Innovative techniques of test coring and artificial heating to defrost frozen horizons enabled the recovery of an astonishing 130,000 artifacts, many of which came from two significant mound edifices: a Qargi ceremonial lodge and a near-perfectly preserved semisubterranean house, itself the subject of the third volume. This structure, which between AD 1500 and 1829 sensationally and catastrophically collapsed during a winter storm, trapping five occupants, provided a bountiful data base. Artifacts and human remains retrieved from it illuminate a hitherto unknown glimpse of early pre-contact Inupiat lifeways.

Hall and Fullerton have striven to acknowledge the necessary of future archaeological projects — indeed any manner of study undertaken by social scientists — to face sensitive attitudes and social issues within host communities and to include community members in what they now consider to be a multidisciplinary research process. In this respect they have made a significant contribution to Inupiat prehistory while providing a glimpse of the social context in which modern archaeology is conducted. (M. J. Whittles, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, CB2 1ER).

#### BRIEF REVIEWS

THE KHLBNIKOV ARCHIVE. Shur, L. (editor). 1990. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press. 212 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-42-0. (Rasmuson Li-

brary Historical Translation Series 5.)

Unpublished journal (1800–1837) and travel notes (1820, 1822 and 1824) of Kirill Khlebnikov (1785–1838), translated by John Bisk. As a life-long servant of the Russian American Company Khlebnikov travelled extensively in Tsarist Alaska and California. His fundamental *Notes on the Russian-American Colonies in America* was published piecemeal from 1829 onward. These documents, recently translated and now published for the first time, provide valuable background information on the writer and his travels.

PENGUIN BIOLOGY. Davis, L. S. and Darby, J. T. 1990. San Diego, Academic Press. 467 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN0-12-206335-X.

A collection of 18 research papers and reviews based on material presented at the First International Conference on Penguins, Dunedin, New Zealand 16–19 August 1988. Following a historic overview, sections on breeding biology, foraging, energetics, behaviour, and fossil taxonomy reflect the main thrusts of contemporary penguin research, based on both zoo and field studies. The collection includes several papers on polar and subpolar species.

A COUNTRY SO INTERESTING. Ruggles, R. I. 1991. Montreal and Kingston, McGill Queens University Press. 300 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0670-0. £42.75.

Subtitled *The Hudson's Bay Company and two centuries of mapping*, this elegant volume describes and analyses mapping activities of over 160 Company servants, with original sketches and a review of mapping and survey techniques. Included are catalogues of all 838 maps, plus over 550 sketches, known to have been produced by the Company: 66 plates and an informative text outline the progress of mapping, and modern location maps enhance an informative text. Aptly described as 'a significant contribution to the history of Canadian cartography' and 'a tremendous resource for all those doing research in fur trade history and Native Studies'.

GUIDE TO THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE. Walle, D. F. and Bowers, C. J. (editors). 1990. Fairbanks, University of Anchorage Press. US\$16.25 including mailing.

The Consortium Library of the University of Alaska Anchorage houses over 350 manuscript collections including papers and records of individuals and families, businesses, and social, cultural and action groups. This guide is compiled by the collections archivist and archives processor. For each collection it lists the title, scope and content, types of material, dates of papers and basic finding aids available, followed by historical or biographical sketches and provenance notes. Available from the University of Alaska Press, Gruening Building, UAF Fairbanks, AK 99775-1580 USA.