

of the dream of Denendeh. As her title indicates, she does not believe that the ideal has died.

This collection contains both new and reworked papers by the author, as well as excerpts from the works of Helm's close colleagues—Teresa Cartervette, Beryl Gillespie, and Nancy Lurie. Its three parts (subdivided into 18 chapters) reflect the major themes: Part I, Community and Livelihood at Mid-century (Chapters 1–5); Part II, Looking Back in Time (Chapters 6–14); and Part III, Being Dene (Chapters 15–18).

For young scholars, the book is a starting place from which to learn the literature of the Subarctic portion of the Northwest Territories and, more broadly, northern hunters and gatherers. Helm's contribution in this volume to Slavey and Dogrib ethnology and ethnohistory is truly significant and will draw in a wide variety of readers with both professional and sophisticated amateur interests in the history and ethnology of the Mackenzie peoples. If the book has a failure, however, it is that by expressing herself in traditional scholarly language, the author may have missed one of her stated objectives—that of providing a resource for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the Dene who helped Helm with her research (p. xi). In fairness to June Helm, writing scholarly anthropological studies in plain English is a very difficult task.

In reviewing the book, I have selected to highlight what I think are its major contributions. Chapter 1, "Horde, Band and Tribe seen from Denendeh, an introduction," stems from Helm's 1987 Presidential Lecture at University of Iowa. This is the first time that this important paper has been printed with its complete references. "Horde, Band and Tribe" is a significant contribution related to the structure of hunting societies.

Chapter 8 is an overview of Helm's participation in Justice Berger's Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry. It is a significant new contribution that will draw those with an interest in the modern political development of the North to this volume.

Chapter 12 is a partial recapitulation of a paper originally published by June Helm and Beryl Gillespie in the *Journal of Anthropological Research* (Helm and Gillespie, 1981). Helm brings forward key elements of the original paper for reconsideration and elaboration. In the future, scholars will have to read the two together. This is a seminal discussion on the value of Dene oral narratives as historical sources.

Exercising the right of the reviewer to save the best for last, however, my favorite part of the book is Part I, Community and Livelihood at Mid-century. Chapters 2 to 5 detail life in the Slavey community of Jean Marie River and the Dogrib community of Lac la Martre [now Wha Ti] in the 1950s. This was obviously a time of joy and discovery for Helm. Her writing on life in the small Aboriginal communities, away from Euro-Canadian points of trade, is an important contribution that is fun to read. Perhaps it is here in these chapters that June Helm most closely realized her goal of leaving behind a legacy for the

grandchildren of the Dene who patiently taught her about themselves.

The People of Denendeh is a well edited and produced book that belongs in both public and university libraries, as well as on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the people of the North.

REFERENCE

HELM, J., and GILLESPIE, B.C. 1981. Dogrib oral traditions as history: War and peace in the 1820s. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 37(1):8–27.

Chris Hanks
Senior Environmental Specialist
BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.
1102, 4920 - 52nd Street
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada
X1A 3T1

LICHENS OF ANTARCTICA AND SOUTH GEORGIA: A GUIDE TO THEIR IDENTIFICATION AND ECOLOGY. By D.O. ØVSTEDAL and R.I. LEWIS SMITH. [Studies in Polar Research]. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001, xii + 411 p. ISBN 0 521 66241 9. Hardbound. US\$100.00.

On the Antarctic continent, lichens comprise the dominant terrestrial vegetation, far outnumbering flowering plants and even the bryophytes and terrestrial algae. Despite the importance of understanding the life forms of Antarctica for what they might tell us regarding climate change, earth history, survival under extreme conditions, and related topics, publications on the lichen flora have often produced more confusion than light. With the appearance of Øvstedal and Lewis Smith's excellent identification manual, Antarctic lichens have finally received a thorough treatment.

The authors set out to create a comprehensive account of lichens and critical assessment of specimens from Antarctica based on a study of relevant types, and to enable the identification of lichens. They have largely achieved those goals.

The book begins with a description of the geobotanical regions of Antarctica and an overview of the native flora. This is followed by a useful history of lichen exploration summarized in a concise table. The authors comment on Carroll W. Dodge's "contributions," especially through the observations of Hertel (1988) and Castello and Nimis (1995, 1997), and bring us up to date with work of I.M. Lamb, D.C. Lindsay, and J. Redon. Lewis Smith's own collections in the British Antarctic Survey herbarium in Cambridge (AAS) are the main source of the new material included in this volume, collected between 1964 and 2000, mostly from British-administered areas. Material was also

borrowed, however, from numerous other herbaria throughout the world, giving a more complete coverage of the continent. Unreliable records that were unavailable for verification were not included in the book (so this is not really a catalogue of the Antarctic flora).

Lichenicolous fungi are not given as main entries since this was not the aim of the book, but many are mentioned in the comments regarding the host lichen, making this a valuable reference for anyone with a sick Antarctic lichen. It is a pity, however, that the names of these fungi are not included in the index, making it difficult to determine what was actually found. An account of the climate, ecology, and geology of the region is quite complete. A concise, informative summary of the ecology of Antarctica and South Georgia emphasizes the remarkably extreme climates of continental Antarctica.

The geography of the 427 known taxa (41 still unnamed or unidentified) is summarized in a long checklist/table, with all taxa scored for their presence in seven major regions, as well as for global distribution and affinities.

Many taxa are reported in this book as additions to the Antarctica flora, and several are described as new, raising the previous total of 260 species (Castello and Nimis 1995, 1997) back up to the level reported (incorrectly) by Dodge (1973). The temptation to create new names must have been great because Antarctic populations often differ in details from their European counterparts. To their credit, Øvstedal and Lewis Smith have chosen a taxonomically conservative path, tending to merely point out small differences in morphology or chemistry rather than use them as the basis for describing new taxa. If the authors are uncertain about the status of a distinctive population, they often assign it a tentative "letter name" (e.g., *Acarospora* sp.A) rather than create a new and perhaps superfluous name.

The systematic treatments are in alphabetic order by genus, which I think is the most practical approach. Each genus is described, followed by a key to species within the genus. The keys are very abbreviated, with most choices taking up less than a line. Most seem easy to use, but in some genera, they make unnecessary demands. In the key to crustose genera, for example, heavy emphasis is placed on distinguishing ascus types, which may be difficult for many (if not most) readers. In other cases, such as in the key to *Rhizocarpon*, chemistry is emphasized where anatomical distinctions would have been easier. I also found it difficult to use the *Buellia* key with some unidentified Antarctic material in my own collection.

The genus and species descriptions are concise but usually sufficiently detailed. In some cases, however, some useful information was left out in the interests of brevity. Under each species, there are detailed and useful observations on ecology, and taxonomic discussions are added where necessary. The Antarctic and world distribution of each species is also given. Dates of the publication of the accepted combinations are presented in almost all cases. Synonymy is only partial. Dodge's names are largely ignored, reference being made to the paper by Castello and

Nimis (1995). That article must be at your fingertips if you make any attempt to deal with Dodge's bewildering lichen flora of 1973.

The book, being designed for nonspecialists as well as specialists, ends with an excellent, remarkably concise glossary. All of this information is packaged in a well-bound, attractively produced volume with the added bonus of over 100 colour photographs illustrating habitats and individual species.

Despite the few cases of missing anatomical information and troublesome keys, *Lichens of Antarctica and South Georgia* is a remarkable achievement, especially given the state of taxonomic chaos the authors had to deal with. Those working with Antarctic lichens now have a modern, accessible guide for the identification of their collections. It is an indispensable reference for anyone working with austral lichens.

REFERENCES

- CASTELLO, M., and NIMIS, P.L. 1995. A critical revision of Antarctic lichens described by C.W. Dodge. *Bibliotheca Lichenologica* 57:71–92. [Festschrift Ch. Leuckert]
- . 1997. Diversity of lichens in Antarctica. In: Battaglia, B., Valencia, J., and Walton, D.W.H., eds. *Antarctic communities: Species, structure and survival*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 15–21.
- DODGE, C.W. 1973. *Lichen flora of the Antarctic Continent and adjacent islands*. Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing.
- HERTEL, H. 1988. Problems in monographing Antarctic crustose lichens. *Polarforschung* 58:65–76.

Irwin M. Brodo
Canadian Museum of Nature
P.O. Box 3443, Station 'D'
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 6P4

- OUR VOICES: NATIVE STORIES OF ALASKA AND THE YUKON. Edited by JAMES K. RUPPERT and JOHN W. BERNET. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8020-8467-2. 394 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Softbound. Cdn\$29.95.

The editors of this collection have made an important contribution to the study of Native American oral literature by bringing together in one volume the works of many prominent storytellers. The collection features Athabaskan and Eyak stories from Alaska and the Yukon, a region that has often been neglected in previous collections. While some of the stories have appeared in other publications, this work offers the advantage of bringing a representative sample of stories together for the first time.

Native American narratives have been the focus of studies by linguists, anthropologists, and students of