

These words contrast strongly with his thoughts about Britain's navy and army, whose formal protocol and lack of experience irritated the down-to-earth Hudson's Bay fur trader:

I have heard it stated over and over again that the men of our army and navy were as capable of doing portage work efficiently without being trained to it, as the experienced Hudson's Bay voyageur. I have never found it so. (p. 70)

These vivid descriptions underline the white man's debt to indigenous peoples in the centuries-long mapping of the northern regions. It also helps to understand Rae's lifelong "resentment at the failure of the British Government and Admiralty to take his advice regarding the adoption of native techniques on official Arctic expeditions, especially snowshoes, sledges and snowhouses" (p. 86). He perceived rightly the superior qualities of Inuit technology.

The knowledge Rae gained from the natives was neither random nor accidental, but rather "deliberate and studied" (p. 93) as Dale Idiens shows us in the final chapter, "Rae as Collector and Ethnographer." Using the guidelines laid down by his University of Edinburgh teacher, Robert Jameson, Rae collected over 200 Canadian Indian and Inuit artefacts, which are now preserved in museums in Britain. Given the problems of traveling in northern regions and the need to travel as lightly as possible, Rae's collection is all the more remarkable.

There is much to recommend in *No Ordinary Journey*. In addition to the two essays by Dale Idiens mentioned above, author Bryce Wilson in "Childhood in Orkney" presents the important and relevant Orkney background to Rae's Arctic career, and Ian Bunyan's "Early Arctic Exploration" summarizes Arctic history up to the present. Jenni Calder's "Rae in the Arctic" ably describes the drama of Rae's involvement with the search for Franklin.

What is puzzling, however, is why the authors and curators did not include a catalogue of the images and objects in the exhibition. There is also no index or bibliography, nor are there references to quotations included in the text. These omissions are a definite handicap to the future use of the valuable scholarship contained in this study.

Unfortunately, the exhibition, which traveled to Orkney and Edinburgh, was unable to find funding for Canada although a symposium was organized by McMaster University in December 1993 and one hopes that these papers will be published. Certainly the book and exhibition should renew interest and inspire further scholarship on John Rae — an unsung hero of nineteenth century Arctic history.

Constance Martin
The Arctic Institute of North America
The University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 1N4

CONVERSATION INUIT/INUKTITUT UQARIURSAUTIT.
NIVEAU 1. Par DOLORES ORTIZ. En collaboration avec
LUISA KANARJUAQ. Sainte-Foy, Québec: Les Presses de
L'Université Laval, 1993. Texte en Français et Inuktitut.

119 p., illustrations en noir et blanc. Livre et cassette.
Cdn\$45.00.

Ce manuel, destiné aux francophones désirant apprendre l'inuktitut, est une vraie mine, étant donné que la plupart de la littérature existante sur le sujet est rédigée habituellement en anglais et en inuktitut. C'est ainsi un ajout important à la collection croissante de livres sur l'inuktitut. Ses principaux objectifs sont d'aider ceux qui apprennent l'inuktitut pour la première fois, à assimiler rapidement quelques phrases utiles, de même qu'à comprendre petit à petit les structures de la langue Inuit. Toutefois, ces buts pourraient s'avérer trop ambitieux et trop optimistes pour certains étudiants.

L'inuktitut parlé l'est à un débit élevée et de nombreux éléments nouveaux de vocabulaire sont présentés rapidement. On utilise des structures complexes dès les premières leçons et l'étudiant doit simplement répéter ce qu'il entend sans comprendre le sens des mots. Cela l'oblige à parler tout de suite, sans tenter d'analyser systématiquement. Cette méthode peut néanmoins produire quelques frustrations chez certains.

Afin de comprendre le contenu grammatical de chaque chapitre et de l'appendice I, les étudiants doivent bien connaître la grammaire française. L'analyse grammaticale n'est pas une méthode nouvelle pour l'apprentissage d'une langue, mais elle a des avantages assurés pour ceux qui aiment les explications de ce genre.

L'enregistrement et le français sont de qualité. Le manuel et la cassette comprennent 14 leçons avec conversations. La plupart d'entre elles sont assez faciles à comprendre et correspondent à des situations tirées de la vie réelle. Le résumé de la conversation paraît sur la cassette au début de la leçon, alors qu'il est situé à sa fin dans le livre. Un détail qui peut provoquer quelque confusions.

L'avant-propos indique que le manuel est destiné aux professionnels travaillant ou qui veulent travailler dans un milieu inuit. Le matériel pédagogique s'applique aux deux dialectes de la région de Nunavik, le tarrarmiut et l'itivimuit. Ces dialectes sont assez proches de ceux des régions de l'Est de l'Arctique et du Keewatin dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, il pourrait donc également y servir. Cependant, les différences de dialectes pourraient engendrer certains problèmes, surtout chez des débutants. Le second appendice donne la version syllabique des leçons, qui sera utile au Québec, comme dans les T.N.-O.

On doit encourager les auteurs à continuer de produire du matériel pour l'apprentissage de l'inuktitut, surtout destiné aux francophones, considérant les besoins encore importants dans ce domaine.

This manual for francophones who wish to learn Inuktitut is a rare find, since most existing materials are in English and Inuktitut. It is, therefore, a welcome addition to the growing literature on Inuktitut. Its main objectives are to assist people learning Inuktitut for the first time to learn useful phrases as quickly as possible and to progressively understand the structure of the Inuit language. For some learners, however, these objectives may be a bit ambitious and optimistic.

The Inuktitut is spoken rapidly on the tape and a lot of new vocabulary is introduced quickly. Complex structures

are used early in the lessons and the student must simply learn to repeat what is said without understanding which words correspond to which. This does force people to begin speaking without trying to analyse everything, but it may also be frustrating to some learners.

In order to understand the grammatical explanations in each chapter and in the appendix, students should have a good grasp of French grammar. This grammar teaching method is not one of the newest methods of teaching a language, but it has its benefit for those who do appreciate this type of explanation.

The tape is clear and the quality of French is good. The manual and cassette tape are divided into 14 lessons with dialogues, which, for the most part, are relatively simple to understand and represent common real-life situations. It is somewhat confusing that the short summary of the dialogue is at the beginning of the lesson on the tape, but at the end of the lesson in the book.

In the foreword, the manual is said to be directed to professionals who are working or who plan to work in an Inuit milieu. The materials are in the two dialects of Nunavik, Tarrarmut and Itivimiut. These dialects are quite close to those used in the Eastern Arctic and Keewatin regions of the Northwest Territories, so the materials would be useful for learners there also, but dialect differences can cause some problems, especially for new learners. Appendix 2 provides the syllabic version of the lessons, which is useful both in Quebec and the Northwest Territories.

The authors and Inuit who assisted them should be encouraged to continue their efforts in producing Inuktitut learning materials, especially for francophones, as this is an area where there is still a great need.

Betty Harnum and Benoît Boutin
Office of the Language Commissioner
Cunningham Building 4, Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

CANADA'S COLD ENVIRONMENTS. Edited by HUGH M. FRENCH and OLAV SLAYMAKER. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993. 340 p., 156 figs. Hardbound. Cdn\$45.00.

Here is a new type of book written by eleven geographically oriented scientists who describe the cold face of Canada from several perspectives in 13 well illustrated chapters. Each chapter has a unifying theme — how the cold affects the physical properties and processes of the land, the elements of the hydrological cycle and the inhabitants of cold environments.

It is necessary to peruse the cover flaps of the book to learn that this work is "aimed at environmental scientists at all levels who need informed overviews of the substantive findings on a range of cold-related topics." Further, in the preface we are told by the editors that their objectives in writing the book are threefold:

The first has been to provide an insight into the ways in which cold affects biophysical processes of change, at a range of

scales. The second has been to provide a biophysical context for an understanding of the human geography of Canada. The third objective relates to predicted global changes which, if they occur, will have a profound and special effect on the cold regions of Earth. (p. xxi-xxii)

This last objective is a prominent and significant theme throughout many chapters of the book. In the Arctic, climate change is a matter to be taken very seriously because of the extensive areas of permafrost, the large bodies of water and a long and exposed northern coastline.

Temperature changes predicted by current atmospheric general circulation models (GCMs) show quite large disparities with the same carbon dioxide enrichment ($2 \times \text{CO}_2$) input scenarios. Therefore, it is premature to become too alarmed by the simulated GCM results presented in Chapter 11, particularly when there have been two recent reports in which the authors cannot see the expected warming over the Arctic Ocean (e.g. Kahl *et al.*, 1993). There is warming elsewhere, but these recent reports put a definite "cooler" on the GCM results. (Note that in this book GCMs are referred to as global climate models.)

Some annoying typographical glitches and technical irregularities occur throughout the book. I will only mention a few. For instance, temperature units appear variously as °K, C° and °C. It is sometimes necessary to use °K (= 273 + °C) in rate equations, but °K was used here on a graph axis. On p. 41, an equation is given in which an operator "d/dt" appears. It is evident that t is time, but we are not explicitly told this; furthermore, the author refers to an "equation 1," but no numbers are attached to any equations in that chapter. In an associated figure on p. 42, we see an axis labelled "degree-days (°C)" which omits the time factor in the equation. In order to understand this, one has to know what degree-days are all about (geographers have invented several types; the reference here is to freezing degree-days). In an equation on p. 145 some of the symbols have been mutilated and a suffix zero looks as if it should have been a sigma. Only by referring to the original reference given in the text is one enlightened.

Chapter 13 is an unlucky chapter. Only brief mention is made in the text to Figure 13.1 which contains a wealth of interesting information relevant to the book that could have been further discussed. In Figure 13.4 the label "ml × 10" should probably be "ml × 10³" and the delta oxygen 18 scale value should be -35‰ instead of -37‰. Also, the caption does not even mention that the isotope data are shown. In Figure 13.5 (p. 321), which really should be the northern hemisphere temperature plot, we are told that "global surface air temperatures (1900-88) are plotted against 1950-79 average." In fact, the plot shows temperature anomalies or departures from the 1950-79 average (set to zero).

It is not an easy matter to agree that this book is suitable for "environmental scientists at all levels." It is certainly a book for geographers, but they should be at a level where the errors do not represent too much of a bugbear. The book would hardly qualify as a textbook, although I think the opportunity was there. It might be a better idea to wait for a second edition in which the glitches are corrected and there is an update on the northern hemisphere climate change situation.