

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ANTARCTIC INVERTEBRATES (TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER). By WILLIAM BLOCK. Cambridge: British Antarctic Survey, 1992. v + 263 p., 1 map, classification, taxonomic, species, author, subject, geographical and expeditions indexes. Softbound. £25.

The objective of this work, as its title suggests, is to provide a comprehensive bibliography to all published work on Antarctic invertebrates from "the earliest South Polar Expedition on which invertebrates were recorded (the French 'Coquille' Expedition of 1822-25) to the end of 1990." The bibliography is designed to be user friendly by being cross referenced and having multiple indexes. William Block tells us "The book is organised with the user in mind, so that information can be readily found and accessed not only by established workers in this area but especially by new-comers to Antarctic science." These are very laudable objectives, and before going any further I should say that, by and large, they are met in a most satisfactory way.

As with any project of this type, a number of decisions have to be made that are, to an extent, arbitrary, e.g., the geographical extent of the area covered, the inclusion of Kerguelen and Heard islands and the exclusion of St. Paul and Amsterdam islands, or the inclusion of Macquarie Island and exclusion of Campbell and Auckland islands. In both cases involving island selection, the invertebrate faunas of the former islands share many features with the latter, based largely on geographical proximity. However, the decisions made in this case seem to me to be completely defensible and are clearly defined from the outset. The taxonomic scope of the work probably reflects the author's own interests to a larger extent: "The survey concentrated primarily on free-living invertebrate animals, but whilst some ectoparasitic taxa are included, endo-parasites are not." This will surely limit its usefulness to ecto-parasitologists, who will never know if particular work is included or not.

As William Block says, it is impossible for a bibliography ever to be complete, but from my reading this one seems to be as complete as could be expected. I do, however, have a few quibbles with the scope and coverage. As noted above, the author singles out *Voyage autour du Monde sur la "Coquille"* as beginning the study of Antarctic invertebrate science, but he did not see this work or that of the next major French Antarctic expedition, *Voyage au Pol Sud et dans l'Océanie sur les corvettes "l'Astrolabe" et la "Zélée"*, so there are no abstracts published for them to indicate their contribution to the beginnings of Antarctic biological science. Surely copies of these seminal works must be available in Cambridge!

The main bibliography consists of a series of 1331 numbered entries arranged alphabetically by author; a full literature citation is given for each entry and a brief abstract is included. The abstract is classified under one or more of four headings: Group (taxonomic group[s] and species), Ecol (ecology), Phys (physiology) and Sys (systematics). This makes for a very complete and useful treatment. The style of the presentation is excellent and easy to use. I really liked the line drawings on each page that begins a new initial letter of the authors' names.

I sympathize with the frustrations of bibliographers in trying to make their bibliographies as complete and up to date as possible. These objectives have led William Block to include three appendices to his main bibliography: material received too late for inclusion in the main bibliography, unpublished material, and unseen material. A real problem arises in the use of these appendices; the indexes are all to citation number, but the citations in the appendices are not in wholly numerical order, so it is not obvious to which appendix any particular index citation refers. This can require the user to look up an entry in three separate places.

As has become customary, the word processing and pre-publication computer packages used in the production of this book are all listed in the introduction. It was produced from laser-printed camera-ready copy and is exceptionally well edited and printed. The soft-cover glued binding has, so far, been perfectly adequate.

I strongly recommend this book to all researchers and students of Antarctic invertebrates. It will remain an invaluable reference work for many years to come. It is also an excellent source of much useful information for anyone with an interest in Southern Hemisphere and, particularly, Antarctic biogeography.

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WESTERN SUBARCTIC PREHISTORY. By DONALD W. CLARK. Hull: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1992. ix + 152 p., 1 chart, 49 plates, 10 maps, annotated reading list. Softbound. Cdn\$14.95.

This monograph is the eighth volume in the Canadian Prehistory Series, a collection of books about the pre-European contact archaeology of Canada written for the general audience by Canadian archaeologists, many of whom are staff members of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization. It deals with the Western Subarctic, which the author defines to include an enormous area of the country extending from northwestern Ontario to the Yukon and, when necessary, adjacent areas such as Alaska. In the author's words, the book presents the history of the native people "who stayed on, who endured the harshness and knew the beauty of the Subarctic" (p. ix).

The fact that it took nearly twenty years from the time the series began until the appearance of this book is perhaps a reflection of the great challenge faced by the small cadre of prehistorians who are working in this vast area. Sites are difficult to find, artifact collections are often small, if not impoverished, characterized only by lithic tools and very few of the kinds of tools that archaeologists usually rely upon to establish the basic framework of thousands of years of history. Much of this is due to the destruction of organic materials from abandoned subarctic campsites because of poor preservation conditions caused by the acidic nature of the soils in coniferous forest regions. We know from ethnographic accounts that subarctic peoples relied heavily upon organic materials such as wood, bone, antler, and hides to make the tools and other devices necessary for living in this harsh environment. They also depended upon the animal resources of the region for most of their subsistence. Poor organic preservation is responsible for the loss of major categories of information about the past, leaving subarctic archaeologists with the perplexing problem of how to extract meaning from what is left.

Perhaps because of this, few archaeologists have chosen to work in the Subarctic and, as a result, the data needed for constructing the prehistory of the region have accumulated very slowly; indeed, a good deal of the information that Clark relies upon for this synthesis has only appeared since the early 1970s. Working within these limitations, however, Clark has used his encyclopaedic knowledge of subarctic archaeology to present a much-needed summary that should serve to foster greater interest in this fascinating region.

Clark begins the book with an overview of the characteristics of the study area, summarizing the history of research, providing a personal view of the "allure" of subarctic archaeology, and giving some basic background to the reader unfamiliar with the methods of archaeological enquiry. To organize the broad geographic, temporal, and cultural scope, he subdivides the Western Subarctic into three sub-areas: 1) the Northwestern Area, which includes the Yukon, Mackenzie valley, northern British Columbia, and northwestern Alberta; 2) the North-Central Area, which encompasses far northeastern Alberta, the northernmost parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the area south of the tree line between Great Bear Lake and Lake Athabasca in the west and Hudson Bay in the east; and 3) northwestern Ontario and the boreal forest regions of Manitoba, central Saskatchewan, and east-central Alberta.

The coverage begins with the northwestern region, where Clark devotes three chapters (1-3) to discussing the archaeological evidence for the history of this subregion. The depth of treatment decreases, however, as he proceeds eastward, with two chapters (5-6) devoted to the north-central subarea and only one (7) to the third. This emphasis reflects, I suspect, Clark's own interest and expertise, not to mention the availability of appropriate sources of information. Chapter 4, which discusses various issues concerning prehistoric trade, provides a short interlude between the first and second subareas, and the final chapter (8) offers a "Compendium" that seeks "To assist the reader in tracing the individual strands through the long, tangled skein of prehistory. . . ." Because of the content-rich nature of the text, the latter is indeed necessary.

For each subarea, Clark provides some background on aspects of biophysical characteristics and a discussion of the archaeological evidence for cultural development over time, noting key sites and characteristic artifact types for the many cultures that have been defined by archaeologists over the past few decades of research. Here, Clark injects some of his own unique interpretations concerning this evidence. These reflect a careful, if at times laborious, consideration of the evidence, and I find little to disagree with. Clark also offers interesting and effective, if not lyrical, summaries of prehistoric lifeways that integrate the archaeology, ethnography, and historical accounts. To enhance the overall presentation, the text is complemented by excellent maps and illustrations, drawn by the talented David Laverie, and there are numerous good-quality plates of artifacts. The colour photograph on the cover is also the most attractive of the whole Canadian Prehistory Series.

In general, the book is moderately successful in the difficult task of synthesizing information that is widely dispersed and often accessible only to the purist. My misgivings come from a number of shortcomings, many of them respecting layout that were likely beyond the control of the author. To begin with, the text is set in a light, minimalist sans-serif typeface that I found difficult to read. A bolder or heavier serif typeface would have improved the readability markedly. Virtually all of the plates and figures are not referenced in the text. This is unfortunate, because had this been done with the artifact plates there would have been no need for the several lengthy in-text artifact lists that are largely meaningless to the majority of the intended audience. Seven of the artifact plates have artifacts that are clearly (even to the uninitiated) upside down. A map (Map 5) of site locations for the northwestern region has Anaktuvuk Pass, Old John Lake, and Onion Portage, all of which belong in northern Alaska, shifted to the northern Yukon, and Trout Lake is plotted on the Old Crow River rather than the Yukon Coastal Plain, where it belongs. There is no mention of the names of any of the researchers responsible for the generation of the original data. This is undoubtedly an editorial policy, but in a sense it decontextualizes the picture of subarctic archaeology and, moreover, it makes it difficult for students of subarctic archaeology or anyone else to pursue specific interests using the list of readings at the end of the book. Finally, there are organizational problems. For example, there are sections in the text that deal with specific topics (e.g., microblade and burin technology, as well as copper working) that interrupt the flow and unity of the presentation. These and the chapter on trade could have been better treated as sidebars or self-contained units that could have been referred to in the main body of the discussion.

Despite my criticisms, I like the book. It will be useful for college or university-level courses in northern archaeology, although not as much as one could hope for because of some of the aforementioned problems; it should also be part of every subarctic specialist's library. Individuals interested in archaeology and the North would also benefit from reading the book, although they may find it more difficult to absorb than some of the other volumes of the series. Clark should be commended for undertaking a very difficult task indeed in filling perhaps the largest gap in the regional coverage of the Canadian Prehistory Series. With a volume on the Prairies, the Canadian Museum of Civilization would round out what has been and contin-

ues to be a valuable contribution to the professional community and the general public alike.

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QITDLARSSUAQ: THE STORY OF A POLAR MIGRATION. By GUY MARY-ROUSSELIÈRE. Trans. by ALAN COOKE. Winnipeg: Wuerz Publishing Ltd., 1991. 196 p., figs. (maps and photos), appendices, tables, bib., folded insert. Softbound. Cdn\$25.00.

Qitdlarssuaq: The Story of a Polar Migration is the long-awaited English translation of Father Guy Mary-Rousselière's (1980) *Qitdlarssuaq: l'histoire d'une migration polaire*. Both volumes recount the fascinating story of the long and perilous journey to northwestern Greenland undertaken by a small band of North Baffin Island Inuit, led by the powerful shaman Qitdlarssuaq, during the middle decades of the last century.

The story of Qitdlarssuaq and his followers is not a new one. Details of this saga were first brought to the attention of the Western world by the Danish ethnologist Knud Rasmussen (1908, orig. 1905), who interviewed some of the surviving participants in the journey still residing at the time of his visit with the Polar Eskimo. Additional information about the migration has since been provided by Steensby (1910), Freuchen (1961), Holtved (1967), Petersen (1962) and Gilberg (1974/75), among others. As well, elements of this story, particularly specific events and the names of the individuals associated with them (both prior to and after the migration), have been kept alive in the oral traditions of the Baffin Island Inuit and the Polar Eskimo.

Despite this lengthy legacy of historical and traditional "documentation," much about this "polar migration" — beyond the incontrovertible fact that the North Baffin Islander's journey to Greenland did indeed occur — remains obscure. That this is so stems, in part, from the fact that the many written treatments of the "Qitdlarssuaq Saga" are flawed by errors, inconsistencies and outright contradictions. The oral histories too, while illuminating in their own right, often freely intermix historical "fact" and "legend," making it extremely difficult to equate traditional accounts of the saga with written versions.

Mary-Rousselière's book *Qitdlarssuaq: The Story of a Polar Migration* (and of course the French edition that preceded it) represents the first serious attempt to "unravel the tangled web of known facts" (Leroi-Gourhan, p. 7) about Qitdlarssuaq and his followers and to establish, through the scholarly assessment of all available information sources — including ethnographies, explorers' journals, ships' logs, contemporary newspaper references and oral histories (as collected by the author himself, as well as by other ethnohistorians), the timing of their migration, its duration, the route(s) followed and even the names and numbers of the individuals involved. As discussed below, Mary-Rousselière was able to accomplish far more than this.

In his introductory chapter, he reviews the primary ethnohistorical sources pertinent to the migration saga and comments, very briefly, on some of the errors and inconsistencies contained therein. He also discusses the relative strengths and limitations of traditional descriptions of the Qitdlarssuaq saga as preserved in the oral histories of the North Baffin Inuit and the Polar Eskimo. Following this review, Mary-Rousselière outlines the research strategy he adopted in his assessment of the myriad array of sources pertaining to this event.

Stated simply, his research proceeded through five principal steps: 1) identifying the principal structural elements of the migration story as reported in the major ethnographic reports concerning both the Baffin Islanders and the Polar Eskimo (i.e., Rasmussen, Steensby, Holtved, Freuchen, Peterson); 2) seeking out possible corroborative