

be interested in them too." Eva Strickler writes: "My contribution is a tribute to these woman of a land infinitely vast and all encompassing — a land that is a threshold to the universe."

The book *Inuit Dolls* succeeds on several levels: cultural, historic, educational, artistic, emotive, and good plain fun.

The first section demonstrates play dolls whereby Inuit girls about age ten learned from their mother or a close relative how to clothe a family. Indeed, some girls had a family of dolls and by playing with other children learned about roles as wives and mothers. Once the Inuit moved from camps to settlements, and the youngsters spent their time at school where they learned other lessons, the play dolls began to disappear. In the Spence Bay area the last generation of women who grew up with these dolls were little girls in the early 1950s. The section on the play dolls recalls the doll families and their value to teach skills and inter-familial relationships.

The next section, called Inuit Collectors' Dolls, divides into four parts: dolls dressed in traditional fur garments, wearing fabric garments, made by Spence Bay elders, and produced by Spence Bay's best dollmakers. Spence Bay was a meeting place in the central Arctic where travellers from the west (Mackenzie Delta and Victoria Island), the south (Keewatin), and the east (Baffin Island) gathered and often stayed, bringing their traditions with them. For this reason, even though residing now in Spence Bay, the dollmakers made dolls representative of many homelands.

Collectors' dolls were made for people in the South. Some are owned by museums: the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Museum of the Netsilik School in Taloyoak (Spence Bay). Others are owned by private individuals and institutions, such as the Toronto Inuit Gallery of Eskimo Art. All were pleased to participate in the project.

Even though not stated as an objective for the book, the two parts on traditional fur and fabric clothing unfolds one of the best surveys of historic Canadian Inuit garments on record. Included in the text is the rich lexicon in Inuktitut, which divulges in a word who wears the garment, the age and sex of the wearer, the origin, what material is used, and sometimes the style. Each doll and the clothing are made with the same formidable skill and attention to detail employed by Inuit seamstresses to clothe their own family. The writers have been able to succinctly describe the function of each garment, how it is made, and how to recognize the particularities of any one region.

The pages on dolls made by the elders explode with energy and imagination. These dolls are sculptures made from fur and fabric. Some evolve from the wellsprings of the dollmaker's inner fantasies. Others are realistic reminders of the days of starvation or teach a lesson on how to dress.

The last part, Spence Bay's best dollmakers, shows firm roots in tradition combined with a vivid artistry. One dollmaker carves her faces from caribou antler, achieving a mask-like quality. Using soapstone to make the eyes, she effects a haunted look or a pensive feeling. Several dolls result from an experiment started in 1975 when dollmakers were asked to make animal packing dolls. ("Packing" means to carry a baby in the parka.) The creations are a splendid combination of technology, art, Inuit legends, and cosmology. One dollmaker returns to the traditional faceless play dolls. Her touching array of "little kids" evokes emotions of loss of childhood and the past. Dollmakers, some of whom are well known in other artistic areas (print making, tapestries), contribute sculptural and tactile artifacts using a wide variety of techniques and materials.

The last section of the book shows dolls made in other localities of the Arctic — some new, some old, some by unknown artisans, some by well-known personages. The authors have included, with kindly humour, dolls that just did not work out.

Missing from *Inuit Dolls* are dolls dressed in birdskin or gutskin, although I am not aware of any Canadian dolls dressed in clothing made from sea mammal intestines, such as seen in Alaskan dolls. No dolls come from Labrador. The choice of dolls from Quebec

does not reflect the fine work available, such as dolls produced from 1977 to 1979 in preparation for the exhibition "Things Made by Inuit." (Quebec Inuit call their dolls *Inujait* — little people.) The map of Nunavut, the land of the Inuit, is difficult to comprehend.

The text is written succinctly, containing much information in relatively brief passages. The voices of the dollmakers and their personae emerge from the pages. The book, well designed and with good photographs, allows the viewer ease and space to read, to examine, to enjoy.

Inuit Dolls can be savoured by the young and not so young. It holds as well some intriguing puzzles for the Inuit and non-Inuit scholar. Are the play dolls related to the Thule culture (A.D. 1000-1650), when figurines, which could be play things and have religious powers, were plain and faceless? Would a study of the beads on old dolls as well as on clothing in museums tell about trading patterns? A doll made by Ida Bolt, of Coppermine, wears a "Mother Hubbard" cover made with calico printed with the paisley design, called by the Inuit *Akearoraq*, "a bunch of little stomachs." The same print and style is used by Siberian Asiatic Yuit, who perform traditional dances. Was there a common source for calico prints, what were the trade routes, and how did design typologies spread? Does the doll from Baffin Island made by Kenojuak have a net-like "collar," as seen only in West Greenland? Does Eeteemungna's transformation doll come from the same tradition as two dolls with heads of bird beaks made by the Nenetz people of northern Siberia? One of these dolls was made in 1913, the other in 1973, and both were displayed in the recent exhibition Tundra/Taiga, sponsored by the governments of Quebec and the Russian Federation of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The essence of *Inuit Dolls* is captured by Eva Strickler's words: "I feel great empathy with Anaoyok whose urge to preserve her heritage gives her strength to hope that somewhere in the future the old will be new and whole again."

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VEGETATION OF THE SOVIET POLAR DESERTS. By V.D. ALEKSANDROVA. Translated by DORIS LÖVE. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988. xii+ 228 p., maps, diagrams, tables, bib., list of Latin names, index. Hardbound. US\$49.50.

This book, a translation of a Russian volume (Aleksandrova, 1983), describes the vegetation of the arctic polar deserts of parts of the high latitude Soviet arctic islands in the Kara Sea. This remote area includes Ostrov Victoriya, parts of Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, Severnaya Zemlya, and northernmost Novaya Zemlya, where the mean temperature of the warmest month (July) does not exceed 2°C. Much of the information reported is from the author's work on the vegetation of the archipelago of Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, but she also incorporates works from Soviet scientists working in other areas. This book makes an excellent companion to her earlier volume, which describes circumpolar geobotanical regions (Aleksandrova, 1980).

Aleksandrova first summarizes the geological history, topography, glacial history, and extent of current glaciation, climate, soils, surface patterns, microflora and microfauna, snow regime, and microclimates of the Soviet arctic islands. She describes the differences between Russian polar desert and arctic tundra vegetation. In the latter group the phytomass is made up of flowering plants, whereas the former is dominated by cryptogams.

The focus of the book involves extensive and detailed descriptions of mosses, lichens, and improvised vascular plant flora from over 70 *relevé*, her own largely unpublished work from Zemlya

Frantsa-Iosifa, and those of other workers from elsewhere in the Soviet Arctic. She divides the vegetation of Zemlya Aleksandra into 12 eco-groups based on typical cryptogamic representatives. She also discusses seasonal development of Gramineae, Juncaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Papaveraceae, Cruciferae, and Saxifragaceae, which aids understanding the adaptability and tenacity of the impoverished vascular plant flora.

The text is clean and clear, with few typographical errors. The translator generally has chosen equivalent English terms for Russian expressions rather than more literal translations. This is particularly helpful in discussion concerning mosaics versus complexes and zonal vegetation. Figures are black and white; diagrams are remarkably clear and uncluttered. Unfortunately the maps, as in many Russian publications, are simplified, with little but letter symbols and patterns on the diagrams themselves and explanatory descriptions in the captions. Most geographical location maps are too simplified. Coordinates, scale, and even indication of North are absent. Zemlya Aleksandra, a major focus of the book, lacks good map coverage. I found it useful to read this book accompanied by the National Geographic Arctic Ocean map, a polar projection that provides both the Russian and English names in the Russian sector and a rough idea of the extent of glaciation and proximity to multi-year ice.

This book is an excellent compilation of botanical data, which summarizes inaccessible literature. There is a brief discussion of polar deserts elsewhere in the world, but there, too, little has been published. This documentation of the Russian region enables those working in similar areas to make their own comparisons.

This presentation does not rely on sophisticated statistical classifications currently popular in the Western scientific community, but the classifications, based on the author's own judgment, are realistic and most are readily recognizable. There is a noticeable lack, however, of details of soil chemistry and texture and their influence on the vegetation classes.

The recent death of the author is a loss to the Soviet and international scientific communities. We can be thankful for her long and productive life and her interest and persistence in researching such a harsh and remote environment. Gratitude is also expressed to the translator, ecologist Doris Löve, for making this work available to circumpolar botanists and ecologists.

REFERENCES

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ATLAS OF FINLAND, RELIEF AND LANDFORMS, FOLIO 121-122. Edited by PENTTI ALALAMMI. Helsinki: National Board of Survey and Geographical Society of Finland, 1988. Two map sheets, 2 full-page maps, 4 half-page maps, 24 small maps, 22 black-and-white photos, 15 aerial stereo pairs, 19 colour photos, 4 diagrams, 11 transverse profiles, index, bib. Softbound. No price indicated. The folios making up the atlas can be purchased either separately or in sets. In Finnish.

A substantial amount of information is provided in the three gigantic cardboard cases of folios already published, and an equal number are still being prepared for publication. The flood of information contained herein tends to swamp the user who is looking

for information only on the Arctic above the timberline. Most of Finland is in the boreal coniferous forest zone, with only the northern-most regions being above the timberline. This publication has quite a bit of source material to offer on this coniferous zone.

The cardboard cases accommodating the fifth edition, if put all together, are so voluminous and heavy that it takes a strong person to carry them all at once. To use even this folio (121-122) one needs a good deal of table space (2 × 5 ft.). Although the largest maps can be folded and fit into the covers of this volume (folio 121-122), it is hard to find room for it on the average book shelf. The maps are also too bulky to fit into a pack or plastic map case such as that used by hikers. Trying to manage this assemblage of information on paper makes one appreciate computer data banks. After all, the entire publication would fit onto a single diskette, which could be neatly tucked into an envelope. One would no longer need exceptional strength to carry the atlas around.

The authors of the folio seem to have had rather diverse goals in mind. The illustrative photographs provide direct information. Anyone can glance through the pictures to get a general idea of the landforms of that part of northern Europe. The micropetite type accompanying the color photographs is so small, however, that a magnifying glass is needed to read it. Some of the black-and-white photographs are in stereo pairs. The average reader, however, cannot make use of these stereo pairs without special glasses, which are not included. Not everyone can obtain the stereo effect even with the glasses. Those who can use the stereo pairs, however, can quickly get a good picture of the landforms: fell geomorphology, Ice Age eskers, peatlands, and other characteristic relief features of the area. The half-page detailed geomorphological maps, scale 1:50 000, are clear and very readable. They present drumlin and esker landscapes (Kuusamo, NE Finland), an ice marginal complex (Salpausselkä, S Finland), clay plains with protruding bedrock (S Finland), and the fell region above the timberline (N Finland).

Most of the maps and diagrams cannot be easily understood without searching through a thicket of explanations and comments. And since the text has to be looked for among giant sheets of paper, often at some distance from the pictures, the reader finds himself constantly turning pages. The text and visual layout do not cater to the general reader, either. The directions at the beginning of the folio say: "The subheadings are usually intended to be read with the main headings"; in other words, special directions are necessary just to get through the headings! Good advice would be even more in order to help readers with the text proper, considering the diversity of its contents. In parts it is the pedantic lecturer explaining fundamentals to his undergraduates, in others it reads like an encyclopedia, but without the conciseness and lucidity that space limitations exact. There is unnecessary repetition, e.g., "In Figure 4 B III we see that the relief of Finland is visible almost in its entirety in the contour zone of below 300 meters, with the exception of the northwest 'arm.' "

Much is made of banalities, viz., "The 50-200 meter area turns out to be surprisingly large." The general reader sees nothing surprising or startling in the fact that a relatively large proportion of a country's area lies lower than 200 meters a.s.l.

For the reader with the patience to work through the headings, subheadings, figure headings, captions, comments, and explanations, the folio is a wholly worthwhile package, offering information on higher and lower terrain, hill elevations, distribution of Ice Age formations, and terrain amplitudes. The maps were undoubtedly planned and drawn up by experts in the respective fields. Fluent written presentation of the subject matter is conspicuous by its absence.

Here and there the scarcity of relevant information can be inferred. There is not always enough material to occupy the allotted space. The biggest map sheets are not used in their entirety: the hypsometric layered map has two square feet of empty space, which is filled up with a road map. Since white space is an editor's nightmare,