

1981. Demographic Studies of Native People in Urban Settings. Ontario Task Force on Native People in the Urban Setting.

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NORTHERN ECOLOGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

Edited by ROD OLSON, FRANK GEDDES and ROSS HASTINGS. Edmonton: The University of Alberta Press, 1984. xviii + 438 p., maps, illus., 13 coloured photos by George C. Calef. Hardbound. Cdn \$30.00.

This impressive volume is subtitled "Memorial Essays Honouring Don Gill," a captivating, energetic professor at the University of Alberta and director of the Boreal Institute there until his accidental death in 1979. (Its editors were his graduate students at the time of his death.) Following a warm appreciation of Gill by Professor Emeritus of the University of British Columbia J. Ross MacKay, it contains 17 invited essays arranged in four groups: Abiotic Components, Animal Communities, Plant Communities and Land Use.

Seven of the 17 essays could best be described as review articles. One is a comprehensive update on snow ecology and terminology by William O. Pruitt. Another, by J. Stan Rowe, examines aspects of lichen woodland ecology. Four are extensive accounts of prominent wildlife species: E.S. Telfer on moose, D.E. Russell and A.M. Martell on caribou, Manfred Hoefs on Dall sheep, and Ian Stirling, Wendy Clavert and Dennis Andriashek on polar bears. The seventh is on the impact of hydrocarbon exploration in northern Yukon, by H.M. French.

Of the remaining ten, four are essentially research papers, presenting original data on recent projects. These are C. Tarnocai on soil temperatures in the Inuvik area, Matti Seppala on deflation (removal of surface materials by wind) in esker country in Finnish Lapland, W.R. Archibald and R.H. Jessup on pine marten populations in Yukon, and G.P. Kershaw on floristic characteristics of disturbed CANOL Project sites. M.C. English's paper on the Slave River delta is at once a descriptive analysis and a prediction of impacts if an impoundment is built upstream.

The other five are commentaries: one by W.A. Pettapiece a scientific commentary on soil development processes in northwestern Canada; then three historical commentaries — by George W. Calef on the growth of a wood bison population introduced into an area northwest of Great Slave Lake in 1963, by William C. Wonders and Heather Brown on the recent history of Aklavik, and by Edgar L. Jackson on resource conflicts in Iceland. Finally, there is a policy commentary, on the initiation of a land use planning program in the Northwest Territories, by Norman M. Simmons, John Donihee, and Hugh Monaghan.

The editors state that the book is meant "to present information that will enable us to proceed in a manner that does not seriously compromise the fragile and unique northern ecosystem," implying that industrial growth is the basis of their concern. Kershaw's studies of disturbance sites from the CANOL Project are relevant to and indeed focussed on this objective. So are those reported by French, on hydrocarbon exploration in the Yukon. Jackson's observations on Iceland also relate. Stirling *et al.* provide a description of over three pages on possible impacts on polar bears, and English discusses the potential impacts of a Slave river hydro project. In a somewhat different area, the management of renewable resources rather than the regulation of industrial resource projects, Seppala's work offers

guidance to reindeer grazers, Hoefs's to managers of trophy hunting, Archibald's and Jessup's to managers of a furbearer, and so on.

With regard to industrial impacts, what can be concluded? Where oil was spilled, gravel excavated and roads built, on the CANOL, impacts are discernible after four decades; the original plant communities are not re-established. More lightly disturbed sites show varying degrees of recovery. In the northern Yukon, prior to imposition by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of the Territorial Land Use Regulations in 1971, industry's operational procedures were not such as to protect the landscape from long-term alteration: since then, the situation has improved. Polar bear populations have been seen to recover already from one serious (but natural) reduction in arctic Canada, and, though individuals are demonstrably killed by exposure to oil, populations can probably recover, in time, from local catastrophes.

As the volume lacks a synthesis, one may be tempted to read one in the less narrowly scientific, more broadly ranging papers. For example, the lesson to be learned from Aklavik, "The Town that did not Die," is that residents must be "involved before the fact." The development of a land use planning process for the Northwest Territories must include planning for full participation by local publics. On a perhaps more equivocal note, "pragmatism and compromise are the key characteristics of nature conservation in Iceland."

This wide-ranging volume will be a useful reference to scientists interested in northern ecosystemal components. The review papers, such as on snow ecology, moose and caribou, will prove of great interest to northern naturalists. The impact papers, on the CANOL revisited, and on exploration in northern Yukon, will directly advance the aims espoused by Don Gill and his commemorators.

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THE 1823 LOG BOOK OF THE SHIP BAFFIN FROM LIVERPOOL. By WILLIAM SCORESBY, JR., F.R.S. Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby (9 John Street, Whitby, Yorkshire, England YO21 3ET), 1984. 136 p. £14.95.

If we were to bring back one of the Greenland and Davis Straits whaling masters of a century or more ago, all our questions would be answered in an hour. *Lloyds List* sometimes gave details of sailing and return, and perhaps speakings and catches, with occasional comments about ice and weather. Otherwise, apart from *The Arctic Regions*, 1820, by William Scoresby, Jr., and his account of his exploration of Scoresby Sound in 1822, there is little printed material.

The ultimate source now is the log books or journals kept by the masters at the time, and they are few enough in Britain. In 1916, the Explorers Club, New York, published facsimiles of 14 logs kept by William Scoresby, Sr., from 1786 to 1823. When the facts are extracted, tabulated and analysed, they provide an account of weather, ice, fishing grounds, and catch that cannot be found elsewhere, showing the differences between one season and another, besides recounting the events usual to such voyages. The 1806 log of William Scoresby, Jr., mate under his father in the *Resolution*, a successful voyage in spite of an unfavourable season, was published in 1981, and that is equally informative.

Here we have the journal kept by William Scoresby, Jr., on his voyage as master of the *Baffin* of Liverpool; it was his last voyage and it was not a success. The future for the trade was not promising, and he left the sea. It tells the story of a voyage of just over five months. It