

hanced by the radiocarbon date. Richard Reanier finds that the pollen spectrum associated with a probable cultural streak at the shallow Mesa site is compatible with that date.

Excavation of late nineteenth-century houses near Point Belcher adds further detail to the previously incomplete description of the Point Barrow house type. The new data are integrated with previous ethnographic and archaeological information by Dale Slaughter, who notes that although the houses he investigated date to a period of rapid cultural change, the house form had remained remarkably stable.

The volume ends with an Appendix of radiocarbon dates for Alaska north of 68° latitude. Robert Gal explicates dates for which there is concern regarding context, and presents previously unpublished dates including ones which had been "deleted" through past archaeological interpretations.

Each of these papers could have been published as an independent article, but together they work towards removing one of the last question marks from the prehistoric map of Alaska. They draw notice to the archaeology of interior regions and refocus attention away from large coastal Eskimo midden sites. Although the papers are local in scope, they deal with archaeological groups which have broader expressions in the interior and along the coastal regions of Alaska and the Yukon Territory, probably from Paleo-Indian times to the end of prehistory. Among this temporally variegated serving of the stuff of prehistory, spiced with occasional attempts to break new ground and with challenges of old interpretations, there is much that deserves the attention of serious students of northern prehistory.

Donald W. Clark
National Museum of Man
Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0M8

DOCUMENTING ALASKAN HISTORY: GUIDE TO FEDERAL ARCHIVES RELATING TO ALASKA. By GEORGE S. ULIBARRI. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1982. Alaska Historical Commission Studies in History No. 23. vii + 300 p. + Appendices, index, reproductions, photos. Hardcover. No price indicated.

The copy of *Documenting Alaskan History: Guide to Federal Archives Relating to Alaska*, by George S. Ulibarri, read to produce this review contains a Foreword written by Dr. George C. West, Editor, University of Alaska Press. This Foreword is printed on a sheet of paper slightly, but noticeably, smaller than the other pages of the book; it is also pasted along the outer edge to a printed page corresponding in size to the rest of the pages of the volume. As you turn the page to view the rest of the book, a ballooning effect occurs, allowing one to ascertain that the page to which this Foreword is pasted also contains printing. With judicious handling, this first visible Foreword may be detached from its cohort to reveal another Foreword by Dr. West. The effort to accomplish this feat is not worth it, however, for the only difference between the two is that the word "staff" appears at the end of line four and again at the beginning of line five from the bottom of the page. After the book has been perused completely, it is obvious that this error has little or nothing to do with the substance of the work; the time and energy that went into trying to correct this repetition certainly seems overdone. It detracts from the appearance of the book; implants a fear that the rest of the work might be reflective of similar poor judgment, and does not aid materially in reaching the volume's objectives or improving its contents.

This excessive attention to the correction of a minor error is paralleled in the Foreword itself by Dr. West's claims for the work in question. In the third paragraph of his Foreword, Dr. West appears to be asserting that *Documenting Alaskan History* so identifies the Alaskan material in the National Archives as to obviate the need for researchers to seek additional assistance in the completion and submission of the forms necessary to retrieve the requested documents from storage for research use; help would appear to be not required either from staff members of the National Archives, or from other sources, for this accomplishment. This is an exaggeration at best. It could possibly be correct if the book were more technical in nature — with more of the content of a detailed handbook — but it is not true as the work now stands. One crucial ingredient missing from the work — if it was intended to provide the service suggested by Dr. West — is reference to checklists and indices for some of the cited collections, as well as explanations as to how such check-lists and indices should be properly consulted. The fact that some collections have a watershed about the year 1916, with pre-1916 file numbers being duplicated in post-1916

years for altogether different items, should have been more clearly presented. When requesting a file from a collection, such as "General Records of the Department of the Navy (R.G.80)", a notation as to whether the file is pre-1916 must be made if retrieval of the correct document or documents is to be assured. Although seemingly trivial on the surface, some attention should have been given to the forms used by the National Archives: how to complete them properly, where to submit them with respect to particular documents, and what constitutes the normal waiting period between the submission of a request and the delivery of wanted material. If *Documenting Alaskan History* corresponded to the expectations of Dr. West, it should have advised its clients to avoid this unproductive waiting period by placing orders a day or two in advance with the proper official. The situation that for some collections there are no checklists or indices, and that a file may encompass many boxes of documents, should also have been more clearly presented to show the magnitude of the research effort needed to mine some of the collections listed in the book: Much more emphasis would have had to be placed on procedures which must be used to retrieve the records, as well as on the tools to use them properly, if *Documenting Alaskan History* were to play the role allotted to it by Dr. West. *Documenting Alaskan History* is not detailed enough to replace the checklist, the index, or the assistance of an appropriate National Archives staff member, in the solving of the puzzle regarding the identifying and the retrieval of documents needed for a particular Alaskan research project.

A more balanced description and justification for this work is given in the Introduction written by the person listed as author, Mr. George S. Ulibarri. In this section, it is noted that the book is arranged under twelve subject headings (as given in the Table of Contents) and describes only selected materials. Perhaps because of its topical format, complete coverage of material in the National Archives was not contemplated; only the more significant record groups were included in the book. It is noted also that this limited coverage was designed to show the different types of records available. As Ulibarri writes, "References to particular transactions and documents are included primarily for illustrative purposes, and because they typify the documentation in large record series. Others are mentioned because they provide interesting examples of what can be found among the records". This modest position of Ulibarri is a far cry from the assertions of Dr. West and is in consonance with the work itself. *Documenting Alaskan History* is, in fact, an interesting portrayal of Alaskan history as revealed by an impressionistic presentation of material dealing with the subject in the National Archives. Graced by the inclusion of a number of facsimiles of important documents and by some photographs (the selection criteria for which are not given), the work is a reflection of pride that the National Archives does contain so much material on and about Alaska. For persons interested in Alaskan history, but not yet involved in an Alaskan historical research project or familiar with the National Archives, its association of topics with the way material in the National Archives is arranged by record group is valuable for the encouragement it should give to investigate further the matters discussed in its twelve sections. It may also be used to advantage by historians in the field as a guide and mentor to collections and items they might have missed in their more specialized examinations. It may also serve as a stimulation for ideas and new approaches after a line of investigation seems to be getting flat or running dry. For persons mistakenly assuming the title of the work to indicate that some sort of continuous narrative is contained within its covers, it offers self-contained vignettes of Alaskan history that may be read within a relatively short space of time. An example of this refreshment is given on page 12 in a section marked in the margin as 2.2.76 and titled "Records of Boundary and Claims Commissions and Arbitrations (R.G.76)". This section covers almost three pages and addresses the issues involved in delineating the Alaskan boundary between Canada and the United States as reflected in the records held by the National Archives. The references to photographs are of special interest. Unlike most research guides, *Documenting Alaskan History* may be read for pleasure as well as profit.

Viewed from the perspective of the author, and discounting the claims of Dr. West, *Documenting Alaskan History* is a success; in other words, it meets its objective. There are, however, a few minor reservations with respect to this conclusion. One is hard put to understand why each entry is preceded by what appear to be code numbers, such as 2.1.11 before "General Records of the United States Government (R.G.11)". The fact that the Table of Contents is arranged in this fashion is offset by the lack of any reference to these numbers in the index and by the unnecessary computer print-out look they give to the book. Some entries are very brief with no explanation given for this situation. On pages 21, 69, and 87, for example, only two lines (less the title) are allowed for the records of the "Office of Territories (R.G.126)". Why some entries list file numbers and others do not also remains a mystery — unless one assumes that the whim or whimsy of the author is responsible. Also, at least one Record Group, R.G.119, has been overlooked, both in the

body of the work and the list of record groups given on pages 256 through 258. Personally, this reviewer would have preferred the work to be arranged by record group rather than its present topical format. These observations, however, might be categorized as "nit-picking" when the overall scope of the volume is contemplated, and one realizes that the amount of work that must have gone into its production is reflective of the grandeur of Alaska itself. Both the state and the book are one of a kind.

The appendices on pages 256 to 265 which list the record groups consulted, the American governors of Alaska, selected motion picture films in the Archives, maps relating to Alaska in this depository, and selected government publications are useful.

I recommend that persons interested in the development of Alaska purchase this volume for historical edification and as a useful, as well as sometimes pertinent, research guide.

Vincent Ponko, Jr.
Academic Vice President
University of Scranton
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510
U.S.A.

GREENLAND VOYAGER. By TOM and CORDELIA STAMP. Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby (9 John Street, Whitby, Yorkshire, England YO21 3ET), 1982. ISBN 0-905355-28-8. vi + 191 p. £14.95.

Captain William Scoresby junior, F.R.S., is well known through his *Arctic Regions* (1820, re-published 1969), his biography of his father who taught him the whaling trade, his account of his 1822 voyage to East Greenland, and scientific papers. Some years ago Tom and Cordelia Stamp wrote a biography of him as whaling master, scientist, and Minister of Religion.

Now they have prepared a fuller account of his years in the Greenland trade. The Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society have for over a century held his manuscript journals and log books and one of them was published in facsimile in 1981. The present book has been compiled from excerpts from those journals, illustrating the year of the whaling master, from fitting out towards the end of the winter to returning in the summer or autumn, depending on his fortunes at the fishery.

The book also describes how the day was spent on the fishing grounds. It deals with the difficulties at times of finding a crew and the troubles created by a dissident minority — a test of the master's leadership as he had no Naval Discipline Act to fall back on — the anxiety of navigating through the pack ice in addition to the ordinary dangers of the sea, low temperatures even in summer, icing up, fog and the difficulty of navigating in poor weather, the taking of fish and making off, and the dangers of besetment and wreck.

Appropriately there is a chapter on the social and religious life of whaling men and the influence that Scoresby had on men inured to the hardest of lives.

This work is another step towards a comprehensive study of the Arctic whale fisheries. It will be of interest to the general reader as well as the specialist who is seeking precise facts. The illustrations show William Scoresby's meticulousness not only in keeping a journal but in his drawings of whales and other mammals, snow crystals, and the surveys he made from time to time.

The great merit of this book is that the excerpts are authentic, from the experience of the best-known of the whaling masters in the first part of the nineteenth century, who was also probably the most prosperous.

A.G.E. Jones
The Bungalow
Bayhall Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN2 4UB
England

PEOPLE OF THE WILLOW: THE PADLIRMIUT TRIBE OF THE CARIBOU ESKIMO. By WINIFRED PETCHEY MARSH. Toronto: Anglican Book Centre, 1983. 63 p. No price indicated.

Though far from pretending to be ethnology, this book has some ethnographic interest, insofar as it portrays very evocatively some almost-lost aspects of a distinctive Inuit subculture and habitat. Essentially the book is a well-produced collection of watercolours by a trained and perceptive artist, concerning the people who traded into Eskimo Point, N.W.T. (on SW Hudson's Bay) — in the early decades of the fur-trade and missionary era. Fondly remembered as the kindly wife of a tough-minded Anglican cleric, Bishop Marsh's widow is now receiving recognition in her own right for her exacting and sensitive portrayal of the Padlirmiut 50 years and more ago. Her 1976 exhibition at the McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinberg was a palpable artistic success, and her book will be an abiding and valued record of a group and lifestyle now much reduced in cultural distinctiveness. Winifred Petchey (as she signed herself) was certainly a delicately skilled artist, but moreover she has left a meticulous and refined set of visual insights into the activities and designs and techniques whereby these people related with their tundra-and-coast environment. As one who found them 30 years ago much as this artist depicts them, this writer can attest to the accuracy and sensitivity of her perceptions.

There are 33 paintings, plus ten very faithfully executed colour-drawings of Padlirmiut clothing and beadwork decorations which should please any student of folk design. The brief and domestically chatty introduction is anecdotal, a not-discernibly-organized succession of observations providing vignettes of the privations and demands of the early missionary life, and illustrating the satisfactions of contact with the Inuit and their harshly beautiful environment. For the student of acculturation, the perceptions from the missionary point of view may be useful, but particularly valuable here is the woman's perspective (this lady should long ago have been interviewed in depth by a good woman ethnologist), something inevitably predominant in the subject matter of her paintings.

Writing about her techniques, she tightens up her style with professional competence. On the Inuit she is predictably rather maternal, though with an underlying respect for these gently-spoken and enduring people. In her passages on the seasons, the plants and wildlife, and the great skies of the tundra, she approaches the poetic. Quite incidentally, the term "tribe" is here an archaism inappropriate to the Padlirmiut, in modern anthropological jargon, but the subcultural distinctiveness of these Keewatin southern plain sojourners near the "little sticks" does have some special interest. Others have written — some largely with wisdom — of the Padlei folk, but few have left the visual memory so evocatively enriched. Of course, there was ethnographic material there enough for a collection ten times the size, and someone should soon enquire into the extent, character, and accessibility of the rest of Winifred Petchey's work. The Marsh team spent more than two decades in the country, and clearly this artist was an indefatigable recorder. One has visions of piles of well-filled sketchbooks and portfolios of paintings which would represent a Canadian treasure trove of Arctic art and ethnographic worth.

Certainly the pictures in this little book have value from both the artistic and culture-study points of view. From technically difficult iglu interiors which bring back poignant memories, to the summer camp scenes of busy people, many traditional activities are carefully depicted by a disciplined painter who generally succeeds in neither dramatizing nor romanticizing too much — even the ever-present and inevitably engaging children. Indeed the whole work is one of extraordinary integrity. The book thus has an obviously modest but gemlike value in its own right. At the same time it is worth repeating that whatever follow-up is yet possible should certainly be undertaken — to further explore the environmental, artistic, and cultural record left by Winifred Petchey Marsh. Her contribution to understanding of the Canadian north, and particularly the Padlirmiut, may well not yet be fully appreciated.

R.G. Williamson
Department of Anthropology and
Archaeology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
S7N 0W0