

Discrepancies in the often incomplete historical sources available to Oswalt may lead some readers to quibble with certain places and dates referred to. Others may find fault with the brevity of some of the ethnographical treatment, but this is compensated for by an annotated bibliography included at the end of each chapter. In all, *Eskimos and Explorers* is a well-conceived, well-written book complemented by handsome illustrations.

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ESKIMOS OF NORTHWESTERN ALASKA: A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE P. L. JAMISON, S.L. ZEGURA, AND F.A. MILAN (Eds.); Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross Inc., Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, 1978.

Table A-1 in *Eskimos of Northwestern Alaska* states that almost half a million American dollars were spent over six years in support of the study of the human adaptability (HA) of Eskimos on the north slope of Alaska. This research, representing one half of the American contribution to human circumpolar investigations under the auspices of the International Biological Programme (IBP) is summarized in Volume 8 of the US/IBP Synthesis Series.

There are 22 chapters in the text and two appendices. A short description of fieldwork chronology and organization (Milan) is followed by two chapters that seek to place the northwest Alaskan Eskimos in a broader ethnic and historic context. Zegura (Chapter 2) provides the skeletal and linguistic framework with his usual thoroughness and finesse, while Jamison (Chapter 3) provides a brief but important summary of the ethnohistoric background of the five villages (Wainwright, Point Hope, Barrow, Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass) in which investigations (at least one visit) took place. The next three chapters deal with morphological variability — anthropometric (Chapter 4: Jamison), dermatoglyphic (Chapter 5: Meier) and craniofacial (Chapter 6: Dahlberg *et al.*). This is followed by three chapters on biochemical variability: normal biochemical population ranges (Chapter 7: Laessig *et al.*), carbonic anhydrase (Chapter 8: Moore) and bone mineral content (Chapter 9: Mazess and Moore). Four chapters are devoted to various aspects of Eskimo nutrition: aboriginal diet (Chapter 10: Draper), modern North Alaskan diet (Chapter 11: Bell and Hella), biochemical assessment of nutritional status (Chapter 12: Bergan and Bell) and clinical observations on nutritional health (Chapter 13: Colbert *et al.*).

Metabolic parameters are discussed under the headings of cholesterol, lipid and carbohydrate metabolism (Chapter 14: Feldman *et al.*), lactose and sucrose tolerance (Chapter 15: Bell *et al.*), and plasma vitamin E and cholesterol levels (Chapter 16: Draper and WeiWo). Rennie reports on exercise physiology (Chapter 17), Way on general health (Chapter 18), and Milan on northwest Alaskan Eskimo demography. Chapters 21 and 22 summarize behavioural studies on cognitive development (Feldman *et al.*) and psychometric tests in children (Bock), respectively. Chapter 22, the summary chapter, which seeks to integrate and show the conjoint importance of the multidisciplinary findings, is written by Zegura and Jamison.

The wide range of disciplinary interests and contributions indicate why the costs associated with the Eskimo Programme were so high. That the summary report does not have as much impact as the research price tag would lead one to expect is not the fault of the editors. As they themselves attest, most of the findings have already been published in specialist journals, and their importance was recognized several years ago. On the other hand, those who tend to concentrate only on specific areas of arctic biology will find the volume useful in rounding out their fund of knowledge concerning variability in living Eskimos. Noteworthy in this respect are conclusions reached on the comparison of hybrid-nonhybrid-anthropometric measurements. These suggest that the inland-coastal dichotomy in body proportions and craniofacial form is more likely the result of mating patterns and population history than any of the microevolutionary forces, including admixture with the Athapaskan-speaking Indians (p. 64-65). Dahlberg's group found (p. 95) that in both sexes, but in particular among males, midfacial flatness increases with age, a result that lends support to the arguments that the form of the Eskimo face is dependent on the functions to which the mouth and teeth are put, and not cold-adaptation.

The chapters on nutrition are informative, especially Draper's leading chapter which dispenses goodies such as that the low serum cholesterol levels of "premodern" Eskimos might be attributed to a diet of caribou, sea mammals and fish, all of which are low in saturated fatty acids (p. 142). Draper also suggested a connection between the increased rate of osteoporosis in adult Eskimos and consumption of a high phosphorus, low calcium diet. The latter dietary is known to produce hypocalcemia and increased rate of bone resorption (p. 141). Bell, Draper and Bergan's finding of lactose and sucrose

intolerance (p. 186-188) have been widely disseminated, in part because of their ramifications given North Alaskan shift to a diet high in sucrose and other carbohydrates.

Although it stands by itself, Way's summary of the general health of North Alaskan Eskimos is particularly useful, as it compiles briefly the pathologies to which these people are subject. It is, therefore, a handy reference to some of the sources in this area.

Zegura and Jamison make a laudable attempt to integrate the various reports in the final chapter. As a summary, it is well done. However, I would have preferred to see greater integration of chapters throughout the volume. While this may have been impracticable given the low overlap between some of the represented disciplines, surely the tying together of reports in specific sections could have been possible.

With respect to more important criticisms — it is a major shortcoming (as the editors recognize) not to have reported the results of the serological investigations on North Alaskan Eskimos. That data will appear in the *Biology of Circumpolar People* (ed. F.A. Milan) as part of a large chapter on the genetic markers of arctic people. I for one would have welcomed an analysis of the genetic composition of the population, particularly when several studies addressed hybrid-nonhybrid differences, relying on genealogical date to determine hybridity.

As any synthesis, then, *Eskimos of Northwestern Alaska* has its faults. Its good points, however, far outnumber the flaws. The text provides a useful summary of the known biology of North Alaskan Eskimos. It is well worth acquiring.

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ETHNOLOGY OF THE UNGAVA DISTRICT, HUDSON BAY TERRITORY: INDIANS AND ESKIMOS IN THE QUEBEC-LABRADOR PENINSULA. By LUCIEN M. TURNER: *Quebec, Presses Comeditex (for the Inuksiitiit Association): 1979.*

For those of us with a thirst for Inuit and Indian ethnography but with only limited book budgets, the reappearance of Lucien Turner's monograph on the Indians and Eskimos of the Ungava District is a very useful offering. Originally published as a part of the eleventh annual report of the Smithsonian Institution (for the years 1889-90, but printed in 1894, it

was part of that classic Arctic literature which included Boas' work on the Central Eskimo and Murdock's on the North Alaskan Eskimo. Specimens of all these works in the original are increasingly scarce and now market for upwards of \$100 which makes a paper-back edition for a price of less than \$10 very welcome. The Inuksiitiit Association are to be congratulated for their decision to sponsor its republication and they should be encouraged to undertake the reproduction of others of these classics.

The new volume is a faithful reproduction of the original, including all the figures and plates. The only discernible differences from the original are a slightly reduced page size and a renumbering of the plates and figures. The volume has also been indexed which makes it more useful as a resource.

Turner studied and described the Siginimmiut Inuit and the Naskopi in an era when no major theory informed the anthropological enterprise, so he wrote about cultural activities of every sort, each treated as having equal significance within the common web of custom. His entries include comments on such diverse topics as the physical appearance of the natives, their diseases and cures, their marriage practices, the socialization of children, the use of tobacco, their customary amusements, and their folklore. A large part of the account is taken up with fairly detailed descriptions of material items which he groups into household utensils, implements of the hunt, and transportation equipment. His coverage for both Indian and Eskimo is about equal in breadth and detail, though he admits in his account that he is somewhat less familiar with Indian usage than with Inuit.

While his account lacks the elegance of more recent ethnographic description, it is reasonably sophisticated in some respects. Unlike Boas, for example, Turner recognized that the term 'tribe' was not quite appropriate to the description of Inuit local groupings, so he adopted the terms the natives themselves used to describe their local ethnic groupings; and he used the term Suhinimiyut (Siginimmiut) or 'Sunshine people' to differentiate the Fort Chimo Inuit he was describing from the Tahagmyut (Tagamiut) or 'Shadow people' of Sugluk. (What Turner could not know, of course, was that the natives along the east Hudson Bay coast to the south used the same terms to describe themselves relative to 'northerners' — including in the category Shadow people both the peoples around Sugluk and Fort Chimo.)

A number of contemporary scholars of the Arctic tend to view classic works of this sort as