

having mainly historical significance, since they seldom delve more deeply than the surface 'facts' of a culture and almost never provide insight into the inner workings of the cultural systems as these are understood by the natives themselves. I have found them to be very useful resource materials which considerably broaden and enrich our contemporary accounts. Turner's work is no exception. The high quality of the illustrations (both in the original and in this reproduction) makes it an ideal source for the preliminary study of material culture; and it contains numerous insights concerning such important contemporary concerns as shamanism, the status of old people, the treatment of incest, and so on. Moreover, Turner describes for us two native cultures largely untouched by western civilization, so that his account, along with the other 19th century classics, remains the ultimate authority for assertions about the pre-contact character of these two lifeways.

Whether as a work of merely historical interest or as an aid to research on contemporary problems and interests, a copy of Turner's nearly hundred-year-old account is a positive addition to any collection of Arctic materials, and it deserves a central place in the serious scholar's library.

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JAMES COOK MARITIME SCIENTIST. BY TOM AND CORDELIA STAMP: Caedmon of Whitby Press: Whitby, England; 1978. i-xiv, 159 pp. Illustrations, Bibliography, Index. Cloth. \$3.95.

Following the publication of J. C. Beaglehole's definitive biography of Captain James Cook, one might suspect that other historians would be deterred from writing on the subject. This would seem to be the case with Tom and Cordelia Stamp, two part-time researchers who simply could not devote a great deal of time to travel and archival investigations. In fact, however, there are good reasons for the Stamps to assess Cook's contributions as scientist and explorer. Cook was such a private person that historians have had difficulty penetrating his professional shell in order to see the real man. Since his wife burned all of his private correspondence, few existing sources remain. The Stamps, residents of Whitby and steeped in local knowledge and traditions, offer insights into the social and economic milieu that produced the great

explorer. In their view, part of the explanation for Cook's character might lie in his early connections with Quaker families. Quite generally, the Stamps offer a credible description of how Cook emerged from provincial obscurity, entered the navy, and began to make his mark in naval circles.

Once Cook made his reputation as a cartographer in surveys of the St. Lawrence River and Newfoundland coasts, he was prepared for the three major voyages to the Pacific Ocean. The authors follow the expeditions through the journals of Cook and his associates, quoting sections of these accounts in an effort to have the reader evaluate the explorer. This is an acceptable approach for general readers who may not wish to consult the published journals. The Stamps examine a number of scientific themes such as maritime medicine and the successful application of new navigational equipment. They offer a useful overview of Cook's campaigns against scurvy and in favour of lifesaving innovations. There are no footnotes, but most of the sources are acknowledged in the text. Occasionally, the lengthy quotations appear to be pinned together and the authors tend to adopt eighteenth century views from their subject. The "savages" receive rather unsympathetic treatment from the Stamps who have adopted Cook's view that most were cannibals. His own exposure to cannibalism in the South Pacific led him to suggest that the Hawaiians and Northwest Coast Indians followed similar practices.

Although the authors avoid negative comment about Cook and more specifically about his physical and mental deterioration during the Third voyage, the reader is given a good overview of his contributions. The enthusiasm of the Stamps for their subject and their knowledge of the small seaport towns that produced him allow glimpses of the real James Cook.

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THE ASCENT OF DENALI. By Hudson Stuck: (the Mountaineers, Seattle Washington 1977. (Also printed in Canada and published simultaneously in Great Britain.) 250pp., Photographs, maps. Softbound. \$6.50

The reprinting of Archdeacon Stuck's classic account of the first complete ascent of Denali (Mt. McKinley) will be welcomed everywhere in the world of mountains and of Alaskan history. First printed in 1914, the year following the climb, in numbers sufficient to

satisfy a mountaineering audience small by comparison with the population of today's climbing fraternity, it has become a collector's item. Now, the new printing will delight not only a wide contemporary audience, but will bring dividends to those who number the original account among their prized possessions.

History tells us that four men, all well versed in travel through the arctic wilderness of Alaska, but with the barest acquaintance with glaciers and their behavior, set out to reach the highest point in North America. Their names were: Stuck, Archdeacon of the Yukon; Harper, a strong young sourdough of Irish-Athapaskan birth, companion to Stuck and barely 23 years old; Karsten, a powerful outdoorsman; and Tatum, 21 years old and Stuck's ecclesiastic secretary and assistant. By criteria used today in assessing a party's fitness to attempt the ascent of Mt. McKinley, they would not have been permitted to leave the end of the motor highway! Yet they reached the apex of North America on 7 June 1913, and retreated in good order to pursue their normal lives — all but Walter Harper who drowned two years later in the disastrous

sinking of the Princess Sophia in Lynn Canal. He was 25.

Harper kept a diary of the Denali climb and it has come to light among the mementos of his niece Yvonne Mozée, and it is printed *in toto* following Stuck's original text. It is one of the priceless dividends of this printing.

Another incalculable dividend is the selection of aerial photographs and maps of Bradford Washburn that adorn the text and the final pages of the book. The aerial camera was barely born in 1913, but in the hands of Dr. Washburn it turned out photographs which illustrate and vividly confirm the author's earthbound descriptions. Moreover, his long and intimate familiarity with this great mountain places a stamp of total authenticity on Stuck and the real hero of the climb, Harper, that has not fallen on the deeds of several early explorers of Denali — with one notable exception — the honorable defeat of the Parker-Brown climb to within 100 feet of the summit in 1912. This book will take a prideful place beside — and far beyond — those few existing copies of the original printing.

Walter A. Wood