

somewhat limited. Other limitations, noted by the editor himself, include lack of hydro-meteorological data and lack of short-term energy balance data. Beginnings in these directions may be made in future volumes. In the meantime, the volume and its predecessors are the best (by virtue of being the only) compilations available, and they do contain a great deal of information. A peripheral value of the book is its bibliography and lists of contributing authors and agencies, from which original (and additional ?) data can be obtained.

As a bonus the third volume contains a collection of 12 assorted glacier maps and orthophotographs, including 4 Canadian products. The collection is apparently designed to show the state of the art of glacier mapping. Of particular interest is a series of maps depicting thickness changes of selected glaciers in the Bavarian Alps.

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CLIMATIC ATLAS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WATERS AND COASTAL REGIONS OF ALASKA: VOLUME I — GULF OF ALASKA BY WILLIAM A. BROWER JR., HAROLD W. SEARBY, JAMES L. WISE, HENRY F. DOAZ AND ANTON S. PRECHTEL: U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program, 1977. 11 in x 11 in, 439 pp., \$5.00.

Climatic Atlas of the Gulf of Alaska is the first of a three-part series on the climate of the coastal region of Alaska. The other volumes, still in preparation, are the Bering Sea (Volume II) and Chukchi and Beaufort Sea (Volume III). There is some overlap in the content of the volumes, a device which hopefully should ensure continuity.

The Atlas, which was jointly produced by Arctic Environmental Information and Data Centre of the University of Alaska and the National Climatic Centre, presents a vast amount of information on atmosphere and surface marine parameters that will be useful in the assessment of risks involved in resource exploitation in the coastal waters of Alaska. Elements covered in the Atlas include temperature, wind, precipitation, pressure, fog, cloud cover, etc. Also included are icing, hypothermia, and storm surges. Statistical descriptors used in the Atlas include maxima, minima, means, standard deviations, extremes, persistence, probabilities, and return periods. The analyses are based on over a half million surface marine observations and two million

three-hourly observations from 49 selected coastal stations. The results are presented in 3-color maps; graphs, in black and white; and tables depending on the type of information to be conveyed. Together, the variables, their descriptors and presentation offer as complete a climatological profile for the coastal and marine areas of the Gulf of Alaska as possible within the limitation of the data base.

Because of its early publication in relation to resource exploration and exploitation in the Alaskan region, it is reasonable to believe that the stated objective of the Atlas to provide the type of information "required for the assessment of potential impact by oil and gas exploration and development and monitoring programs that will permit resource development and ensure environmental protection", will be realised. The Atlas is very well produced, the tables are crisp, and the legends are very clear. Where the authors believe that an introduction to concepts or tables is necessary, they have passed it on in the form of brief notes and in a style that should make them understandable even to the uninformed.

The authors must be complemented on their very thorough work. It is hoped that the other volumes will achieve the same high standard set by Volume I. I highly recommend it to anyone involved in any type of work in Alaska and to every climatologist or meteorologist with an interest in the Arctic. At \$5.00 a copy, it is truly a bargain. For the U.S. Department of the Interior, which funded the project, the result must be very satisfying. Their money was well spent.

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ESKIMOS OF NORTHWEST ALASKA IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, BASED ON THE BEECHEY AND BELCHER COLLECTIONS AND RECORDS COMPILED DURING THE VOYAGE OF H.M.S. BLOSSOM TO NORTHWEST ALASKA IN 1826 AND 1827. BY JOHN R. BOCKSTOCE.

EDITED BY T. K. PENNIMAN. *Pitt Rivers Museum, 1977 (Monograph Series, University of Oxford, Pitt Rivers Museum, No. 1). 139 pages, illus., maps. No price indicated.*

When Commander Frederick William Beechey sailed H.M.S. Blossom to Alaska via Cape Horn in 1825-6 he carried orders to meet there with the exploratory parties of Captain William Edward Parry and John Franklin. Neither Parry nor Franklin, both in search of a northwest passage, travelled far enough west to make their proposed rendezvous with