

throughout the work where these could have been inserted.

On the whole, the Atlas provides us with a considerable amount of baseline data on the seabirds in the area covered and, while such information will change over a period of time as more data are collected, this work will prove useful for many years to come. It is a book that will probably not have much general appeal but is a "must" for all those people interested in seabirds and their distribution.

*William Threlfall*

**CAIN'S LAND REVISITED: CULTURE CHANGE IN CENTRAL LABRADOR, 1775-1972.** BY DAVID ZIMMERLY. *St. John's, Newfoundland: Memorial University of Newfoundland (Newfoundland Social and Economic Studies no. 16) 1975. 5½ x 8½ inches, 346 pages, 16 figures, 8 maps, 2 appendices. Paperback, \$3.50.*

Europeans had their first view of Labrador in 986 A.D., when Bjarni Herjolffsson was blown off course on his way from Iceland to Greenland. Other Norse explorers followed over the next 200 years and, after a gap of a century or two, Basque fishermen began to frequent southern Labrador waters. By 1700, the first permanent European bases had been established in the region, and white people of one background or another have been residing there ever since. Despite its long and fascinating history, the white population of Labrador never received much attention from scholars until the nineteen sixties, when researchers supported by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Memorial University, Newfoundland, began to correct the situation. This monograph is the most recent in a series of Institute publications resulting from their work.

David Zimmerly chose to focus his attention on the Lake Melville district of Newfoundland-Labrador, a region known to outsiders as the site of Goose Bay Air Force. This book is not about the air base or the nearby Churchill Falls hydroelectric plant, however, but about the white population of the nearby communities — particularly Goose Bay, Happy Valley, Mud Lake and Northwest River. For the most part, it is concerned with the history of the "settlers", people of European background primarily but with important infusions of both genes and ideas from the local Eskimo population during the early years of its development.

The book is a description and analysis of culture change based on library research and a year of field work (carried out in 1971-72). The text begins and ends with chapters devoted to theoretical matters, but consists primarily of an historical account of the settler population from the time of its recorded beginnings to the period of Zimmerly's field research. This era of nearly two centuries is divided into four segments each of which is the subject of a chapter. The temporal divisions are (a) the period of early settlement, from 1775 to 1835, (b) the expanding fur trade, 1836 to 1900, (c) the fur trade climax, 1901 to 1941, and (d) the modern period, 1942 to 1972. These chapters, which comprise nearly 90 per cent of the body of the text, contain a comprehensive, balanced description and analysis of changing settler life. The presentation is both readable and informative, and usefully complements Elizabeth Goudie's (1973) popular *Women of Labrador*<sup>1</sup>, which was also edited and introduced by Zimmerly.

In the theoretical realm — the book was originally a Ph.D. dissertation — Zimmerly's thesis (p. 6) is that "when a sociocultural system shifts over time from a family to a national level of integration, there is a corresponding transition in the major behavioural determinant from ecological to political." The author claims (p. 317) to have "validated" that hypothesis by demonstrating that the behaviour of the central Labrador settlers was "determined" primarily by ecological variables from 1775 to 1941 (when Goose Air Base was established), and by political variables subsequently. In my opinion, Zimmerly has, on the contrary, done an admirable job of demonstrating that the naive determinism of his theoretical position is untenable. On practically every page he describes the complex interaction of cultural-historical, affiliational, economic, religious, and educational factors on settler life. Both ecological and political factors are important throughout, but at no time is either one the primary determinant of anything.

The book is a good one precisely because of Zimmerly's ability to transcend the limitations of his stated approach.

*Ernest S. Burch, Jr.*

<sup>1</sup>Goudie, E. 1973. *Women of Labrador*, edited and introduced by David Zimmerly. Toronto: Peter Martin Associates.