

billion dollars. Indigenous people are either ignored or, it is claimed, will benefit greatly. They will be given the opportunity for cash employment on the project itself, in other industrial activities which will follow in its wake, or in tourism. If they do not wish to become involved, they will be better able to maintain their traditional way of life, in the managed and improved environment that will result from the development. In so far as the indigenous people are concerned, Boyce Richardson effectively demolishes these myths. Unfortunately, his sympathy for the Cree Indian viewpoint leads to a rather unrealistic and romantic portrayal of their life, which becomes almost incredible. It is, however, effective for his purpose and that is to describe how, over thousands of years, the James Bay Cree have developed a culture which enables them to live harmoniously within the matrix of their environment. They understand an ecological ethic that appears entirely lacking in the growth-oriented, economically-dominated, western culture that is moving in and modifying their environment with complete disregard for their interests and wishes. A weakness in his argument lies in the fact that the Cree life style has already been greatly changed in the interests of the fur trade, western culture and by the welfare state. One could callously go so far as to state, it has been almost completely disrupted and further dislocation does not matter. But however indifferent one becomes to native interests, it must be admitted that the aboriginal peoples have a valid claim to the territory. As the author so ably points out, the Quebec Government was incredibly remiss and perhaps foolishly arrogant in assuming clear title to the land. They were impetuous in the way they announced the project and, for this day and age, amazingly out of key with the temper of society, by proceeding without any idea of the ecological ramifications of the scheme. The document that has been claimed an ecological impact statement ("A preliminary study of the environmental impacts of the James Bay development project, Quebec. — Report of the joint Federal-Provincial task force 20 December 1971") was prepared in haste by Federal and Provincial civil servants, from almost non-existent information about the area, on file, and without field studies. While those charged with preparing this report are to be congratulated and it must be hoped that their recommendations are followed, the time constraints and conditions under which they were forced to work were nothing short of a national disgrace. It is small wonder that some of them wished to be disassociated from the views expressed in the final document. It is more a list of information lacking and work that must

be done than a prediction of consequences. If we are to accept the authors' commentary, even this flimsy cover up for serious errors of omission has been largely circumvented in the interests of the Quebec Government and the James Bay Development Corporation.

Concluding chapters of the book almost amount to an indictment of the political-economic system that allows manipulation of information and resources for self-fulfilment of political prophecies. We are asked to consider some of the wisdom of the Cree philosophy and develop an ecological conscience more compatible with their views of nature. It ends with the suggestion that perhaps it is too late, decisions have been preempted, preparatory work for drowning of the north woods is already underway and the momentum of progress is building up.

Overstatements in the book, of the kind that plague ecological crisis writing can be excused as necessary counterbalances to the equally exaggerated claims of promoters of the scheme. Boyce Richardson should be applauded for his courage in presenting his material to the public in such a forceful and forthright way.

G. Power

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BETWEEN CAPE PARRY AND CAMBRIDGE BAY, N.W.T., CANADA IN 1963. BY WILLIAM E. TAYLOR, JR. *Ottawa: Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada Paper No. 1, National Museum of Man, 1972. 8½ x 11 inches, 106 pages, 24 figures, 15 plates, \$2.00.*

The information explosion in archaeology has now attained rather astonishing proportions, and the editors of learned journals and their printers are generally swamped with manuscripts. Unfortunately, not all of these are fit to see the light of day, but editorial advisory committees do their best to screen out what is egregiously bad, and professional audiences can be counted on to annihilate other unsatisfactory efforts. In the end, however, it is of utmost importance that we have an open market place for the rapid exposure of fresh data and new ideas.

In these circumstances, prompt publication is vital, and the Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, is to be highly commended for instituting its new *Mercury Series*. This is specifically intended to circumvent the time-lag between editorial acceptance and the mechanics of publication and distribution, and so far it appears to be operating most effectively. Six separate volumes have been produced in the first six

months. Reproduction is by photo-offset printing, and the format consists of double-spaced typescript pages in paper-covered binding. Photographs, line drawings, and other figures are clear and have very good resolution. Apparently, the series will include a wide variety of archaeological reporting, from reconnaissance and survey papers, through detailed site reports, to major evaluative monographs. We are asked to tolerate and forgive any minor errors that may result from rapid editorial processing, which is certainly a fair request. The prices, so far, are reasonable.

Mercury Series is appropriately inaugurated by Dr. Taylor, Director of the National Museum of Man who, I understand, was largely responsible for initiating this new publication program. His report deals descriptively and summarily with an exploratory survey which he made in the central Arctic during the summer of 1963. According to his own preface, this paper was drafted in 1965, completed the following year, and not essentially altered thereafter prior to its publication. Thus it is meant to be only a preliminary presentation of archaeological data from a hitherto little-known area, and as such it is a praiseworthy contribution.

Substantively, it is difficult to make an absolute appraisal of the work because pages 7 to 8 and 17 to 18 are missing from my review copy. However, Dr. Taylor tells of his discovery of 24 sites on the mainland coast and the southern shores of Victoria Island; also, he describes his test excavations and briefly analyzes the collections he obtained. These accounts are both carefully accurate and consistently interesting; he has a knack for nifty expression and a sense of humour which leaven the dryness of ordinary archaeological reportage. Chronologically, the sites run the full gamut of the Eskimo occupation sequence which is currently recognized in the central Canadian Arctic. The earliest is the Pre-Dorset component of the Buchanan site on Victoria Island, which Taylor estimates at 2500 B.C. Most interesting of all, however, is the Bernard Harbour I. site which he discovered in Dolphin and Union Strait; this was a Dorset Eskimo occupation dating from

about A.D. 200, and the find was very significant because it extended the range of Dorset culture some 450 miles farther west of its previously known spread. As Taylor also notes, ". . . it partly answers the question of who occupied these central regions after the spread eastward of the Arctic Small Tool tradition but before the Thule culture wave crossed Canada en route to Greenland from Alaska." Moreover, the evidence from Bernard Harbour I. seems to attest further to the fundamental uniformity and conservatism of Dorset culture throughout its entire geographic realm.

Several of the newly discovered sites produced firm evidence of Thule occupations, early, middle, and late, and add substance to the hypothesis that recent Copper Eskimo culture developed from a Thule base. In at least one instance, the Bell site on Ekalluk River, Victoria Island, there is a hint of sequential occupations by Dorset and Thule people, but there was no apparent confrontation of the two cultures in this area. Still others of the sites yielded collections of Copper Eskimo artifacts.

Taylor's survey was airborne and that, of course, is a remarkably fast way for an archaeologist to get around and cover large areas during the brief arctic field season. However, I read with sympathy his occasional complaints about not always being able to see or discover sites while in flight. I can attest to that difficulty also, for in my personal experience, while aircraft are superb for transportation, flying is not a totally satisfactory method of archaeological exploration. Even at low altitudes, and with slow airspeeds on the order of 100 knots, much surficial ground detail is generally missed.

In any case, Dr. Taylor's reconnaissance opened up a new and significant area of archaeological interest for Arctic specialists, and we welcome the speedy new vehicle in which it has been published. Good luck to the *Mercury Series!* Vive la Collection Mercure de l'Enquête archéologique du Canada! We shall survive its minor editorial peccadilloes, but I hope that future issues will at least contain all their pages.

Elmer Harp, Jr.

Published for the Arctic Institute of North America by McGill-Queen's University Press,
Montreal

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Indexed in the Canadian Periodical Index

Authorized as Third Class — Book Rate Canada Post Office

Printed in Canada