

PICTURE ATLAS OF THE ARCTIC. BY RAGNAR THORÉN. *Amsterdam—London—New York: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1969. 11½ x 8½ inches, 449 pages, 589 illustrations. \$57.50.*

This large and very expensive book has been excellently compiled by Captain Ragnar Thorén. Many of the 589 black and white photographs are from his own camera or those of colleagues on his northern expeditions. But a great number of those in the Canadian section are beautifully-reproduced R.C.A.F. trimetrogons, often those which Moira Dunbar and Keith Greenaway had picked for their *Arctic Canada from the Air*, but sadly much less clearly printed. From the Soviet Union all pictures are from A. P. Novosti and their quality is greatly inferior to those of the bulk of the book.

The main objection I have to this work is the Arctic Circle boundary. This results in south Greenland being omitted and even the capital

(Godthåb) expunged from the map. Iceland gets negligible treatment for the same reason yet the largest section is devoted to subarctic Scandinavia north of 66° 33'. This is interesting, but scarcely arctic, compared with, say, Angmagssalik.

The textual material is brief but factual and scientific. I can find little fault with this except perhaps no mention of Greenland's present day helicopter air service. And I have never heard of Little Chigago on the Mackenzie River. But the maps could have been much clearer and more professional to match the care lavished on the photo reproduction.

The big question of course is who can use this book at its fearful price. It should be placed in every library concerned with the North, and which one is not these days! But many northern authors can use it as an important reference work when they require a photograph of some particular arctic feature.

P. D. Baird

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