

THE DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE. BY H.M.S. "INVESTIGATOR", CAPT. R. M'CLURE 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854. Edited by Commander Sherard Osborn. Preface by William C. Wonders. *Edmonton: M. G. Hurtig Ltd., 1969. 5½ x 7¾ inches, 405 pages, map, illustrated. \$5.75.*

With our reawakened interest in the navigability of the North Passage, it is most appropriate that Commander Sherard Osborn's "The Discovery of the North-West Passage by H.M.S. Investigator" should be reissued.

Bill Wonders of the University of Alberta, in his preface to the new edition, has done an honest job of pointing out that there were, and probably still are, conflicting views of M'Clure's character and integrity. The sleeping dogs have not been awakened, nor should they be. Irrespective of the nature of M'Clure's qualities, he was the first white man to cross the top of North America from ice-free waters to ice-free waters and, by so doing, bring to an end the search which started on the fifth of March, 1496, when Henry the Seventh of England gave to John Cabot and his son Sebastian, the grant of a patent to search out a passage by the North West to the lands of Cathia.

I would commend North-West Passage, along with the diaries, accounts and records of other searchers for the Passage, to all who are now engaged in the new search for the treasures which are so abundant in these northern lands, for it is by this Passage that many of them will be brought to the consuming world.

From their reading they can learn much, not the least of which will be a respect for the brave men in the little ships who pioneered the way.

O. C. S. Robertson

ESKIMOS OF THE NUSHAGAK RIVER: AN ETHNOGRAPHIC HISTORY. BY JAMES W. VANSTONE. *Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1967. 9 x 5¾ inches, 192 pages, illustrated. \$6.95.*

This book is a pleasure to recommend to persons interested in Eskimos and in the methodology of behavioural studies. At the same time it is a difficult book to review. The sources of information, Russian and American historical documents, ethnographic materials and archaeological researches, are employed in a new kind of organization reflected in the bipartite division of chapters:

Part One: Agents of Change, and Part Two: Emerging Socioeconomic Patterns. The objectives set forth by the author, a thoroughly experienced researcher, describe the contents most accurately. First, to outline the history of Russian and American Exploration of the Nushagak River; second, to record activities of the various agents of change; third, to reconstruct population groupings, settlement patterns, and the yearly cycle of subsistence activities in the nineteenth century, and fourth, to describe contemporary subsistence activities and settlement patterns. These objectives are achieved, primarily by following a historical concatenation of events in both divisions of the book. Interestingly, the author achieves more than he claims, some in the field of theory. It will surely exalt the memory of J. L. Giddings to whom it is dedicated.

The people under examination are the Kiatagmiut Eskimos, occupying the Nushagak River and the area to the west including Wood House Lakes and Tikchik Lakes, but not including the mouth of the Nushagak River which was inhabited by Aglemiut Eskimos. They numbered some 400 persons with an area of ninety-seven square miles. They practised an inland economy, with major dependence upon fish, and maintained close contact with the coastal Aglemiut. It is of considerable interest to the general area of population dynamics and history that this small number of persons could maintain a population system distinct from that of the contiguous Eskimos.

Though Captain Cook described the Nushagak River region and the Bristol Bay area in 1778 he did not enter the Nushagak. The exact date of Russian penetration cannot be determined with precision, it may have been as early as 1791. An 1818 expedition resulted in the establishment of the Alexandrovski redoubt on the east bank of the Nushagak River about eight miles below the actual river mouth. It is of interest that the Russian Orthodox Priest Ivan Veniaminov, who earlier had been based ten years on Unalaska in the Fox Island district of the Aleutian Islands, visited this redoubt in the summer of 1829. The concern of the Russian-American Company lay in exploration and development of the fur trade. The intertwining of missionary activity with the fur trade is handled adeptly by the author. He gives the twenty-three instructions directed by Veniaminov, after he had become Metropolitan of Moscow, to Hieromonk Theophil at Nushagak. Three of these instructions (page 32) are as valuable today as they were over a century ago and are applicable to scientists,