

ethnographic studies of the Eskimo are concerned with groups living in a coastal rather than inland environment. For this reason alone, Gubser's book extends considerably the available knowledge on the problems of inland living of indigenous northern peoples.

Second, as a scholarly work in its own right, the book is of unusual quality. The author begins with a history of native Alaskan contact with Whites, based on documentary study. This is followed by ethnohistory of the Nunamiut based largely on field data. The next portion of the book is a remarkably insightful report of Nunamiut social organization, where household and community structure and activities are carefully depicted. A chapter on "The Individual" introduces a Lintonian perspective on status and socialization that rounds out the picture of social organization. Perhaps the most intrepid effort is an attempt to relate concepts and mental processes to social structure and natural environment, particularly the latter. While the entire book is descriptive, there are occasional expressions which are related to major concerns of social science theory, such as the Nunamiut notion of a "fractionally organic" universe and the relevance for societal survival of the Nunamiut cognitive processes of empiricism, supernaturalism, and anthropomorphism. The book as a whole is an important empirical contribution to any person interested in relating social organization, psychological processes and ecology or ecosystems.

The third reason for ranking this book as significant is its readability. As Murdock notes in the "Foreword," the writer produced the book while an undergraduate student at Yale University, following field work in Alaska. Probably for this reason the book has a rare directness, lucidity, and intimacy. Anecdotes, personal experiences in obtaining data, and the Eskimo words used in the text, as well as the careful attempt to explain Nunamiut thinking and describe their background, add up to a high level of communication with the reader. This process is aided by the thoughtful addition of appendices containing a map of northern Alaska, a description of the summer camp community studied, a calendar of seasonal activities, a glossary, and a bibliography.

While Gubser's book deserves a wide audience extending from senior high school students to the highest levels of government service or academia, attention should be called to what the book does not say too much about, the processes of acculturation and the continuing impact of Western culture on the Nunamiut. The author has emphasized indigenous Nunamiut society as it was and is, though his work repeatedly shows the impact of contacts

with the outside "White" world. Other studies will be needed to show the processes through which Nunamiut society changes and is being related not only to the Brooks Range environment but also larger environments of mankind.

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SNOW COVER. By P. G. POTTER. *Climatological Studies Number 3*, Toronto: Canada Department of Transport, Meteorological Branch, 1965. 8½ x 11 inches. 69 pages, mimeograph, 114 diagrams, 22 charts, tables. \$1.50.

Snow cover, the layer of snow at the ground surface, is of enormous importance for the economy of northern lands. The present volume, based mainly upon observations during twenty years since 1941/42, deals very thoroughly with the snow cover of Canada. (It should be noted that the snow cover of frozen water bodies, of great importance for their heat budget, is disregarded. The isolines of the charts cross Hudson Bay without deviation.)

Canada is divided into seven main divisions and the particular conditions of their snow cover are described with respect to start, duration, and end of the cover season and the depths of snow cover. Tables for 198 stations give the earliest, median, and latest dates for the first and last snow cover; the smallest, median, and greatest maximum of snow depth and the mean depth of snow cover at the end of each month. Diagrams show for 114 stations the frequencies of different depths of snow for the end of each month.

These data are also represented in 22 instructive charts of the Provinces and Territories of Canada. The longest snow cover, over 300 days from late August to early July, is to be found in northern Ellesmere Island; but the median depth of thickest cover does not exceed 8 to 16 inches. Southernmost British Columbia has normally, near sea level, hardly any snow cover; on the other hand, the mountains of southern British Columbia have the strongest snowfall and the deepest snow cover in Canada. Another region with deep snow cover and mean maximum depths of over 50 inches is north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in southern Labrador. The ground is here snow-covered for about half a year.

The volume contains a wealth of other useful and interesting information.

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