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Review

Reviewed Work(s): *The Bering Land Bridge* by David M. Hopkins

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*The Bering Land Bridge.* Edited by DAVID M. HOPKINS. xvi + 496 pp.  
Stanford University Press, Stanford, 1967. \$18.50.

The present volume presents the papers delivered at the seventh meeting of INQUA (International Association for Quaternary Research) on the 'Late Cenozoic History and Environments of the Bering Land Bridge,' held at Boulder, Colorado in 1965. The material presented deals with reconstruction of the Bering Land Bridge history from late Tertiary time onward. There are a total of 24 papers from 28 authors from the United States, U. S. S. R., Iceland, Germany, Great Britain and Canada, broken down into four major sections, geology, past environments, fossil evidence of migration and reconstruction of movements in the area. All the papers have been revised in the light of the conference proceedings and new work published in the past two years.

For readers concerned with the question of entry of man into the New World the sections which deal with early Quaternary and late Tertiary periods are superfluous. Topics of prime concern to students of early man are the topography of the land, bridge, the paleogeography of both the Alaskan and Siberian areas during the Pleistocene, the Siberian radiocarbon sequence, the vegetational history of the area in relation to the glacial sequence, the related faunal history and the possibilities of movement as noted in mammalian dispersion.

Certain of the topics presented here have been previously published at least in part elsewhere. In particular both papers dealing with the history of human migrations are based on already published data. Müller-Beck's model of the peopling of the Americas can be found in basically similar form elsewhere, (1966, *Science*, 152:1191-1210) and Laughlin's

picture of the occupation of the Bering Sea area is primarily a revision of the material that he has been presenting over the past ten years.

The format of the various articles varies quite considerably. While some are major papers presenting a wealth of data, others are simply short summary statements. Some of the papers present summary sections dealing with the wider implications of the various topics in terms of Bering Strait history. Where the data are presented without any further summary it becomes rather harder for the non-specialist to grasp the total picture. The final thirty-four page synthesis by Hopkins is a most valuable addition to the work and can act as a guide to the rest of the volume. Nevertheless, there are still large holes in any attempted synthesis of the history of this region at the present time. Apart from areas where little or no data are yet available, major problems appear to be the correlation of the North America and Asiatic glacial sequences, and the correlation of these sequences to periods of marine transgression and regressions especially in Asia. This should not be considered as a criticism but simply a reminder that this symposium does not present us with a final picture by any means.

In many cases there is a lack of agreement in terminology especially between American and Russian terms. There is also a certain ignorance of the literature available in each others' tongues, though this is not nearly so marked as in some recent works. The problem of reading the technical writings of geologists, zoologists, botanists, geophysicists etc., will be a difficulty to students not equally conversant in all these areas. In many cases a lot of terms used will therefore be unfamiliar. A glossary of terms might have helped.

Although everyone concerned with the problem of the early peopling of this hemisphere will probably not want to add this volume to their own private libraries, most will want to make sure that a copy is available in their institution library.

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