

In order to break the monotony of the daily routine at the post, the author undertakes different outings such as hunting trips (Ch. 2, 4) and visits to isolated camps. One feels his *joie de vivre* in tasting those copious meals (100), his excitement when spring returns (173), or in his description of warm reunions between whites (89), the pleasure he experienced during evenings spent in the company of Eskimos (126). He often mentions that he is happy (68, 126, 168, 179). The reader wonders then why Lord Tweedsmuir did not prolong his stay at Cape Dorset.

In his brief through gracious description of the Eskimos (126) the author does not criticize or judge the people; nor does he try to inflict upon the reader any philosophical consideration or comment on their morals, or degree of "acculturation." He does not question the justification or merits of the hunting or trapping customs. He merely notes that hunting is necessary to the survival of man as well as of the dogs (20), and that the use of a rifle or a motor-boat is a way to facilitate a regular supply of game.

One should also point out that the author excels in describing in a few lines the people that are strikingly interesting to him: Tom Manning's wife (17) or Pouta (120), Pitseolak's first wife, or his companion Chesley Russel (114) who at the age of 35 had already spent 18 years in the Arctic; also, among those he is drawn to, Saila is a dignified and interesting character mentioned by the author (21, 102). The famous Pitseolak (21) is, no more than the others, the object of a systematic description, but he is rather the sum of many remarks, hints and sketches given through the pages, depicting his abilities as well as his human qualities. These remarks allow the reader to appreciate many facets in the personality of such an exceptional human being.

It is interesting to emphasize also that Lord Tweedsmuir, by giving his paintings and brushes in 1939 to Pitseolak, contributed to the birth of graphic art in Cape Dorset, and that later in 1975 he donated Pitseolak's first water-colors, which were in his possession, to the Museum of Man in Ottawa.

A few thoughts on Eskimos' life and attitudes were shared by the author while travelling with them in sleigh-rides: these thoughts suggest to what extent the natives were living in a state of semi-starvation (125-128) at times, and show also how the equipment they used for their daily tasks was far from perfect (92, 117, 126, 141).

Although the reading is pleasurable, the reader eager to satisfy his thirst for knowledge will not be satisfied with just the factual narration tinted with humour and vivid style; but the sensitivity with which the author relates this narration makes the book a personal testimony on the role and attitudes of the white towards the autochthon during that epoch between the two-wars.

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ECOLOGY OF A SUBARCTIC MIRE. Edited by M. SONNENSON. Ecological Bulletins No. 30. Stockholm, Sweden: Swedish Natural Science Research Council, 1980. 313 p., illustrations, bibliography, index. Cloth.

The International Biological Programme (IBP), which involved the collaboration of scientists from over 40 countries with partial participation from some 50 other countries, was a remarkable achievement. After five years of informal discussions, the programme had as its general theme the Biological Basis of Productivity and Human Welfare, and was officially launched at the First General Assembly in 1964 under the aegis of the International Council of Scientific Unions. One of its major tasks was to study organic production of land, fresh water and marine ecosystems on a worldwide basis. It was within this context that investigations on arctic and subarctic lands, under the title of *The Tundra Biome*, were initiated. At meetings in 1967, it was agreed that a systems approach should be followed and a generalized ecosystem model was developed to ensure a high degree of uniformity in the methods to be followed and the types of data to be collected. Emphasis was to be given to the study of energy flow and the problems of nutrient cycling.

The volume now published by the Swedish Natural Science Research Council contains scientific papers covering many, but not all, aspects of

tundra ecology obtained at Stordalen near Abisko (68°21'N; 19°05'E) which was one of the fifteen sites which formed the Tundra Biome group. The topics covered include climate; physical properties of the soil-water system; availability and circulation of plant nutrients; plant distribution and community composition; biomass determinations; aspects of photosynthesis; physiological studies on *Sphagnum*; nitrogen cycling; and energy flow. There were no studies on major herbivores at Stordalen.

Those readers of *Arctic* who wish to compare the Stordalen site with others included in the Tundra Biome should consult another volume of the same series — Bulletin 20 — *Structure and Function of Tundra Ecosystems* (T. Rosswall and O. W. Heal (eds.) 1975), which provides word models of all the IBP Tundra sites.

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FACES FROM HISTORY: CANADIAN PROFILES AND PORTRAITS. By GEORGE WOODCOCK. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1978. 254 p. \$29.95.

Faces from History is a selection of photographs, with text, of 120 notable Canadians. The book, which measures 31 by 24 cm, devotes two pages to each entry, text on the left and a full page portrait on the right. The clearly and concisely written text, combined with the portrait, allows the reader to identify with the individual being portrayed, to ascertain his or her temperament, accomplishments, strengths and weaknesses in a real way rather than the dry, dull nonentities that often characterize the pages of history texts.

The book is subdivided into nine sections: The Colonial Period, 11 portraits; The Men of Confederation, eight portraits; From Ocean Unto Ocean, 15 portraits; The Fact of Quebec, 13 portraits; The Opening of the West, 21 portraits; Land Beyond the Mountains, 11 portraits; The True North, eight portraits; Provinces of the Mind, 22 portraits of writers and poets; and Day of Trial, 11 portraits of those who attempted to shape the present and future. Selections of portraits are based on availability and quality but represent a cross-section which should have appeal to a wide audience.

For those interested in the north, there are people such as William Carpenter Bompas, John Rae, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Wop May, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier and Henry Asbjorn Larsen, each of whom put his stamp and technique on travel and survival in that inhospitable land.

The writing style and selection of photographs gives the book appeal to both the young and not-so-young. It adds a dimension of reality to history and should be placed in all junior and senior high schools throughout Canada as it brings to life many of the people who have helped to shape our destiny through politics, exploration, entrepreneurship, writing and justice. To those interested in the north, as Editor of *Arctic* I offer the challenge: Let's have similar portraits of northern notables that can appear in the journal and ultimately be combined into a book that will capture the past and excite readers of the future as *Faces from History* demonstrates it can be done. I request only one modification and that is that there be a reference section added to each entry to provide ready access to additional literature, a feature regrettably lacking in the reviewed volume.

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