places Simpson in a particular place, one has the feeling that Raffan has been there too, and knows it well, just as S.E. Morison had been to Watling Island, Columbus' landing place, and knew it just as well as Columbus had. This gives an invaluable immediacy to the book.

The book has two flaws, however. First, it's too long. Raffan has mined the Hudson's Bay archives extensively, but the ore extracted has been insufficiently refined. The result is that the latter part of the book quotes and paraphrases more material from Simpson's papers and journals than most people will want to read. Secondly, some of his prose is pretty turgid. It's not unfair to expect an author to write sentences that can be understood at first reading, but unfortunately this book contains many that fail that test. As examples, here are two taken at random, in which parenthetical phrases impede immediate understanding: "Maria, who turned eighteen (and who was only three years younger than Frances, her would-be stepmother) in 1833, had been thriving in and around the Beauly Firth and was to be married to a young Inverness solicitor called Donald Mactavish. Although he was most certainly invited, for reasons of propriety or health Simpson appears not to have attended the wedding on October 25, but he did quietly pay Mactavish a dowry of £500 (Simpson's salary that year, not including expense allowances, was £1,800) to allow the newlyweds to emigrate to Canada and purchase property in Haldimand Township in Upper Canada" (p. 289–290). Pierre Berton never wrote sentences like these.

There's quite a lot of this sort of thing, and one wishes that the book had had a stricter editor, for it detracts from the book's popular appeal. As a record of an important figure and his times, however, it makes a valuable contribution.

REFERENCE

MORISON, S.E. 1942. Admiral of the ocean sea: A life of Christopher Columbus. Boston: Little, Brown.

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ALASKA TREES AND SHRUBS. By LESLIE A. VIERECK and ELBERT L. LITTLE, Jr. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2007. 2nd ed. ISBN 1-889963-86-0. x + 359 p., maps, b&w illus., colour plates. glossary, bib., index. Softbound. US$24.95.

This second edition of *Alaska Trees and Shrubs* is an update of the original 1972 U.S. Forest Service Agriculture Handbook No. 410. This popular handbook was out of print and unavailable for several years until 1986, when the University of Alaska Press republished it in its original 1972 format.

In this second edition, Dr. David F. Murray, professor of botany and curator emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks, reviewed and updated plant names and made other significant contributions. Dr. George Argus, curator emeritus, Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, provided important information on the Alaska willows.

There are notable changes in this second edition, but the general format and content of the first edition are retained. The front cover of the first edition was a drawing of an interior spruce-birch forest by late Fairbanks artist William D. Berry. The front cover of this second edition consists of nine colour photographs and three line drawings. I had fun trying to identify the three species depicted in the line drawings, which weren't identified in the "Cover images" on the copyright page.

This new edition includes 16 pages of excellent colour photographs of selected Alaska trees and shrubs and important landscapes and major vegetation types. The keys have been changed to couplet format, which makes them easier to use, and English measurements have been changed to metric units. A glossary and appendices that include non-native and transplanted trees and shrubs have been added. The bibliography and index of common and scientific names are comprehensive and useful.

Advances in techniques and procedures, better communications and collaboration, and new publications in plant taxonomy have resulted in the reclassification of several species of Alaska shrubs since the first edition. Major plant inventories were conducted in the new parks and refuges established in Alaska after the passage of the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980. These inventories resulted in significant changes in the known distributions of some Alaska trees and shrubs, which are reflected in changes in boundaries in the range maps. The map on pages 36–37 shows the major national parks, monuments, preserves, forests, wildlife refuges, and major cities, towns, roads, and rivers in the state. A comparison of this map with individual species range maps shows the distributions of trees and shrubs and their overlap with these features. Unfortunately, the binding of the book obscures some labels in the middle of the map, e.g., near Bettles, Denali, and Kenai. I had to pry open my copy to find the label number (24) for Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. This map would have been better as a foldout, like the map of vegetation types on the following pages.

Distribution maps in the species accounts are presented as "generalized shaded areas around the specimen locations using a buffer radius of approximately fifty kilometers" (p. 3). These maps are also viewable online via web links to the very well designed and easy-to-use website of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (http://137.229.80.38/website/aktrees/viewer.htm) and the U.S. Forest Service's Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research Program (http://www.lter.uaf.edu).

There is an interesting section entitled "Vegetation of Alaska," which reminds us of the extremes in climate and physical geography that influence vegetation in Alaska.

Temperatures can vary by as much as 38˚C (70˚F) in coastal zones and 83˚C (150˚F) in the interior. The authors also remind us that vegetation comprises habitats for the diverse Alaskan bird and mammal fauna. Plant species in this section of the book are categorized by the three major vegetation types in Alaska: (1) Coastal Spruce-Hemlock Forests, (2) Interior Forests, which are subdivided into Closed Spruce-Hardwood Forests, Open Low-Growing Spruce Forests, Treeless Bogs, and Shrub Thickets, and (3) Moist, Wet and Alpine tundra zones.

Four major dichotomous keys aid in the identification of Alaska trees and shrubs. In order of their presentation, they are (1) a Key to Alaska Trees and Tall Shrubs Based Mainly on Leaves, (2) a Winter Key to Deciduous Trees and Tall Shrubs of Alaska, (3) a Key to Genera of Alaska Shrubs, and (4) a Winter Key to Alaska Shrubs. In addition to these four keys, each genus with two or more species has a key to its Alaska species. I liked having these additional keys strategically placed near the species accounts, rather than lumped with the more general keys in the front of the book.

Species accounts comprise 300 of the 359 pages in the book and cover 19 families and 132 species of trees and shrubs. All accounts include common and scientific names, other names, and a brief general description of the plant or plant group. Other information may include descriptions of leaves, twigs, buds, bark, wood, cones, seeds, habitat, distribution, and uses. Each species account has a distribution map and an excellent illustration of key plant features.

The largest block of species accounts, comprising nearly 70 of the 300 pages, deals with the 37 species of Alaskan willows, which vary in form and often hybridize with each other. The keys to the willows are very well done. There is a general key to all Alaska willows, and a second key to the vegetative characteristics of typical willow specimens growing under typical conditions. As the authors state (p. 89), this key "will serve for approximately three-fourths of Alaska willow specimens. However, many will not key out or will key to the wrong species. It should be possible to narrow the choice to two or three species. The species descriptions, drawings, and maps will then aid in further determination of species." Additional keys are provided where necessary to distinguish easily confused willow species, such as the Barclay willow, Hooker willow, and under-green willow.

The overall quality of this book is excellent, with very sharp, well-reproduced colour photographs, excellent illustrations, and a concise, well-written and informative text. I read the book from cover to cover and didn't find a single typographical error. The type font is relatively large, simple, and easy to read. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in plants and animal habitats in Alaska and adjacent Yukon and British Columbia.

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THE STONE AGE OF QEQERTARSUUP TUNUA (DISKO BUGT): A REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE SAQQAQ AND DORSET CULTURES OF CENTRAL WEST GREENLAND. By JENS FOG JENSEN. Copenhagen: SILA and The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, 2006. Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society 32. ISBN 87-90369-82-3. 272 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., bib. Hardbound. DKK 298.

The basis for this book is Jens Fog Jensen's University of Copenhagen doctoral dissertation, *Tents, Rings, and Stone Tools* (2005), making this a timely publication of his investigations of Palaeoeskimo cultures relative to other recent monographs in the *Man and Society* volumes on the prehistory of Greenland.

The author's investigations are noted as a deliberate methodological break from more traditional Danish archaeology of Greenlandic sites, which largely concerned culture history derived from the vertical analyses of stratigraphic relationships. In contrast, Jensen presents a Palaeoeskimo prehistory from a horizontal perspective, through the presentation and analysis of inter- and intrasite patterns of Dorset and Saqqaq land use in central West Greenland. Notwithstanding this break, Jensen's work integrates archaeology with geography and geology and is consistent with a strong, multidisciplinary approach that has a long history in Danish archaeology.

The volume is divided into 10 chapters. The first four provide an introduction and comprehensive discussions of landscape, seascape and icescape, environmental change, and the history of previous research. More specifically, this volume examines Palaeoeskimo settlement patterns from 225 known sites within the four regions of Qeqertarsuup Tunua. Differences between these regions are argued to be a result of temporal differences and geographic differences related to availability of geological and ecological resources. The mapping and documentation of sites and the presentation of primary data are well executed, and a catalogue of the sites is extensively documented in an Appendix. As noted from other *Meddelelser om Grønland* publications, the publication of such primary data, while encyclopedic in format, provides a significant resource for Arctic research. This is especially true considering the broad geographical and cultural differences of the Arctic as a place of study, and in view of the sometimes parallel histories of research that have resulted from differing national approaches to archaeology. While some of these differences, such as the relationship between Independence II and the Dorset culture, continue to divide opinion on basic issues of culture history, Jensen's work promotes more recent endeavors to bridge such gaps.

The results of Jensen's archaeological investigation and the data that support the central theme of this publication are presented and discussed in chapters 6 though 8. Reports on Saqqaq and Dorset settlements in southern Qeqertarsuup Tunua are expertly presented in detail within these chapters. Site locations, features, and artifact