

in narrow strips along the rivers. Large concentrations occur in the Liard River region south of the South Nahanni River.

The report concludes with the warning that, before significant logging operations commence, the difficulty of restocking cut-overs must be investigated. Adequate research is required to prevent the destruction of the forest resource, because of the severe climatic soil and permafrost conditions. Sustained-yield forest management is questionable, particularly in the northern areas, where over 200 years is needed for an average-size tree of uncertain quality to grow. Precipitous exploitation must be avoided, as it could seriously affect soil stability and lead to excessive erosion and an undesirable lowering of the permafrost level. Besides timber products, the forest cover is invaluable for the preservation of wildlife, aesthetic enjoyment and recreational purposes. These non-timber benefits are of unique importance in this northern location and must be protected.

Maps and appendices containing area and volume estimates by cover types and species groups complete the report—a useful preliminary study of the forest resources of the Mackenzie Valley.

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flung settlements of the tundra and taiga, the reindeer- or dog-drawn sledge is often used for short journeys, and reindeer breeding is an important occupation.

Because of its importance to the northern peoples, therefore, the reindeer figures prominently in their art and handicrafts. The skins are used for winter clothing and sledge linings, and in the past they covered the yourts and *chumy* (collapsible dwellings) of the nomadic herdsmen. Leg pelts, used for footwear, mittens and bags, are both durable and beautiful. The needlewomen of the Far North are extremely talented, and with their careful selection of pelts, the variety of textures, patterns, colours and trims, they produce garments which are not only functional but are works of art as well. Sometimes the clothing is decorated with other furs, as well as ivory and metal ornaments, *rovduga* (chamois made from reindeer skins) tassels, beads and inserts of woollen fabric.

Other items are also made from reindeer skins: rugs, wall hangings with pockets to hold household implements, reindeer harnesses and saddles, carrying bags, belts, aprons, etc. Wood, birchbark, walrus tusk and mammoth ivory are also featured in their handicrafts.

*In the Land of the Reindeer* features 77 excellent colour plates of handmade artefacts by members of some dozen national groups of the Soviet North, including Eskimos. Many are in close-up so that the design and the meticulous care taken in executing them are readily discernible. In such cases there is a black and white insert to show the whole garment or object. The captions identify the objects in both English and Russian. English takes precedence in all instances, so it would seem that this book was intended primarily for the English-language market. At the back of the book are two lists of the plates (in English and in Russian) which give details of the materials used, the name of the artist, if known, the size of the article and the name of the museum owning it.

A short introductory article, by N. Kaplan of the Art Industries Research Institute in Moscow, gives a succinct and clear analysis of the special features of the applied and decorative arts peculiar to the peoples of the Far North. It is illustrated with black and white photographs of walrus tusk carvings.

This very handsome book will be of interest not only to ethnologists and others studying Arctic peoples, but to anyone with an appreciation of beautiful handiwork, both functional and ornamental. It is a book to be looked through at random, and in detail.

Nora T. Corley

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IN THE LAND OF THE REINDEER: APPLIED ART IN THE NORTH OF THE SOVIET UNION. *Leningrad: Aurora Art Publishers, 1974. 84 pages, 77 coloured plates, 36 black and white illustrations. No price indicated.*

The reindeer is still a very important factor in the lives of the peoples of the Soviet North. Although the aeroplane now links the far-