

ESKIMO BOY TODAY. BY BYRON FISH. ILLUSTRATED BY BOB AND IRA SPRING: Anchorage: *Alaska Northwest Publishing Company*, 1971. 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 11 inches, 63 pages. \$4.20 softbound, \$7.20 hardbound.

Eskimo Boy Today is a long-overdue book on the present-day life of Eskimo children in Alaska. It was worth waiting for! It is a superb description — in words and pictures — of the day-to-day life of an Eskimo boy. Most of us, young and old alike, are fascinated by Eskimos but have the notion that Eskimo children still live the way their ancestors did many generations ago. This misconception is dispelled in this book, but without losing any of the charm, simplicity and human warmth we have learned to associate with Eskimos. Indeed, the pleasure of Eskimo childhood shines through.

The photographs and text blend perfectly in describing Eskimo life. The text is forthright and easy to read, without "talking down" to children. The photographs, which take up most of the book, make the text come alive. Virtually every aspect of Eskimo life is shown, from school rooms to games to life at home. Most important, the book bridges the gap between the primitive way of life most of us associate with Eskimos and life as it really is in modern day Alaska.

Eskimo Boy Today is the sort of book children look for when they have to write essays about present-day Eskimo life, and it is as much fun for adults as it is for children.

The book is clearly a work of love. The photographs are superb in their portrayal of every aspect of life of an Eskimo boy. How delightful to see Eskimo children playing games, learning in the classroom, visiting the doctor, waiting for father to come home from work, or exploring the mysteries of the land around them! The text provides meaning and continuity to the photographs, and contains fascinating bits of information, such as the languages Eskimos speak, and even the concepts Eskimo children have of life in big cities in the United States and Canada. Every school and library should have this book. It will bring pleasure to everyone who reads it.

Ronald Melzack

GLACIER ICE. BY AUSTIN POST AND EDWARD R. LACHAPPELLE. *Seattle: The Mountaineers, and University of Washington Press*, 1971. 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, 110 pages, illustrated. \$20.00.

Glacier Ice is a picture book containing a collection of 130 excellent photographs illus-

trating snow and glacier ice. Many of them are oblique air photographs taken by Austin Post who has an outstanding reputation for aerial photography of glaciers. LaChapelle supplied the majority of the photographs taken from ground level. The authors have used contributions from other glaciologists, for example some Himalayan photographs by Fritz Müller. Emphasis is on western North American glaciers where the authors have done most of their research, but Europe, Asia, Greenland, and Antarctica are also represented.

The illustrations are in thirteen sections organized to explain the origin and behaviour of glaciers and their effects on the landscape. The first section on glacier flow and mass balance shows snow and glacier ice crystals, then aerial views of accumulation and ablation zones, the snow line, and sedimentary layering. The second section deals with the major surface features of glaciers, especially crevasses and seracs. A brief section on glacier flow follows with a sequence of pictures showing changes in the ice fall of Blue Glacier and several photos of glacier soles including Fritz Müller's pictures taken under Pumori South Glacier. Glacier fluctuations are presented next with retreating, advancing, and surging glaciers, mostly from western North America. The next section illustrates moraines, both deposited moraines and medial and ablation moraines, some of the last bearing a cover of vegetation. Glacial surges are demonstrated by the distorted moraines of surging tributary glaciers, and chaotic surface features of surged glaciers, mainly in Alaska. Ogives are given an extended treatment. Meltwater features including streams, potholes, and snow swamps are followed by a section on surface details such as crevasses, glacier tables, and ablation forms including suncups, ice pillars, and ice ships. Glaciers terminating in tidewater, glaciers on volcanoes, and glaciers having jokulalaups follow. The next series of pictures illustrates mainly the erosional effects of glaciers in mountains with a few scenes of depositional forms. The final section shows polar and sub-polar glaciers including ice shelves and ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic. The book ends with a glossary of 74 terms. A brief text accompanies each double page of illustrations. There are no references.

According to the dust jacket the text is "for both the general reader and the specialist"; comments below are made from both points of view.

The specialist will find this book an excellent source of illustrations for teaching especially as a reference for an elementary course

in glaciology. The book will enable him to find quickly a picture of some particular feature such as a surging glacier. It might have been more complete with a short series of LaChapelle's pictures showing the metamorphism of snow to glacier ice. More illustrations of snow avalanches which appear incidentally in several places but which are not given specific treatment would have been welcome though the book is admittedly true to its title. The photograph and description of ice worms and their behaviour create reality out of legend. There are interesting pictures of snow and ice ablation forms; the authors might have pointed out the difference between the forms typical of warm air ablation (suncups) and those typical of radiation ablation (névé penitentes) since these are features most interested readers may see on any melting snow. The words névé and Müller are spelled in unconventional fashions, but otherwise the book is well edited. The lack of an index is compensated by a full table of contents. No references are listed.

For the general reader *Glacier Ice* is a fascinating coffee table book. Many readers look at the pictures only and some are at a loss for the scale of the features shown. If the general reader does read the text and glossary he may have some difficulty appreciating the significance of some terms such as *activity index* from the brief definitions, but in general the text is very readable.

The book has a format (29 cm. high by 36 cm. wide x 1.5 cm. thick) that is well suited to the illustrations, but is awkward for shelving. It will probably be shelved flat with atlases and therefore may receive less use than it deserves.

Glacier Ice is highly recommended for anyone who needs or likes pictures of snow, ice and mountains, and should inspire an interest in glaciology among people of all ages and interests. Specialists will find in it excellent illustrations of almost every aspect of glaciers, but may be frustrated by the absence of references to the literature.

J. A. Elson

THE HISTORY OF GREENLAND. VOL. I: EARLIEST TIMES TO 1700. BY FINN GAD, TRANSLATED FROM THE DANISH BY ERNST DUPONT. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1971. 6 x 9½ inches. 350 pages, illustrated. \$16.50.

This book is the first of four projected volumes on the history of Greenland by *lektor*

Finn Gad, who teaches in a *højskole* in Copenhagen and lectures in Greenlandic history at the University of Copenhagen. It is a translation of the Danish edition *Grønlands Historie I. Indtil 1700* (Copenhagen: Nyt Nordisk Forlag/Arnold Busck, 1967, 415 pages). The English edition was first published in London by C. Hurst and Company, 1970.

Lektor Gad is to be commended not only for his ambitious undertaking but for the happy result as evidenced in the first volume. We lack a comprehensive history of Greenland (not only in English, but in Danish as well). This series promises to help fill the need admirably.

Recent archaeological studies of the wanderings of aborigines across northern North America and finally to Greenland have been dealt with skilfully in this book, although Gad admits that he is not an expert in the field. The early part of the book is, in fact, the pre-history of Greenland — a synthesis of the current status of aboriginal and Norse archaeological research in Greenland.

The remainder of the book uses evidence from published and archival sources to bring us to 1700. Gad has done a thorough job in this section where he is on more familiar ground than in the eras of pre-history. The book resulted from solid, penetrating research. It is well documented, although less so than the Danish original where notes and references, as well as indexes of place names, people, and subjects are more extensive. Perhaps, as the author stated, thorough documentation of the English edition by non-English references would have little use. Anyone unable to read the Danish edition would not be able to handle the references. The 680 footnotes of the Danish original are reduced to 184 in the English translation. All are found lumped together in an inconvenient mass at the back of the book. One must point out in this regard that the footnote numbers in Chapters 5 and 8 are mostly incorrect (especially in Chapter 5 where they are displaced by one number) and require correction.

As with the footnotes, the extent of the index has been reduced in the English translation. The 29 pages of indexes (persons, places, and subjects) of the Danish edition become a combined index of 9 pages in the English translation. Clearly, the index of the translation is neither as extensive nor as useful as that of the Danish original. The English index is lacking specifically in the "subject" category and, for use in research, we can only hope that this will be remedied in future volumes.