

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.

Still, the index is useful, and there is a reference list, a short glossary of unfamiliar (or foreign) terms, and rather extensive notes for each chapter.

There are numerous illustrations and drawings in the text. The photographic plates are found in two groups and are less conveniently placed than in the Danish original. All are in black-and-white, including several which were in colour in the Danish edition. The one great lack of both English and Danish editions of this book is a good map. As a geographer, I am particularly sensitive to what seems to be a universal trait among publishers: an unawareness of the integral usefulness of maps. We are engulfed by a myriad of place names, descriptions of voyages, and progression of settlement, but no one cares that we have a good map with which to follow the course of history.

The text of the two editions appears to be similar. The translation is good, although some flaws are to be found. The occasional misuse of prepositions reflects how demanding a translator's task can be. Occasional awkward word usage appears throughout the text, but these mistakes and a few typographical errors are not numerous. The text, in fact, is free of that *bête noir* of modern book-printing, the transposed line.

Aside from these minor flaws, the translation is superb compared with that in many other Scandinavian books and journals (certain issues of *Meddelelser om Grønland*, for example). Readability is necessary in the translation of such a historical work, and Ernst Dupont was up to the task.

About the translation, Gad states: "It has been very difficult to transfer the specific Danish historiographic style into readable English." Alas, have we been spared something from which Danish readers of history cannot escape?

The main critical comment on this book is that it fills a void in the literature about Greenland. Gad earlier wrote a shorter history of Greenland (*Grønlands Historie — En oversigt fra ca. 1500 til 1945*. Copenhagen, 1946, 272 pp.) and, more recently, we have Lidsgaard's *Grønlands Historie* (Copenhagen, 1961, 166 pp.). Various specific studies on trade, shipping, economic history, and administration have appeared from time to time (viz., works by Bobé, Tving, Sveistrup, and Ostermann). But nothing in Danish approached a comprehensive history of Greenland. In English, we have had even less. Vahl *et al.* edited the three-volume *Greenland* (Copenhagen, 1928-29), parts of which dealt with historical aspects. The Norse era has been written about by, among others, Poul

Nørlund, Daniel Bruun, Finnur Jónsson, Gwyn Jones, Helge Ingstad, C. L. Vebæk, and Knud Krogh; Eskimo pre-history, archaeology, and anthropology by Holtved, Steensby, Thalbitzer, Mathiasen, Birket-Smith, Knuth, Meldgaard, and Helge Larsen. Because these studies concentrated on specific topics within the entire story of Greenland, we have lacked, until now, an attempt to synthesize the whole.

So Gad's present book begins the first large and comprehensive history of Greenland, and it is therefore most welcome, especially to an English-speaking audience.

Although the book reflects careful scholarship and deep research, irrelevant details often interrupt an otherwise good tale. This is not intended as adverse criticism (for good history is often made up of such minutiae), but merely as a warning. This is not a book to curl up with by the fire on a snowy Sunday afternoon. The text attempts historical completeness; it is perhaps this dedication to accuracy — with all its names and dates, places and localities, measurements of churches and house ruins — which strains one's interest and attention. The long succession of archbishops, when they sailed to Greenland and when they died, is interspersed with a steady progression of *umboðsmadr*, *lögmaðr*, *officialis*, *féhirðir*, *sýslumaðr*, and other officials of varying rank and influence. The mind is bogged; only occasionally is it entertained. But more than mind-boggling is mind-stretching, as the reader is led into considering anew the successive waves of aboriginal inhabitants, and the fate of the Norse colonies, why they disappeared, and the various factors which might have played a part. Gad considers these and much more in a dispassionate, non-committal manner. Fresh insights and interpretations await the reader.

William G. Mattox

THE VIOLATED VISION: THE RAPE OF CANADA'S NORTH. BY JAMES WOODFORD. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1972. 5½ x 9 inches, 136 pages. \$5.95.

James Woodford joins the ever-enlarging company of biologists, ecologists, economists, lawyers and others who have pleaded with the Canadian Government to change its attitude toward the North, we all wish him well.

"The Violated Vision" is, in many respects, an aggravating book. The publishers are to be congratulated for bringing it out; they also are to be castigated for such atrociously sloppy editing and proofreading. Parts of the book