

At the end of the book is a useful record of MacMillan's arctic voyages and an index. Endpaper maps show the areas in which MacMillan sailed and travelled. The book is well illustrated; a negative instead of a positive has been used for one photograph.

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THE CANADIAN OXFORD DESK ATLAS OF THE WORLD, 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press. 1963. 120 pages of maps and supplementary tables, 12-page gazetteer of Canada, 20-page gazetteer of the world. 10 x 7½ inches. \$3.95.

This revised edition of "the most popular Canadian compact atlas" is recommended for its excellent editing, printing, new statistical information, and additional maps. Of the last named *Arctic* readers will note the zenithal equidistant projection of the Arctic (scale 1 in. = 400 mi., p. 1). This is the only addition of direct polar interest although minor alterations have been made to maps of Canada, the Northwest Territories and Antarctica. These include recognition of Inuvik and Frobisher Bay, in keeping with their increased importance since the first edition, and new locations of airports and communication lines and the latest position of the North Magnetic pole. Our greater knowledge and exploration of Antarctica since I.G.Y. are reflected by the exclusion of the limited zone of "areas not seen by man", designated previously. Presumably, the greater part of the continent has been seen, at least from the air. The legend explains the six categories of land and sea ice portrayed but otherwise few changes have been made.

The double page maps of Eurasia on the zenithal equal area projection include much of northeastern North America and permit the representation of several significant trans-polar relationships such as climate, vegetation, population and communications. Maps

of U.S.S.R. and Scandinavia portray these northern lands well, but a cartographic slip, by omission of white, has melted the glaciers in Iceland (page 60).

The 'Oxford photo-relief technique' successfully gives a three-dimensional effect to many of the topographical maps, but the appearance of several is marred by too dark a shade of grey. The same happens with the sea-ice symbols and they tend to obscure the lettering, particularly in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

As before, Canada receives the most detailed treatment with updated statistics and maps of the country as a whole and by regions showing topography, population, climate, agriculture, and other special topics. For the rest of the world, the regional treatment has been rearranged and eight pages of world economic maps added.

This atlas, either under the above title, or issued as the *Canadian Oxford School Atlas*, will enjoy the same success as the earlier editions.

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I POLI. By SILVIO ZAVATTI. Milan: Feltrinelli Editore. 1963. 7 x 4¼ inches, 266 pages, 17 plates, numerous sketch maps, diagrams, L 500.

The book is written for the non-specialist interested in the polar regions and gives information on the major expeditions made before 1958, independent of their scientific significance. Scientific facts are offered and controversies neglected, perhaps as it should be in a book of this nature. In keeping with the stated aim to provide adequate reference for lay readers, practically all subjects related to the polar regions are commented upon. Nevertheless the contents are not developed further than the advent of the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958, and therefore they are incomplete considering the year of publication. It is surprising that the author missed the chance to introduce information available in scientific

journals, but gathered his information, among other things, from books also written for the intelligent reader. Zavatti could have offered a more up-to-date outlook of the polar regions without sacrificing the general character of his statements. The reader of Italian who is a newcomer to polar literature will enjoy this book.

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**EARLY VOYAGES AND NORTHERN APPROACHES.** By TRYGGVI J. OLESON. A history of Canada, Vol. 1. Toronto: McLelland and Stewart. 1964. 9¼ x 6 inches, xii + 211 pages, illustrated with sketch maps, line drawings and 24 plates. \$8.50.

This is the first of McLelland and Stewart's seventeen-volume project, the Canadian Centenary Series, with W. L. Morton as executive editor and D. G. Creighton as advisory editor. "The result, it is hoped, will be scholarly and readable, at once useful to the student and of interest to the general reader." (p. ix). Volume I, by the late Dr. T. J. Oleson, professor of history at the University of Manitoba, is lively in style, wide ranging yet concise, nicely balanced in content, and invigorating by its bold interpretations. The book covers the period from about 1000 to 1632 A.D. and includes the Norsemen and their sagas, Iceland, Greenland, Vinland, the Skraelings, the archaeologists' Dorset and Thule cultures, mythical voyages to America, the hazy history of fifteenth century exploring in the area, then the Cabots, Frobisher, Davis, Hudson, Button, Bylot, Baffin, Munk, Foxe, James, and many others. About half the narrative pertains to Norsemen and Eskimos, and the rest to their salty successors up to 1632. I am unable to comment on the last-named but I question whether many historians will approve the author's harsh judgement of Sebastian Cabot. Happily, Oleson avoids an excess of Vinland entanglements.

The first part includes the problem that "occupies the central position in this volume" (p. xi), namely the intermixture of the aborigines and the Norsemen and the fate of both subsequent to their meeting. In this complex sphere Oleson leans heavily, but not completely, on the work of Jon Duason. Basing his interpretations on historical data, sagas, folk lore, and archaeology, Oleson concludes that the *Tunnit* of Eskimo folk tales were the Norsemen and that the *Skraelings* of the sagas were aborigines of Dorset culture. He argues that a blending of these two groups, culturally and racially, produced the Thule culture that subsequently extended throughout arctic Canada and west into Alaska. In coming to these conclusions the author treats arctic archaeology and its dull practitioners with the same rigour he accords Sebastian Cabot. Arctic archaeologists regard Thule culture as an outgrowth from the northern Alaskan Birnirk culture that was carried eastward to Greenland by population drift roughly about 1000 A.D. Further, most archaeologists consider Tunnit and Skraeling to be Eskimo and Norse terms respectively for Dorset culture Eskimos. Thus arctic prehistorians hold interpretations at odds with those given the central position in this book.

Although he notes that most scholars accept an Alaskan origin of Thule culture, Oleson neither presents their case nor a comprehensive rebuttal of it. His basic claim that the oldest Thule sites are to be found in Greenland and the youngest in Alaska is not documented and it is not supported by archaeologists. His observation that the attempt to link Thule with Birnirk "can hardly be regarded as successful" seems unfortunately to refer to a recent paper by the reviewer<sup>1</sup> rather than to J. A. Ford's monograph<sup>2</sup>, which provided much of the evidence and framework for that paper. His statement that there "is no evidence for" the eastward spread of Thule ignores a significant, if incomplete, body of data. One cannot concur with Oleson's conclusion (p. 174) that the Alaskan origin and eastward spread