

if a durable northern society is to be created. But Alaska must not be seen in isolation; its history, ecology, and problems have parallels elsewhere, and the ideological conflicts Alaskans now experience are ideological conflicts that people worldwide share. To illustrate this, Weeden writes elegantly about Alaska's oceans, climate, and landscape, with an emphasis on movement, biodiversity, and interconnectedness, so that 'Alaska loses its illusory isolation and becomes what it truly is, a hub in the living traffic of the whole Earth' (page 66).

Above all, Weeden's concern is with establishing and sustaining enduring relationships between people and nature. He sketches guidelines for individual and communal behaviour based on the profitable, socially acceptable, and ecologically supportable resource practices identified by Walter Firey. Weeden advocates principles of least disturbance, using less than most, adapting to local conditions, simplicity, and flexibility. He looks upon wage-work and creative unemployment as types of foraging, ways of living comfortably and sustainably in the north. He considers bioregionalism, if it balances both nature and culture-centeredness, as serving the spiritual, emotional, economic, and social needs of people within the bioregion. In creating an ethic for development, Weeden points to the significance and importance of a sense of place, to the wide variety of ways of knowing a place, and to how this can be used in creating regional development strategies. In Alaska, Weeden argues, the transient subculture is a problem, and I take this to include urban residents and state and federal policy makers as well as the 'suitcase set' (page 160): he suggests a place can only be known, a sense of place nurtured, through time and the commitment of residency. Only in this way can there be an exchange of gifts between people and the land.

To know a place, to nurture a new way of knowing, Weeden calls for a blending of science and northern tradition, a holistic way forward for northern development. Weeden's idealism is one that many will relate to, and his writing is often poetic and forceful, addressing issues that extend beyond Alaska. However, will developers and policy-makers regard such idealism important for informing northern public policy? Weeden's call for life and development in Alaska to be guided by an ethic towards nature may be easier for individuals to take up, and I suspect that the book will become a standard text for the Alaskan environmental movement. However, it deserves to be read by representatives of other institutional cultures, besides environmentalists and academics, in Alaska and throughout the north. (Mark Nuttall, Department of Human Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH.)

**THE LAND OF FEAST AND FAMINE.** Helge Ingstad. 1992. Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press. 332 p, illustrated. ISBN 0-7735-0912-7. £29.95 hard cover, £14.95 soft cover.

This work is a reprint of the 1933 translation of the author's classic book, originally entitled *Pelsjegerliv blant Nord-Canadas indianere*. The original book was translated into

several languages, but it was never published in Canada; this rectifies that omission. The author is, of course, noted for his discovery in 1960 of a Viking village at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, and, in a new preface, he states that the experience gained during the years living 'at one with the Canadian wilderness and the Indians,' which are described in the present work, stood him in good stead during the search.

Ingstad spent four years (1926–1930) living as a trapper in the area to the northeast of Great Slave Lake. This work is a straight-forward, chronological account of his adventures during that time. It contains valuable insights into such subjects as dog handling, techniques of trapping, and the hunting of caribou, as well as detailed descriptions of the way of life of the Indians who depended for their livelihood on that animal. In this context, it is worth noting that the work is a strict reprint and that the publishers have not attempted to sanitise it in the light of concepts of 'political correctness' that are currently prevalent. As a result, even though it is transparently obvious that the author had the highest regard, respect, and affection for the 'caribou eaters,' we are still informed that 'an Indian is an Indian. Many of his inborn traits are enough to set a white man's teeth on edge.'

The book serves two purposes. For the specialist, it is a valuable contemporary description of a mode of life now virtually extinct and one of which few of its practitioners were able to record. For the generalist, it is one of those very rare works that appear to inform and to entertain in equal measure. Ingstad's style is plain and simple and well-adapted to the narrative form, but this does not prevent him from introducing, at appropriate points, sections that one might feel could almost be expressed as blank verse: 'Then it is my turn to tell about the land of the white man. They want to know all about the great canoes on the water which no one can drink.'

This simplicity greatly aids translation, which should always be as transparent as possible, and enables the reader to feel that, by the time he has finished the work, he knows the writer well. In format, the book is attractively presented with a helpful map and a selection of interesting contemporary photographs. It contains no index, which is reasonable in the context. The publishers append to the text a full note on the typeface in which the book is set.

To sum up, this reprint is valuable and timely and is to be welcomed. It is an excellent read and one that is very difficult to put down. This reviewer believes that there would be few readers of *Polar Record* who would not both enjoy it and benefit from it. (Ian R. Stone, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.)

**MARINE MANAGEMENT IN DISPUTED AREAS: THE CASE OF THE BARENTS SEA.** Robin Churchill and Geir Ulfstein. 1992. London and New York: Routledge. 182p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-415-03811-1. £37.50.

The focus of this book, which is part of a series concerned with the management of disputed marine areas, centres around two legal questions that remain unresolved in the Barents Sea. The first relates strictly to the riparian states