

Book Reviews

The Northern Review, vol. 1, no. 1.

For centuries, Canada's northern regions have held a certain fascination for scholars of diverse disciplines, but it was not until 1947 that *Arctic* appeared as the first academic journal devoted entirely to study of the far north. Some forty years later, a new scholarly publication, *The Northern Review*, was added to the ever-growing list of northern periodicals. The first issue is a handsome piece, complete with a beautiful Ted Harrison painting on its front cover. On the inside, readers will be delighted to discover that the contents indeed are worthy of such a splendid presentation. But is there truly a need for yet another periodical on northern Canada?

Two of the editors, N. Alexander Easton and Aron Senkpiel of Yukon College, ask the same question. In their opinion, the *Review's* existence is justified for several interrelated reasons: the increasing number of northern-based scholars requiring a publication outlet, the need for a multidisciplinary emphasis in northern studies, the fact that the *Review* is produced in Canada's own "north of 60," and the growth of northern-based institutions of higher education, notably Yukon and Arctic colleges. Central to their argument is the premise that previous scholarly studies and publications have originated from southern academic institutions and derived from experience provided through research and travel subsidized by government grants. According to Easton and Senkpiel, most northern scholars are denied equal access to financial assistance "because they do not work for a university, and many lack doctorates." It is their hope that "the *Review*, by assuming the responsibility of publishing northern scholarship and by demonstrating the scholarly abilities of northerners, can help change this and, thus, contribute in a modest but significant way to this very special part of the world." On the other hand, the presence of a third editor, former Yukon resident Kenneth Coates, now teaching at the University of Victoria, seems to indicate more than a symbolic link and tolerance of

southern academics and their institutions. However, the rationale for a new journal is certainly credible, and hopefully this new endeavour will be a first step of many towards integrating the efforts and knowledge of all scholars to the optimum benefit of both "north and south."

The subsequent articles are indeed multidisciplinary and of exceptional quality and interest. Julia Cruikshank of Yukon College describes the changes in methodology now employed in ethnographic research that offers new insights into the cultural traditions of the indigenous peoples of the north. Arguing that conventional methods employed by southern anthropologists tended to reinforce the assumption that acculturation was inevitable, Cruikshank points to the fact of cultural persistence as proof of the need for new approaches involving full collaboration of northerners. Southern university-based research is no longer adequate, she maintains; only intensive on-site field work can provide a legitimate base for analytical comment.

Reflecting a genuine effort to balance the multidisciplinary objective with a multi-regional perspective of the north, the next article focuses on archaeological pursuits in the Mackenzie Valley and is followed by the history of Nunavut and the Inuit fight for self-government. The former, by Charles Arnold, senior archaeologist at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, is an informative up-date on attempts to preserve the remains of 500-year-old Siglit villages in the Mackenzie Delta; the latter, by Peter Jull, former research director and policy advisor for the Nunavut Constitutional Forum, gives one of the most forceful arguments in defence of the political goals sought by the Inuit of the eastern Arctic. "It is not an off-the-shelf theory from a university or from consultants, or a vague dream," writes Jull, "but a practical evolution in community sentiment. It combines the experience of Canadian constitution-making . . . with the hopes and needs of a distinct population in a unique physical territory." Citing the *Brundtland Report*, Jull warns that the Inuit are no longer dependent upon the vicissitudes of Ottawa but are steadily gaining support from those with like concerns and experience throughout the world, as well as among members of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Editor Kenneth Coates offers an equally compelling argument for a re-examination of the Yukon Indians. Employing an ethnocentric interpretation of history, Coates artfully relates a century of adaptation to Euro-Canadian influences, suggesting that the native Indian population have proved their lasting commitment to "harvesting and a mixed economy" and that their priorities should be those of the government in all future initiatives. The concluding article by Nicholas Tuele, chief curator

of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, explores the inspiration behind Ted Harrison's vibrant portraits of the Yukon through a moving biographical journey into the artist's past. Book reviews and various items of interest to northern scholars round out this first volume of what promises to be an innovative and exciting addition to the growing collection of academic publications. *The Northern Review* is off to an impressive start — it is hoped that future numbers will match the calibre of the first.

Trent University

SHELAGH GRANT

The Central Okanagan Records Survey, compiled and edited by Kathleen Barlee. SSHRCC Canadian Studies Research Tools. Co-investigators: Duane Thomson, Maurice Williams, Kathleen Barlee. Kelowna: Okanagan College Press, 1988. Pp. vii, 123.

British Columbia historiography, like the development of the province itself, has long suffered from a tendency to equate its southwestern tip with the larger entity. The location of the three established universities and of major archives in Vancouver and Victoria has exacerbated the propensity for scholars and their students to research and write from a limited perspective.

The recent decision to establish degree-granting institutions at other locations across the province will hopefully ameliorate the situation, but so will the publication of such useful bibliographical tools as *The Central Okanagan Records Survey*. Kathleen Barlee cannot be too highly commended as compiler and editor, and Duane Thomson and Maurice Williams as fellow investigators, not only for initiating the project but also for bringing it to successful conclusion in so accessible a format. Whether a potential researcher be an established academic, a student, or a member of the general public, he or she will have no difficulty in using this attractive, readable volume to determine the existence, nature, and location of potentially relevant material.

The Central Okanagan Records Survey is divided into four principal sections. The first details the classification system by which materials are organized in the volume, in effect the nature of the institution in which they are located. These range widely from such expected entities as cities, museums, and school districts to much more innovative locations including hospitals, Indian organizations, businesses, religious institutions, and private collections. Another section contains the address of each institution,