

form in 1972, what existed only in memory, or when customs had fallen into disuse. This difficulty is pervasive in the sections on religion, philosophy and ceremonialism which occupy almost half of the book, and is also apparent in other sections (especially the section on warfare; see Kiyewakan's story of a Sioux raiding party, pp. 55-58) where attention to dates would have made this material much more serviceable to the ethnohistorian. Howard's informants, many of them known to this reviewer, were and are by no means insensitive to exact chronology. One would like to know what questions Howard asked them.

All but three of Howard's informants were over 60. He would have gained a different impression of the survival of the kinship system if he had consulted some younger people. Instead, he concluded that the system had survived without signs of breakdown (p. 85). Although many of the Sioux who were under 30 at the time of Howard's fieldwork, including those who were fluent speakers of the language, did not use or understand the full range of kinship terminology, Howard concluded that the kinship system had survived intact. In fact, English kin terms were and are now commonly employed while speaking Dakota, and insight into the structure of the old kinship system is generally absent among young adults.

This book will probably be most useful to those in search of information about specific culture traits and patterns of the Canadian Sioux. In this regard, the information that Howard presents is detailed and interestingly nuanced. The sections on technology and crafts are particularly recommended.

The Community Apart: A Case Study of a Canadian Indian Reserve Community

Yngve Georg Lithman

Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1984. vi + 186 pp. \$20.00 (cloth), \$6.95 (paper)

Reviewer: David H. Stymeist
University of Manitoba

Lithman's monograph on Fort Alexander was originally published in 1978 in the Stockholm Studies in Anthropology and has recently been reissued by the University of Manitoba Press. Unfortunately, only minor, cosmetic changes have been made in the text, the most obvious of these being the adoption of the pseudonym, Maple River, for the southern Manitoba reserve where Lithman worked between 1971 and 1974. Although Lithman's fieldwork is good, much of his book has the raw, unpolished feel of a thesis draft, and many sections are unnecessarily laboured. The introduction is far too long and complex to be easily assimilated, and his chapter on inter-ethnic interaction is marred by the construction of a cumbersome framework that is somewhat awkwardly imposed on observational data. However, these chapters contain descriptions of patterns of geographical mobility and parameters of employment in bush and mill operations that are most informative and valuable.

In Dunning's (1964) terminology, Fort Alexander is a "southern, type B" reserve which is presently characterized by a high rate of unemployment and a considerable reliance on transfer payments. Established early as a significant trading post, Fort Alexander became a reserve in 1871. Under the tutelage of the Indian

Affairs Branch (IAB), its inhabitants quickly and successfully geared their economy to agriculture. Later, agricultural expansion was curtailed by the IAB for reasons Lithman does not explore, and farming and livestock raising were abandoned during World War II and the immediate postwar years. This was followed by a period of seasonal wage labour, but the progressive mechanization of agriculture and forestry left most reserve job-seekers unemployed for long periods of time, and the community lagged seriously behind the surrounding non-native settlements.

The most recent period of Fort Alexander's history is the local government period, which began in the late 1960s with the initiation of a number of vocational programs and a massive influx of federal funds. Gradually, the administration of these programs and funds came under the control of the Chief and Band Council. It is in the analysis of local politics in this setting that Lithman's work finds its own ground. Transfer payments are regarded as a right, ". . . as compensations for the injustices which have befallen, and befall, all Indians" (p. 161). However, the distribution of these payments is subject to considerations other than those of need. Local politics is the fluid area of "bunches" who vie defensively with each other for an equitable distribution of common resources. Although at any particular point in time the community may appear to be rife with factional disputes, Lithman's discussion of the 1972 North Shore School controversy illustrates that a coalescence of forces can occur and that effective bargaining with external agencies can also take place.

Although there are many tantalizing aspects to Lithman's book, it lacks a certain precision and focus. One might wish that Lithman had reworked much of his material, that he had more carefully delineated his interest in local-level politics, and that his book were more easily accessible to the nonspecialist. Nevertheless, this volume is a unique and valuable documentation of the social structure of a Canadian Indian reserve, and an important contribution to Canadian native studies.

Reference Cited

Dunning, R.W.

1964 Some Problems of Reserve Indian Communities: A Case Study. *Anthropologica* N.S. 6(1):3-38.

Canadian Inuit Literature: The Development of a Tradition

Robin McGrath

Ottawa, Ontario: National Museum of Man Mercury Series, Canadian Ethnology Service Paper Number 94, 1984. x + 230 pp. gratis (paper)

Reviewer: John Matthiasson

University of Manitoba

When a volume on Inuit literature written by the Inuit themselves can be published, the Inuit have truly made the transition from the "Stone Age" to the "Electronic Age." In setting out to write this monograph, Robin McGrath assumed a large task. Originally produced as a thesis, the volume surveys nothing less than all of Canadian and Greenlandic Inuit literature from the earliest recording of oral traditions to the contemporary production of autobiographies, novels, and political treatises. The library research which went into this volume must have been staggering.