

property." Surely the meaning could have been delivered in a more simple and straightforward fashion!

Butterfly Books Ltd. is described on the dust jacket as "a Canadian prairie book publishing company which originated in 1976 as the Publishing Division of 'Walter P. Stewart Consultant Limited'." *Canadian Books in Print* indicates that Stewart has used Butterfly Books to publish seven titles. *Eagle feathers in the dust* reveals evidence of sloppy editing: spelling errors, inappropriate use of the hyphen in compound words as well as words beginning with a prefix, e.g. "hill-side, out-right, over-work, pre-occupation, age-less and re-assuring", and vagueness in antecedents of pronouns. An editor needed to tighten Stewart's writing. On page 134, for instance the reader finds that "in the battle at Little Big Horn he [Sitting Bull] had confronted one of its prime generals (Custer of Civil War fame)." Given that some thirty-five pages before, Stewart had devoted four pages to the battle and two pages to Custer, the parenthetical information appears redundant.

In addition to having a Canadian author and publishing house, the book's connection to this country comes about because Sitting Bull and approximately 3,000 Sioux came to the land of the Grandmother in 1877 after defeating the 7th Cavalry. Stewart devotes only one-third of the book's length to this period of Sitting Bull's life. While Stewart is obviously most sympathetic toward Sitting Bull and the Sioux, the failure to produce either a good story or a good history book will prevent juvenile readers from remaining with his writing long enough to share his feelings.

The image of the historical Indian has often been distorted into that of the uncivilized, ignorant, bloodthirsty savage by motion pictures, television, and even school textbooks. The works by Harrington, Reekie and Stewart generally presented portrayals of the Canadian woodland, coastal and plains Indian which could have provided needed counterbalances to the negative stereotypes, had only each author met the promise of telling a good story.

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CONSTRUCTING A CANOE

The Canoe: a history of the craft from Panama to the Arctic, Kenneth G. Roberts and Philip Shackleton. Macmillan, 1983. 280 pp. \$50.00 cloth. ISBN 0-7715-9582-4.

"The Canoe." The subject of the book under consideration is, as the authors

noted in a interview, "The most important basic transportation in the New World." Canoes were made from a variety of ways, but they shared three things in common: they were constructed from available resources, they were designed to meet the conditions of the waters on which they were used, and they were all propelled by someone who was facing in the direction he or she was going (unlike the rowboat where the rower looked at where he'd been). Dealing with a variety of cultures from Panama northward, the authors consider three types of canoes: dugouts, skin-covered boats, and bark canoes. The majority of the book considers the Native peoples, although later sections discuss the British and the French, and the last chapter is about "The Modern Canoe." Although both Roberts and Shackleton have lamented the fact that they had to leave canoe-loads of material out of the book, their volume is incredibly rich in what it does include: discussions of the construction and uses of canoes; excerpts from early explorers; and dozens of illustrations, many of which are reproductions of early engravings and full-color eighteenth and nineteenth century paintings. Oh, yes — as the authors proudly and humorously note, there is also the first bibliography illustrated in full color. *The canoe* is Macmillan's entry in the 1983 Coffee Table Book sweepstakes; but it's much more than that: it's a lively, colorful, and very knowledgeable and thorough labor of love, and one which would be a valuable addition to the shelves of any high school library.

Jon C. Stott

COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS:

A REVIEW OF 5 NATIVE PEOPLES' FOLKLORE COLLECTIONS

Legends of the river people, Norman Lerman and Betty Keller. November House, 1976. 127 pp. \$6.95 paper ISBN 0-88894-115-3; ***Tales of the Mohawks***, Alma Greene/Forbidden Voice. J.M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Ltd., 1975. 186 pp. paper. ISBN 0-460-95086-X; ***Indian tales of the northwest***, Patricia F. Mason. CommCept Publishing Ltd., 1976. 102 pp. \$5.95 paper. No ISBN; ***Tales of the Labrador Indians***, Harold Horwood. Harry Cuff Publications, Ltd., 1981. 50 pp. \$4.00 paper. ISBN 0-919095-15-1; ***Song of the forest***, Isabel Barclay. Oberon Press, 1977. unpaginated. \$6.95 paper. ISBN 0-88750-228-8.

With the increasing interest in Canadian Native Peoples' literature, there has been a steady growth in the publication of Indian folklore, myths, legends, and tales. Some books have been very good; some very bad; most mediocre. Still, even the worst may provide some insights into the beliefs and psyche of the different tribes. All too often, though, the telling of the tales is not done by Native Peoples but by whites who have refined both tales and accompanying English in their attempt to cater to white audiences and, thus, have blurred