

ethnicity of occupation in a region where two diverse cultural and biological groups exist. Clark illustrates the immense value of obtaining first-hand cultural knowledge to enhance archaeological field research. It is obvious that there would have been minimal data determination without the assistance of both Koyukon and Inupiat elders.

Other aspects of the report are also quite good. The book is lavishly appointed with figures and tables that quickly make it easy to interpret complex data. The plates clearly show the site environments and the artifacts recovered.

There were only minor negative aspects to the report. There were a few typographical errors, although these are probably the result of the Mercury Series paper being prepared and distributed quickly. Scales were absent from some of the figures and plates and would have been highly useful for interpretation.

In summary, *Who Lived in this House?* is recommended for anyone with an interest in determining ethnicity in areas with cultural contact.

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The Alaska-Klondike Diary of Elizabeth Robins, 1900 edited by Victoria Joan Moessner and Joanna E. Gates. Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Press, 1999. Xviii, 390 pp., photographs, maps, references, indices. ISBN 0-912006-99-4 (pb). \$20.95 US. Reviewed by Barbara Kelcey.

The editors of *The Alaska-Klondike Diary of Elizabeth Robins* declare this journal “the most engaging, witty and readable one available that documents the Alaska and Yukon territory of 1900.” This diary is all of these things, although it might be argued that being the “most” would be a stretch for those familiar with the others. What might be a better description of the Robins diary was offered by the author herself in one of her articles reprinted in the appendix. She wrote that she had acquired “a queer new picture to hang on memory’s wall about Nome,” and, in many ways, that line best describes what the diary has to offer for even those well familiar with Klondike and Alaska Gold Rush literature.

This diary recounts the travels of American author, playwright and actress Elizabeth Robins who goes off in search of her brother in Alaska and, as in many of these journals, there are accounts of preparations and of the trip itself. Robins, however, adds incredible detail about accommodation, meals, and the sensual experiences of life in gold rush towns and on gold rush beaches—not usual in diaries of this place and time, where the focus is often greed and avarice. Perhaps more important, Robins paints word pictures describing the many people she meets along the way. Character is important to Robins, and reporting the character of those she meets is important to her.

At the same time, the introspective is often missing, which is not surprising because this journal is actually the notebook for future writing, and, indeed, the editors point out that the original is full of paste-ins, margin notes, and added commentary. That does not diminish the value of this diary in any way though and, once the challenge of reading short, sharp sentences is overcome, the tale becomes wonderfully neat, which in itself answers part of the editorial question about whether the world needs yet another Klondike gold rush diary. The other part of the answer can be found in remembering that this is not strictly a Klondike diary, because Robins does not visit the Yukon until well after the gold rush is complete.

The flaw in this edition is not in the diary itself, but in the failure of the editors to place Robins and her diary into context. They concentrate, rather, on her writing and where it fits into the family picture and into Robins' career. That is what a biography is for, and one of the editors has already written that. This places Robins in the spotlight but the diary is focussed on one moment that might be exploited to make more sense of the diary itself. For example, there is a lengthy description of time spent with Commissioner Brown and his wife who is identified as a former writer for *The Globe* (incorrectly as *The Toronto Globe*) in Toronto. Brown's pseudonym was Faith Fenton, the subject of Jill Downie's *A Passionate Pen: The Life and Times of Faith Fenton*, (Toronto: HarperCollins, 1996). Contemporary diaries such as *Two Women in the Klondike* by Mary Hitchcock (New York: Putnam's, 1899), which offers a good parallel for the steamship travel just three years earlier, or the writings of Flora Shaw, mentioned in the text but left out of the bibliography, suggest gaps in the research, and many good contextual works don't appear in the references.

Reviews, however, are less about editors and more rightly about diaries, although these two should have been more diligent about noticing that Robins travelled on the Canadian Pacific Railroad not the Canadian Railroad as they name it, a sloppy mistake that reinforces the sense of a lack of research for context.

The reader will like Elizabeth Robins; will like how she shares the advice offered as she travels across the region like how the key to success in the Klondike is to be a Swede, not know how to read and write, and that you must be dead broke. Where that places her she does not offer a comment. Those who think they have read enough "Klondike" diaries to last should also remember that Robins recalls meeting a woman from the rush in '98 relating "old trail stories," for the one Robins tells is indeed a new one, and one worth reading.

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Northern Eden: Community-based Wildlife Management in Canada by Leslie Treseder, Jamie Honda-McNeil, Mina Berkes, Fikret Berkes, Joe Dragon, Claudia Notzke, Tanja