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Okladnikov, A. P.: *The Soviet Far East in antiquity: An archaeological and historical study of the Maritime Region of the USSR*. Edited by Henry N. Michael. Arctic Institute of North America, Anthropology of the North, Translations from Russian Sources No. 6, (Published for the Arctic Institute of North America by the University of Toronto Press, 1965), v + 280 pp., \$ 6.00.

A. P. Okladnikov is perhaps not only the most successful but also the most typical personality among Soviet archaeologists. "Still digging" today, he has explored—for a while almost without much competition—vast parts of Siberia that are, all in all, larger than Western Europe. Moreover, he worked in Inner Asia and discovered the most famous site of paleolithic man. Several times he came upon entirely unknown prehistoric cultures. He has always given his reports immediately and with care. So the work presented here is only one of his many books.

Now he is the Chief of the Archaeological Department in the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences at Novosibirsk, an appointment for which the government wanted the most progressive and dynamic man. This information may be added to the introduction of the Editor, which is otherwise very good and useful.

I think this book was selected for translation because of its importance for at least three groups of scholars:

1. The book contains important informations for historians interested in the northern neighbors of China from the Han dynasty onwards, especially during the P'o-hai and the Jurchen-State, i. e. up to the thirteenth century.

2. The material collected in this book is useful for anthropologists faced with the problem, whether a center situated on the coast north of Korea in the so-called "Maritime Region" of the Russian Soviet Republic was an important factor for the formation of the intricate pattern of cultures in and around the Pacific.

3. Finally, this work is written for the archaeologists interested in obtaining data regarding migrations to and, perhaps also, from the New World.

As for the anthropologists, I want to emphasize that the thesis put down in the chapter: "The ancient culture of the Maritime Region and the origin of Eskimo culture" is extremely doubtful and not shared by most of the younger Soviet scholars.

The archaeologists, too, will find a better synopsis of the migration problems involved here in the studies of Chester S. Chard, e. g., in his most stimulating

paper soon to be published: "Reconstructing Human Ecology and Population History in Prehistoric Northeast Asia," read at the US—Japan Cooperative Science Program Seminar, held at Sapporo, Japan, August, 1966. This, however, is not the fault of Okladnikov himself. His book appeared in 1959, the translation in 1965. In the meantime more excavation was done, new radiocarbon dates (though still highly questionable) forced all of us to leave behind many traditional ideas. We are now in a period of re-evaluation and re-thinking.

So perhaps the historians will gain most by using this book. They will find here a valuable illustration to the rather scanty contemporary reports given by Chinese and other sources.

The anthropologist and the archaeologist may regard this book as a monument of a level of information which we have happily passed.

Heidelberg

Karl Jettmar