

ditions of hemispherical scope, dating from the eighth to the twelfth centuries, which augmented the expansion of the Middle Missouri Tradition into the Big Bend Locality.

The earlier and short-lived Pretty Head B component, related to the Over Focus, is considered the Initial Horizon of the Middle Missouri Tradition. This Tradition "is marginal to Mississippian, as know from the Cahokia area, in the same manner as Oneota and Fort Ancient, and, like the latter, owes much to the indigenous Woodland people." Jigg Thompson A, and the loess mantle separating it from the B component "documents the decline and demise of the Grand Detour Phase" and reflects a drying trend after A.D. 1200.

The senior author reiterates and clarifies his ideas of the relationship of the sites to the later Coalescent Tradition.

Pottery rim sherds were instrumental in setting up the five components of the phase. Two new wares and a number of types were defined: Grass Rope Ware consisted of the types Forman S-rim and Marken S-rim; Cable Ware included the Anderson Everted Rim and Chamberlain Everted Rim. Subtypes were distinguished by decorative techniques and varieties by dominant motif. Ceramic trends showed incised S-rims earlier than the cord impressed ones; the replacement of angular S-forms by smoothly curved S-rims; and rims become progressively higher from the early to late times.

It was disappointing to read that non-ceramic materials reflected no significant variation and analysis was based on site separation rather than finer separation by components. Also it is disconcerting to be unable to match all the illustrated artifacts with the sites involved. Group 1 projectile points are considered by the reviewer to be an early variety of the Plains side-notched type and a date between A.D. 1100 and A.D. 1300 would be in order, though earlier than points of this type in the Northwestern Plains.

The village plan and architecture showed temporal changes from a bastioned moat in the initial Grand Detour Phase village to its disuse, then a completely unfortified village, and a return finally to simple hurried fortification reflecting pressures from outside groups. Grand Detour houses were arranged

in rows as opposed to the earlier Pretty Head B component. They were rectangular, semi-subterranean structures with the entrance facing in a southerly direction.

William Bass and others cover the human skeletal and faunal materials. The final section gives a good summary of the Lower Brule locality and compares these sites with other localities from the period A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1750. The Grand Detour report is a useful addition to the ever growing archeological literature of the Great Plains.

Ohio's Prehistoric Peoples. MARTHA A. POTTER. Columbus: The Ohio Historical Society, 1968. vi + 75 pp., illustrations, additional reading, chronology. n.p. (paper).

Reviewed by JAMES B. GRIFFIN
University of Michigan

This paper by the assistant curator of archeology of the Ohio State Museum was written "to help the layman become acquainted with some of the living habits, the artistic achievements, the religious activities, and even the physical characteristics of all of the prehistoric Indian groups that once lived in this state."

There are summary statements of the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Adena, Hopewell, Intrusive Mound and Cole, Fort Ancient, and Erie occupations of the Ohio area. The volume will be of most value to the audience for which it was designed and should be particularly useful for schools, for museum sales, for collateral reading and other such markets.

The author in a number of instances has indicated the uncertainty, and something of the variety, of interpretations of various facets of Ohio prehistory. Very few interpretations of prehistoric behavior last very long. The emphases in this volume, naturally, are on those favored at the Ohio State Museum. Perhaps the most unusual item is the drawing of twenty-one or more men attacking a distraught mammoth.

Aghvook, White Eskimo: Otto Geist and Alaskan Archaeology. CHARLES J. KEIM. Foreword by Olaus J. Murie. College, AK: University of Alaska Press (distributed by University of Washington

Press), 1969. xix + 313 pp., illustrations, index. \$7.95 (cloth).

Reviewed by WILLIAM IRVING
University of Toronto

Until about 1924, Otto Geist was just another immigrant to the United States from pre-war Bavaria, with perhaps a little more strength of body and character than most, but at the age of thirty-six not a likely subject for a biographer. By 1927 he was living on St. Lawrence Island and a perspicuous man of letters might have foreseen that his story would bear telling. Otto had grown naturally to fit a role created many years before on the frontiers of North America, that of dedicated, thorough, and adventurous collector and observer of natural history, and particularly of the fast disappearing relics of the Pleistocene, both living and extinct. He played this role with a flair for the next thirty-five years.

As a prehistorian, an ethnologist, or a paleontologist, Otto Geist missed greatness by a considerable margin, for although he was not unfamiliar with scholarship he seldom attempted to practice it. Perhaps, like many other astute frontiersmen, he was unable to translate the knowledge and understanding of primitive man and nature, which became essential parts of his life, into organized prose: surely, no Francis Parkman was he. But he brought back huge collections, wrote copiously and meticulously in his journals, and by advice and example, as well as collaboration, he contributed to the careers of two generations of Alaskan anthropologists and scores of naturalists. With C. E. Bunnell and F. G. Rainey he was instrumental in establishing the University of Alaska Museum and Department of Anthropology. When he was awarded an honorary degree of D.Sc. by the University of Alaska in 1957, one might have thought that it was decided upon by acclamation of the University community, rather than by the Board of Regents. Such was the regard in which Otto Geist was held.

All this is evident in Keim's biography. Years before Otto's death Keim showed foresight and a sense of responsibility by interviewing him intensively so that he could one day write his story. It is a good story, one that I recommend to Otto's friends, colleagues and acquaintances, and to anyone

able to read a book who is interested in ethnology, natural history, or old-fashioned adventure. The book is not quite a biography. It is a long story, somewhat in the style of many that Otto used to tell: selective in supporting detail, pithy in subject matter, and good-humored (or at worst uncomplaining). Keim is gentle and reticent in his analysis of his friend, and of such things as the strains of institutional rivalries which plagued, but perhaps also stimulated, much of Geist's work during the 1930's.

For me, the vignettes of no longer to be seen Bering Sea Eskimo life, taken from Otto's journals, are the best part of the book. The accounts of his travels are useful; the story of his childhood is a bit tedious. but perhaps one cannot write well about Bavarian family life and Alaskan frontiersmanship in the same book.

A good ethnographic cleanup must still be in store for the serious student who mines Otto's journals in the University of Alaska Library.

Pre-Columbian Contact within Nuclear America. J. CHARLES KELLEY and CARROLL L. RILEY, eds. *Mesoamerican Studies*, 4. Research Records of the University Museum '69M4A. Carbondale, Illinois: University Museum, Southern Illinois University, 1969. \$2.00 (paper).

Reviewed by BETTY J. MEGGERS
Smithsonian Institution

The three papers in this volume present evidence for direct contact by sea between northern South America and western Mexico.

Clinton R. Edwards reviews the archaeological and historical information on seaworthy vessels and concludes not only that nautical technology was adequate for long distance voyages but that aboriginal sailing rafts were capable of faster and probably more comfortable voyages than sixteenth century European ships. He suggests four explanations for the discontinuous distribution of cultural traits along the Pacific coast: (1) non-stop trips; (2) rapid coastwise travel without trade en route; (3) coastwise trade with the goods subsequently traded out of the region; and (4) selective trading controlled by the cultural preference of the