

# **BOOK REVIEW**

**By Wally Olson**

**The Eskimos and Aleuts by Don E. Dumond, Published by Thames and Hudson, London, 1977. \$12.95.**

Professor Dumond has done a great deal of archaeological research, principally in Southwestern Alaska, and now has written a general survey of Eskimo-Aleut prehistory. In addition to describing the coastal people, he gives a general background to the inland Eskimos and Athapaskans. The recent studies made along the pipeline and other portions of the State have changed a lot of the views earlier held by archaeologists. The picture of the peopling of the northern region is still pretty much of a jigsaw puzzle with many pieces missing. Generally speaking, Dumond has done a good job of pulling together the loose pieces of research and presenting them into a general scheme of prehistory both on the basis of archaeology and linguistics.

This reviewer found Dumond to be somewhat conservative in the dates he gives for a few sites, but perhaps it is better to err this way than to go to the other extreme. Because of the scope of the book, this writer is waiting for some others such as Dr. Michael Krauss, Dr. William Laughlin and Dr. Don Clark to give their expert opinions in the fields of linguistics and Aleut prehistory.

For the average reader of the Tundra Times, the book may be a little too dry and technical. The writer spends a great deal of time giving rather precise technical descriptions and interpretations, but is a little weak in painting a picture of the early cultures. Again, this may be a matter of being conservative and not going beyond the exact information, but it would be a little more interesting to understand the early cultures and daily life on the basis of sites and artifacts found.

For schools and libraries that wish to have some good, scholarly information on Alaska's prehistory, the book is well worth the purchase price. It is a good reference book for all of Alaska.