

scientific, who in one way or another intruded on their isolation. An overview of the history of exploration and 'conquest' of Greenland and a long introduction are followed by chapters on Ross, Franklin, Kane, Hall, Nares, Hendrik, Greely, Peary, Cook, Mylius-Erichsen, Rasmussen, Freuchen, Koch, Shackleton, Holtved and Malaurie, with digressions on lesser figures and happenings. Malaurie is interested in people and human interactions as much as in geographical exploration, making this to some degree an idiosyncratic Arctic counterpart of the excellent *Readers Digest Antarctica: great stories from the frozen continent*. One could look far for a more entertaining or better-illustrated account of Arctic history.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE SOVIET NORTH. IWGIA. 1990. Copenhagen, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA Document No.67). 56p. ISSN 0105-6387.

In March 1990 the Soviet Union's Association of Northern Peoples was founded at a historic congress held in the Kremlin (see report elsewhere in this issue). This publication collects and translates the Chairman's opening speech, the declaration of the congress and the Association's statutes and programme. These are preceded by a helpful introduction by IWGIA's representative at the congress, Jens Dahl. Themes such as environmentalism, public health, constitutional reform and self-government emerge clearly as major preoccupations. Recent IWGIA publications have unerringly chosen to translate some of the most important current Russian texts on northern peoples and this booklet continues this trend. Indispensable for anyone interested in circumpolar peoples or in any aspect of the Soviet North. (Piers Vitebsky.)

THE NATIONALITIES QUESTION IN THE SOVIET UNION. G. Smith, (editor). London and New York, Longman. 389 p, hard cover ISBN 0-582-03953-3 £28.00. Soft cover ISBN 0-582-03955-X £14.95.

The problem of ethnic consciousness in the USSR, which Lenin thought would fade away in favour of class consciousness, now seems almost more urgent than that of economic reform. In this book, western specialists have written substantial and up-to-date chapters on 21 ethnic groups across the entire country, with a strong emphasis on the perestroika period. For readers with an interest in Siberia and the Arctic, these include the only contemporary accounts in English of the Buryat (Caroline Humphrey) and Yakut (Piers Vitebsky). The editor's introduction and the chapter on the Russians as the dominant nationality (Simon Dixon) are also helpful. There are extensive tables and references. (Piers Vitebsky.)

ARCTIC VILLAGE. Marshall, R. 1991. Anchorage, University of Alaska press. 403p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 912006-51-X.

Subtitled 'A 1930s portrait of Wiseman, Alaska', this is a reprint of an account, first published in 1933, of a small

mid-Alaskan village settlement where Robert Marshall, a forester, found himself living during the early 1930s. Marshall went north to study growth of trees at the timberline, but ended up studying the mixture of white folk and Eskimos who made up the community. He considered them the happiest folk he had ever encountered, and his account of them, here rated '... one of the most revealing and inspiring books ever written about the American frontier', glows with his discovery.

QUESTIONNES SIBERIENNES, SIBERIAN QUESTIONS, SIBIRSKIYA VOPROSY. (Bulletin No. 1, Peuples autochtones). 1990. Institut d'études slaves, Paris. ISSN 1150-1340; ISSN 2-7204-0251-6.

This new journal is edited by Boris Chichlo, anthropologist and doyen in the west of Siberian affairs. The first number, entirely in French, is devoted to the northern native peoples. It includes translations of some important Russian articles as well as specially commissioned pieces by authoritative Soviet commentators. There are also interviews, reports on conferences, reviews of other journals and résumés of theses in progress. The editorial, which is in French, English and Russian, stresses the mutual interdependence of native peoples and the northern environment and promises a second issue devoted specifically to ecology. There is much of importance here which cannot be found elsewhere in any western language. (Piers Vitebsky.)

INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION OF CETACEANS. Hammond, P. S., Mizroch, S. A. and Donovan, G. P. (editors). 1990. Cambridge, International Whaling Commission. (Report of the IWC Special Issue 12). 440p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-906975-23-9. £40.00, US\$75.00.

A collection of over 40 papers on the use of photo-identification and other techniques for estimating population parameters and other variables of whale and dolphin stocks. The volume incorporates the proceedings of a symposium and workshop on individual recognition and estimation of cetacean population parameters, held on 1-4 May 1988. Following the report of the workshop, papers are grouped under five headings: Field and laboratory methodology; Analytical problems; Population parameters, dynamics and behaviour; Case studies (by species) and Preliminary/feasibility studies. Obtainable from the IWC, The Red House, Station Road, Histon, Cambridge: include £5.00 (US\$12.00) for mailing.

ARCTIC BIOLOGY COURSE 1989, IGLOOLIK NWT CANADA. Jørgensen, M. (editor). 1991. Copenhagen, Zoologisk Museum, University of Copenhagen. 140p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-982514-3-0. £8.00, DK90.00.

Report of a two-week polar field course for Danish university students, held in northern Canada under an agreement between University of Copenhagen and McGill University, Canada. The fortunate students studied hydrographic and sea ice conditions, marine plankton, terrestrial and

freshwater meiofauna, polychaetes and other marine macrofauna, freshwater and marine fishes, and birds and mammals of the Igloodik area. They also made illuminating comparisons between the local cultures in Igloodik and Godhavn in Greenland. A useful account of an interesting and inspired educational development, which other polar teaching departments might emulate.

ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY: THE ROYAL NAVY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. Barnett, C. 1991. London, Hodder and Stoughton. 1052 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-340-33901-2. £30.00.

Correlli Barnett, of the Churchill Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, has written a number of books on the history of World War II, and on Britain and the Common-

wealth. In this volume he pays tribute to the Royal Navy, especially to its role in keeping sea lanes open so that action could be pressed on land. Readers with polar interests may be assured that Arctic operations, especially the Norwegian campaigns and Murmansk convoys, receive full coverage, though — not surprisingly in a book of this scope — there is space for only passing mention of many of the smaller operations off Greenland, and in Svalbard and the South Atlantic theatres. Written in a good plain narrative style, with many good stories that lose nothing in re-telling: well illustrated with maps and black and white photographs, and provided with extensive notes and references. Strongly recommended for both reference libraries and interested readers.

In Brief

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT FOR ANT-ARCTICA MINING BAN. On Friday 10 May, in a written answer to a parliamentary question, UK Prime Minister John Major reversed British policy by expressing his government's hope that the draft protocol tabled at the Madrid Antarctic Treaty meeting would '... provide the basis for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment'. The statement continued: 'Of particular importance are the provisions for a ban on mineral activity for 50 years, and mechanisms for a review of the ban after 50 years, or before if everyone agrees. The results of these provisions would be that there can never be mining in the Antarctic unless all the present consultative parties agree.' The proposal is scheduled for discussion at a further meeting in Madrid in June 1991. (Source: Michael McCarthy, *The Times* Tuesday May 14.)

UK/ARGENTINE ACCORD ON FALKLAND ISLANDS FISHERIES. Following meetings in Madrid on 12–14 and 23–24 November 1990, the UK and Argentine governments agreed to establish a joint South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Meeting at least twice yearly, the Commission will assess the state of off-shore fish stocks in the South Atlantic Ocean between 45° and 60°S, and make conservation recommendations to both governments. From 26 December commercial fishing is banned in a wide maritime area east of the Falkland Islands, contiguous with the 150-mile wide Falkland Islands Conservation Zone. The purpose is to protect stocks of illex squid which have been heavily over-fished. (Source: *Falkland Islands Newsletter* 46 (February 1991): 3–5.)

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AWARDS. The Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society has been awarded to Dr Helge and Anne Ingstad for their

research over many years on the Viking site at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland. The site, the only authenticated pre-Columbian European settlement so far discovered, confirmed that Vikings had settled in North America as long ago as 1000 AD. The Gill Memorial Award has been made to Flt Lt K. W. Hankinson RAF for leadership of Arctic expeditions. Influential in military polar expeditions since 1979, Flt Lt Hankinson has helped to shift emphasis from adventure to research: most recently he led a team to Ellesmere Island to test the use of microlite aircraft for air photography of plant communities. (Source: RGS press release 25 April 1991.)

LEAD KILLED FRANKLIN'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION. Analysis of bone and soft-tissue samples from the remains of three members of Sir John Franklin's Northwest Passage expedition of 1845–48, buried on Beechey Island, strongly implicated lead poisoning as the immediate cause of death. Further studies of human remains from the same expedition, buried on King William Island, confirm that those who survived until later in the expedition were also heavily contaminated with lead. A most likely source was the lead solder used in sealing cans of preserved food. (Source: article by W. Kowal and others in *Journal of Archaeological Science* 18: 193–203, quoted in *The Times*, 7 May 1991.)

PROF. A. W. LAWRENCE: A LINK WITH SPRI. Arnold Walter Lawrence, who in his youth was model for the bronze statue which stands in the garden of the Scott Polar Research Institute, died on 31 March 1991, aged 90. A younger brother of Col. T. E. Lawrence, he posed for Lady Kennett, widow of Capt. Robert Falcon Scott. The statue bears the inscription 'Lux perpetua luceat eis'. Commissioned as a war memorial for a public school, it