

biography. As chance would have it, though, the Institute acquired this document just before Dr Richards began his systematic study of Rae's life, and the manuscript served him both as a major source and as a stimulus to his research. Dr Richards continued his careful work for a further 15 years, and it is a great pity that he died suddenly in December 1983, just after making arrangements for its publication but before he could see it in print.

This book will be his monument. He has pulled together a wide range of source material, in addition to the autobiography, to produce what will surely be regarded as the definitive biography of John Rae.

Richards first approached Rae as a fellow Scottish medical doctor, rather than as an authority on Arctic history, a fact that occasionally worried him. He need not have been concerned, for he covers the Arctic and non-Arctic phases of Rae's career with equal competence, and is helped by Rae's own voluminous writings to present an evocative account of his hero's career. He quotes both Rae and his contemporaries frequently and to good effect. Richards' own Scottish medical background gives him a special insight into some less well known aspects of Rae's life. He presents a particularly engaging account of Rae's boyhood in Orkney, he creates an admirable image of Rae's medical training, a subject about which Rae recorded almost nothing, and his descriptions of Rae's medical experiences as a Hudson's Bay Company surgeon are illuminating. In subsequent chapters on Rae's Arctic expeditions Richards does, of course, draw heavily on existing publications, but he has nevertheless worked in much hitherto unpublished material.

An introductory chapter establishes the historical context of Rae's expeditions to survey the mainland coast of Arctic Canada, 1846–54, and there is a concluding assessment of Rae's refinement of native American techniques of living and travelling in Arctic regions. Rae's achievements deserve to be better known, and this admirable book deserves to be widely read.

Dr John Rae is available directly from the publisher, Caedmon of Whitby, 9 John Street, Whitby, England, YO21 3ET. (Clive Holland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, CB2 1ER)

PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHERN CANADA

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTERESTS IN THE NORTH: Third National Workshop on People, Resources, and the Environment North of 60°. Canadian Arctic Resources Committee. 1984. Ottawa, CARC. 758p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-919996-18-3. Can\$19.95.

This publication covers the proceedings of CARC's third and latest national workshop. Format is similar to that used for the first two conferences, which were published as *Arctic Alternatives* (1973) and *Northern Transitions* (1978) and readers familiar with these volumes will know what to expect. The theme of this workshop was 'national and regional interest in resource management in the North', with the major plenary session devoted to land claims issues. Working groups covered areas of natural resource jurisdiction and political development, regional and land-use planning, conservation of environmentally significant areas, mineral development, renewable resources management, inland water resources, ocean management, and development in the Beaufort Sea region.

Although the task of transcribing and collating any conference proceedings is always an unenviable one, the editors seem to have achieved a creditable product that is not too unwieldy. However, the casual reader is still faced with quite a problem when looking for information and often it is necessary to search a whole section for specific data. As such the publication offers good background reading but is likely to be of most use for

reference and research purposes and should undoubtedly be accessible in library collections.

CARC as always manages to attract a diverse mixture of groups and individuals to its conferences and this volume provides interesting and illuminating perspectives on their often widely different approaches to these complex north issues. Incidentally the conference organisers are to be congratulated for actually convening the workshop north of 60°, a precedent it is hoped they will continue in the future. With the new Federal Government now firmly in power after so many years in opposition, it is interesting to speculate on just which northern concerns may see some real progress in the coming months and just what the burning issues will be at CARC's next workshop in 1988–89. (Malcolm Farrow, Frobisher Bay, NWT, Canada, XOA OHO)

GENERAL UMBERTO NOBILE; A BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLIOGRAFIA DI UMBERTO NOBILE. Stolp, Gertrude Nobile. 1984. Firenze, Leo S. Olschki Editore. 113 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 88-222-3296-8. (Bibliotecnica e bibliografia saggi e studi diretti da Francesco Barberi 20).

This definitive bibliography of the pioneer Italian arctic aviator, General Umberto Nobile, edited and compiled by his widow, Dr Gertrude Nobile Stolp, most worthily commemorates the centenary of Nobile's birth on 21 January 1885. The bibliography is divided into two parts; the first deals with the author's complete works subdivided by (a) Monographs, (b) Technical notes, articles and lectures. The second part brings together the more important and significant publications about Nobile under the following headings: (a) Monographs entirely dedicated to Nobile and his polar expeditions, (b) Chapters and sections of books relevant to Nobile and his expeditions, (c) Scientific and technical articles concerning Nobile, (d) Articles about Nobile the man.

The bibliography excludes reviews, press articles, encyclopedia articles, etc. The work is prefaced by a biographical essay and concludes with an appendix 'Umberto Nobile: l'uomo', a selection of published appreciation from the international community, concluding with an autobiographical extract in which Nobile himself pays touching homage to his wife.

To the world at large Nobile is remembered for his historic flights in the dirigibles *Norge* (1926) and *Italia* (1928). The international interest which these voyages aroused is evidenced by the many foreign language editions of his books listed in Section I, several of which have been reprinted since his death in 1978, eg a Russian edition of *Ali sul polo* (*Kryliya nad polyusom*) as recently as 1984. Nevertheless we need to remember that Nobile was first and foremost an aeronautical engineer, as evidenced by the 99 published items listed in this field, complementing which is a table listing the principal characteristics of dirigibles designed by Nobile between 1915–1936.

Though by no means definitive and not entirely free of typographical error, this bibliography will be welcomed by all those involved in polar historical research, and by librarians in particular. Especially valuable are the full-page reproduction of title-pages and the index to persons and associations. The majority of the publications listed are held by the Umberto Nobile Documentation Centre, Historical Museum of the Air Force, Vigna di Valle, Rome, Italy. (H. G. R. King, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)