

Among the festivities commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the *Belgica* expedition was a symposium held at the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University in 1997, and the opportunity has been taken to present two of the papers given on that occasion. These are printed as appendices, following the original appendix by Amundsen, entitled 'The navigation of the Antarctic ice-pack.' According to Russell Gibbons, the editor of the volume, they 'give a unique perspective of the historical events surrounding Cook, Amundsen and the *Belgica* expedition.' This inclusion begs all sorts of questions, specifically why only two and why these two? The first, by Susan Barr, is entitled 'Amundsen and Cook: prelude to the tactical assault on the poles, 1908–1911.' The second, by T.H. Baughman, is entitled "'Helpless in a hopeless sea of ice": the course of the *Belgica* expedition and its impact on the heroic era.'

In the first paper, the writer seeks to draw out similarities between Cook and Amundsen and points out that they had much more polar experience than anyone else on board. She then analyses the contributions made by the two towards the expedition and stresses the part played by the former in reforming the diet of the crew when de Gerlache and several others were prostrate with scurvy. She analyses the information they gained from the expedition, notably in terms of travel and camping techniques, and, especially in the case of Amundsen, of the demonstrable, and fairly obvious, need for firm leadership, which he adopted in his own later expeditions.

Barr's paper is somewhat peripheral to the study of the expedition as a whole, centring as it does on the two most prominent persons involved in it. Baughman's paper on the other hand seeks to assess the significance of the expedition and its influence with regard to subsequent ventures in the Antarctic. The paper starts with a brief history of Antarctic exploration prior to *Belgica*. The writer stresses that de Gerlache himself raised the funding, which was much more modest than that envisaged by some of his contemporaries who were also planning expeditions. He also comments on the multinational make-up of the crew and scientific staff — 'a fugue in seven voices' — but he does not make a suggestion about which voice started the fugue! Baughman then recounts the story of the expedition and states baldly that 'Cook saved the lives of the men' by his insistence on an appropriate diet. Assessing the place of the *Belgica* expedition, he enunciates his theory of two models: on the one hand the 'huge national expeditions sent out by Sweden, Germany, and Great Britain' from 1901 to 1904, and on the other hand the 'small privately funded expeditions' on the pattern of *Belgica*, which became the 'norm' for 'the rest of the heroic era and into the mechanical era.' The writer praises de Gerlache for his enterprise and for the scientific results achieved by the expedition, and points out the influence it had on the young Amundsen. His paper is very much the type of presentation one might expect at what was in fact a celebration of the anniversary of an event. It contains a

large number of points on which comment or disagreement are possible, and one wonders if there was such discussion when the paper was presented.

While both these papers are interesting and informative, they do not together constitute what is the most obvious deficiency of the volume, namely a balanced editorial introduction of, for example, the type always included in William Barr's editions. To that extent, an excellent opportunity has been missed. Nevertheless, the book is warmly to be welcomed and the Frederick A. Cook Society deserves our thanks for its initiative. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

**FIFTY YEARS OF ARCTIC RESEARCH: ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES FROM GREENLAND TO SIBERIA.** R. Gilberg and H.C. Gulløv (Editors). 1997. Copenhagen: National Museum of Denmark (National Museum Ethnographical Series 18). 344 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-89385-60-1.

This volume is a festschrift honoring the retirement of Jürgen Meldgaard from the ethnographic department of the National Museum of Denmark after five decades of service, and its contents reflect the diverse interests and contributions of a long scholarly career in northern research. The 36 articles were written by an amazing range of Arctic scientists and northern residents, ranging from senior scholars on either side of Meldgaard's generation (Elmer Harp, Frederica de Laguna, Hans-Georg Bandi, Moreau Maxwell, Robert Petersen, Hansjürgen Müller-Beck, Inge Kleivan, J.P. Hart-Hansen, Keld Hansen, Bill Fitzhugh, Bob McGhee) to the now established workers who first met Meldgaard as graduate students (Claus Andreasen, Jette Arneborg, Bjarne Gronnow, Susan Kaplan, Tinna Mxbjerg, H.C. Gulløv, Hans Kapel), and including his son Morten (now director of the Danish Polar Center). Many of the notes and articles are personal tributes, and many anecdotes and photos that would have been a shame to leave entirely in the oral tradition have been preserved (the photo on page 15 of Meldgaard in the dress of a Mongolian gurtum is worth the price of the volume alone). In addition to these intensely personal tributes and reminiscences, there are a series of pieces that represent significant works of scholarship in their own right (particularly Patricia Sutherland on Dorset art and Kaplan's summary of Labrador archaeology). While this is not a tightly structured volume, themes connected to Meldgaard's long and diverse career (paleo-Eskimo studies, artifact studies, Norse–Inuit contact, Inuit art, repatriation, and cultural heritage) provide pathways through an impressive range of Arctic research topics in both archaeology and ethnography.

Besides showcasing Meldgaard's diverse contributions, the volume also provides a concise overview of 'hot topics' in eastern Arctic archaeology and a bit of post-processual fusion of hard-data articles written by western scientists and more loosely structured but equally stimulating views of northern topics (and northern scholars) by northern native observers. While individual offerings

are uneven, and one sometimes wishes that the format had allowed some authors more space to expand on their ideas, this commemorative volume represents both a warm tribute to a major Arctic researcher and a significant contribution to northern science.

It is well produced, with excellent illustrations and a full index and bibliography, and the whole product reflects well on the current keepers of Meldgaard's old position at the National Museum of Denmark. As one of the many former graduate students whose interest in the north was sparked and maintained by participation in his projects in Greenland, I am happy to see such a fine commemoration of the man and his work. (Thomas H. McGovern, North Atlantic Biocultural Organization, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA.)

**PILGRIMS ON THE ICE: ROBERT FALCON SCOTT'S FIRST ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.** T.H. Baughman. 1999. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press. xvii + 334 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-8032-1289-5. £29.95.

The first question one might have upon seeing this book is whether there really needs to be yet another telling of the tale of Robert Falcon Scott. Like Ernest Shackleton and Robert E. Peary, Scott has been written about again and again, and, like Peary, in terms varying from the damning to the hagiographic. Unfortunately, rarely have the more recent efforts added substantially — if at all — to the knowledge about or insight into those explorers or their expeditions.

Happily, but not surprisingly to those familiar with the excellent scholarship of T.H. Baughman, this book does not follow such recent precedents. Instead it is a diligently researched and carefully considered account that does not concentrate on the personality, career, or demise of Scott, but rather looks specifically at his first Antarctic expedition — the National Antarctic Expedition (or *Discovery* expedition) of 1901–04 — which has long remained in the shadow of his second expedition, in *Terra Nova*, 1910–13.

Certainly Scott plays a central role in the book, and the old standbys Shackleton and Edward Wilson also receive attention, as does Sir Clements Markham, the master manipulator whose vision and efforts resulted in the initiation and planning of the expedition. But there are many others — rarely mentioned to any great extent in most accounts of this expedition — who at last are given their due, including Albert Armitage, the second in command; Reginald Koettlitz, the senior medical doctor; and Charles Royds and Michael Barne, two of the key officers. Moreover, Baughman shows that perhaps the most important figure other than Scott was Reginald Skelton, the engineer who made so many varied and significant contributions both before and during the expedition, and whose sudden dismissal from the later *Terra Nova* expedition, with the loss of his irreplaceable expertise, was to have grave consequences.

The book begins with a brief overview of the history of Antarctic exploration, including the first wintering on the Antarctic continent by a party led by Carsten Borchgrevink, an expedition about which Baughman has previously told the story so well (Baughman 1994). It then gives the background of the *Discovery* expedition, most notably the scheming and persistence of Markham, who campaigned ceaselessly both publicly and behind closed doors for his vision to become a reality. Baughman painstakingly outlines the participation of the many individuals and the labyrinth of committees involved in the expedition throughout its planning and development, and shows the problems inherent in launching such a venture when handled by an unwieldy bureaucracy.

The heart of the book is the story of the *Discovery* expedition itself, which needs little overview to most readers of this journal. However, there is extensive detail not just about the overall scientific and geographic accomplishments, but about the individuals involved, their relationships with each other, their day-to-day existence, and their individual successes and failures. The relief efforts — both the background to them and the actual expeditions — are also discussed.

Baughman has shown before that he is an outstanding historian of Antarctic exploration. This book will build on that reputation, because he tells a story with which many people are familiar but for which he gives exciting new detail and interpretation. Certainly it has some errors — such as indicating that the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition (1894–97) explored Spitsbergen rather than Franz Josef Land (page 30). But such things are small quibbles with what is an outstanding work of scholarship. For this book he spent six years conducting in-depth research with a wide range of archival resources and writing an account with knowledgeable and authoritative analysis and interpretation. It can only be hoped that more writers of polar history will follow his lead in producing works of depth and significance. (Beau Riffenburgh, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

#### Reference

Baughman, T.H. 1994. *Before the heroes came*. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press.

#### BRIEF REVIEWS

**COUNSELING THE INUPIAT ESKIMO.** Catherine Swan Reimer. 1999. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood Press (Contributions in Psychology 36). xxi + 165 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-313-30934-5. £44.95.

Until the 1970s, multi- or cross-cultural approaches to psychoanalysis, behavior modification, and humanistic studies were rare. Since then, however, a significant number of studies have adopted this approach, and Catherine Swan Reimer's small book is the latest in a long line of distinguished monographs on the subject. Reimer presents a native view of 'lifeways and thoughtways