

world is well enough known, but rarely have the differences been focussed so vividly. Stonehouse contrasts the snowbunting, alert and cheerful at -20°C , and the tuft of lichen alive and in business, with industrial man, the 'meddlesome ape', who is seldom at home in polar conditions. Native plants, animals and people have adapted, and find what they need: modern man has failed to adapt, and receives only grudging acceptance in the polar environment.

In the first half of the book Stonehouse with deceptive ease carries us through millennia of years, the history of changing climate, the sequence of ice ages culminating in the last brief 600 years with the little ice age of 1400–1700 AD, the warmer period between 1880 and 1940, and recent very gradual cooling. Interpretation is judicious, with no snap conclusions but an instinct that polar conditions change slowly, and worries are longer-term rather than immediate. There is the comprehension that nature is not static but ever-changing, with a balance exceedingly delicate and sometimes fragile. Stonehouse does not discount any of the varying influences, natural or man-created, that bear on polar environments. He stresses instead the need to measure, watch and observe, and the increasing technical competence needed so to do, for everything measured has an inherent component of change.

Fifty years ago some of us were digging pits into glaciers to measure by lamplight the annual striations. It is sobering to read today that the 20 or 30 m of depth which we chipped away are dwarfed by the 1500 m cores produced by modern drills — cores which, kept frozen, allow long term laboratory study. None the less we enjoyed those simpler times. I go along with Stonehouse in his view that, when telling hardship stories at home here in Britain, we got away more easily than we would have in Scandinavia or the American Middle West, where in winter children go to school in the temperatures that defeated Scott.

However, I quibble with his claim that pre-1940 British university expeditions were on a financial shoe-string, if the impression is of meagreness or penny-pinching. Our 1935/6 expedition to Svalbard, lasting 13 months, cost only £5000 in the money of the time, but that was plenty for a well-founded expedition with good equipment yielding sound scientific results. It was at that time that Gino Watkins opened a door to a new outlook which is very much that of Stonehouse himself, and to which the subsequent successes of British Antarctic Survey owes much. Adaptability was the guideline, an adaptability which also in World War II was to have its influence far beyond the Arctic in North Africa, Burma and Malaysia.

What is most important, however, is not yesterday or today but tomorrow. In the final chapter Stonehouse treats with the same quiet reflection, wisdom and perception both the scientific challenges and the complex environmental issues — including the legislation stakes required for Antarctica, a tour de force in itself. But a tour de force

is precisely what *North Pole South Pole* is. (Sir Alexander Glen, The Dower House, Stanton, Broadway, Worcs. WR12 7NE.)

NATIVE HUNTING AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

ANIMAL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS: ECOLOGY, ECONOMY AND IDEOLOGY IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC. Wenzel, George. 1991. London, Belhaven Press. ix + 206 p, photographs, maps hard cover. ISBN 1-85293-030-6. £37.50.

Who defines Inuit culture? Common sense would say the Inuit themselves. In the controversy over seal hunting and the sale of sealskins, however, Inuit have rarely been given a chance to speak for themselves. George Wenzel documents the systematic efforts of the animal rights movement to deny the Inuit a connection with their history and thus to deny the existence of traditional elements in modern Inuit society. An anthropologist with long experience in the Canadian north, Wenzel then attempts a more accurate picture of modern Inuit life, demonstrating the importance of seal hunting to Inuit identity and the inaccuracies of animal rightists' portrayals of Inuit culture and hunting.

In demolishing the myths that others have built about the Inuit, Wenzel comes perilously close to creating his own. Writing on behalf of a people, he feels the need to justify Inuit ways to outsiders. Although he describes Inuit hunting patterns in detail, the voice of the Inuit themselves is often lacking. In attempting to shift the debate from one between whites to one that includes Inuit, Wenzel could have given more room to the Inuit hunters.

Nonetheless, Wenzel makes an important contribution to the sealing debate. The strength of the work is the portrayal of Inuit as active participants in the changes occurring in the north, rather than as passive recipients of southern virtues and vices. The failure of policy makers in Europe and elsewhere to recognize this fact has led to the distortions and misrepresentations that have resulted in inappropriate bans on sale of sealskins and the more extremist and threatening calls for limiting or ending Inuit access to the resources upon which they have so long depended.

Finally, a word to the publishers. The text is too dense on the page for comfortable reading and typographical errors abound. Wenzel's study deserves better. (Henry P. Huntington, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

SLEDGE DOGS

TRAVELERS OF THE COLD; SLED DOGS OF THE FAR NORTH. Cellura, Dominique. 1989. Anchorage, Alaska Northwest Books. 159 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-88240-374-5. US\$32.95.

This work, originally published in French as *Les Voyageurs du froid - Chiens de Traineaux*, is lavishly illustrated with photographs from many sources. Although attempting to deal with sled dogs throughout their entire range in

the northern hemisphere and their early use in the Antarctic the book primarily focuses on sled dog racing in Alaska. The historical account of the development of professional sled dog racing in Alaska is well done, as is the account of the present day Iditarod and the individuals involved.

The historical sections dealing with events outside of Alaska are unfortunately not nearly so accurate; Nansen is reported to have embarked for Antarctica, Scott is identified as a follower of Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott are supposed to have met, 'en route to the South Pole...at approximately 90°S'. Franklin is reported to have died at Beechey Island with twenty-nine men and Greeley is supposed to have survived two winters '...on the icebergs'. There are many other similar inaccuracies. References to Inuit use of the sled dog and their history and culture is likewise subject to correction. Inuit are reported to have lived in the Arctic for twenty thousand years; the author also asserts the Inuit believe, 'Anyone who does not own dogs is not considered to be entirely a 'man' or member of the race'. Certainly this is not the case today and is unlikely to have ever been an accurate statement of Inuit belief. An Inuit on p60-61 is reported to be cutting up a walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* when in fact the animal is a bearded seal *Erignathus barbatus*. Numerous other photo captions are either incorrect or at best misleading.

For those with a deep interest in sled dog racing and northern dogs in general this book will be a disappointment. It is recommended to those readers who have a general interest in the north and dogs who may find the book of interest. The photographs are good. A book on northern sled dogs was long overdue and while this book could have been much improved, its real downfall lies in the author's attempt to deal with subject areas that are beyond his expertise. Better research, editing, and translation might have saved the book from the many errors that will be obvious to any polar scholar, whether he be dog expert or not. (Ken MacRury, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

LANCASTER SOUND SURVEY

LANCASTER SOUND REGION: A COASTAL ATLAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. Dickins, D. and 11 others. 1990. Vancouver, D. F. Dickins and Associates (for Environment Canada, Environmental Protection). 346 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-921623-08-9.

Oil is a necessary evil in the North as elsewhere. The communities of Lancaster Sound depend on annual shipments of oil for power generation, heating and motor fuel: and Panarctic Oil's currently small arctic island hydrocarbon production program depends on shipment south of about two tankerloads per year. Yet the Lancaster Sound Region is renowned for its rich marine mammal and bird life, and the Inuit cultures and economy built on them.

In the Lancaster Sound Region Use Plan, a recommendation was made to develop an atlas of oil spill response

and countermeasures, similar to one prepared for the Beaufort Sea in 1987. Environment Canada thus coordinated the production of this atlas, with inputs from a broad selection of scientists and oil spill experts, and some input from local Inuit. The timing of its publication is interesting, coming a year after the Valdez oil spill and coinciding with a review of the success of the Alaskan clean-up efforts. Despite the immediate shock and reaction that oil spills generate, debate continues about whether it is more harmful to clean spills up, or to let nature take its course. Of course, by far the preferred solution is *prevention*, rather than contamination.

In Lancaster Sound, spills could occur from ships, transshipment between ships and tanks, and drilling activities. This atlas is designed to respond to those sorts of release events, and intended to be used in planning oil spill countermeasures and protecting valued components of the regional environment. It allows prioritization of areas, in terms of prevention, protection and clean-up requirements. The authors note that there would be severe limitations on oil spill response in this region, because of remoteness and lack of marine support. As well, access limitations and the short summer season will most likely force clean-up operations to extend over at least two years. However, much of the coastline is characterized as 'high energy' (receiving heavy wave, tide or storm action) and may not need active cleaning if not heavily contaminated by oil.

In the 'operational' section of the atlas two maps are shown for each stretch of coastline. One set illustrate biological resources and human use, in conjunction with an environmental description and shoreline sensitivity ratings. The second set illustrate physical environment and logistical considerations, including coastal type, airstrips, safe havens for boats and potential stockpile locations, in conjunction with descriptions of recommended countermeasures. For some reason they give only the topography of the land, not the hydrography of the marine areas, so presumably this atlas is to be used with the usual pilots and navigation charts. Other, more general sections of the atlas cover regional descriptions, offshore sensitivity, climatic and ice patterns.

The document's most important component, according to the authors, is the numerical sensitivity ranking system, which reflects coastal sensitivity to effects of marine oil spills. Sensitivity is determined by human use, biological resources, and the expected period of oil residence in the marine or shore area. The system attempts to condense a complex biophysical response to the potential effects of an oil spill into four categories of sensitivity (low, moderate, high, extreme). One hundred and eight areas of shoreline, approximately 30 km in length, are so categorized, as well as 49 offshore areas of various sizes. A total of 22 biophysical and social/cultural elements are assessed in the ranking system, covering all major species, resource uses and shoreline geomorphology. Tables give the values that were calculated for each of the elements, as