

Later he sledged in Svalbard, and later still worked with reindeer herders in Lapland. Croft writes lingeringly of these times: clearly he was laying down guidelines for later life. He never reached Antarctica, but unknown to him, his influence there was strong. A later generation of sledgers, myself included, learned much from his detailed, sensitive accounts of polar travel and camping.

The rest of the book is no less exciting. Before and between expeditions Croft had lived in Germany and France, acquiring languages and odd experiences. He met Nansen and many other key figures of the times, sat on platforms with Hitler, and may have been the only Englishman to see the Reichstag burning. He came to know Scandinavia well. World War II found him a ready leader. With the army he saw action in Finland and Scandinavia, later with resistance forces in Corsica and mainland France. The army and he seem to have used each other sensibly. Staying in after the war Croft saw service on the North-West Frontier, designed equipment for Korean and all-too-probable Arctic warfare, and took part in Canadian Operation Muskox. Involved in the education of boy-entrants and army apprentices, he brought in — what better? — adventure training to develop character and self-confidence. Betweenwhiles he raised a family of his own. On retirement in 1960 he served a further 11 years as commandant of the Metropolitan Police Cadet Corps, again using adventure training to stimulate initiative and leadership. This turned out to be his most exciting job of all: parachuting, he declares, had nothing on it.

Did adventure make Andrew Croft the full man that he so clearly is? His book provides many clues. Polar and wartime experiences were clearly invaluable, but there were other less obvious influences: he learnt never again to fear any man, not in the heat of battle, but on the shop-floor of a Carlisle cotton factory. A country that values its Andrew Crofts had better ensure that it is still producing them. Does Britain still create young folk of his calibre, and are there adventures still for those who seek them? We shall be sadly impoverished if not. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

#### BRIEF REVIEWS

**THE FROZEN EARTH: FUNDAMENTALS OF GEOCRYOLOGY.** Williams, P. J. and Smith, M. W. 1991. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 306 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0 521 42423 4. £19.50, US\$29.95.

Welcome re-issue in soft cover of a book originally published in 1989: see review by J. Dowdeswell in *Polar Record* 25 (156): 59-60, January 1990. Includes chapters on Periglacial conditions, Morphology of permafrost and seasonally frozen ground, Climate and frozen ground, The Ground thermal regime, The forms of the ground surface (1: slopes and subsidences), The forms of the ground surface (2: structures and microtopography of level ground), Thermodynamic behaviour of frozen soils, Hydrology of frozen ground, The mechanics of frozen ground,

Geocryology past and future.

**CANADA AS A BI-POLAR POWER: CANADA'S ANTARCTIC DIMENSION.** Beck, P. J. 1991. Lakehead University Centre for Northern Studies: Occasional Paper 7. 50 p, illustrated, soft cover.

A review of the background to Canada's achievement in 1988 of observer status at Antarctic Treaty meetings, Canada's subsequent role in international debates on Antarctica, and the activities of Canadians in various aspects of Antarctic research and exploitation.

**HARP SEALS: MAN AND ICE.** Sergeant, D. E. 1991. Ottawa, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canadian Special Publication of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 114). 153 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0 660 14052 7. Can \$ 28.50: in other countries US\$ 34.20.

A comprehensive account of the biology of harp seals *Phoca groenlandica* off eastern Canada and throughout their European and Greenlandic range. Probably the most numerous northern hair seal, controversial because of hunting and conservation issues, the species has long merited this very full treatment. A scientific study, based on many years' accumulation of evidence, but ending with traditional recipes for seal sausages, seal pudding and seal flipper pie.

**THE SHAPING OF ENVIRONMENTALISM IN AMERICA.** Scheffer, V. B. 1991. Seattle, University of Washington Press. 249 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 295 97060 X. US\$ 19.95.

A history of the environmental movement in USA, written for the up and coming generation by a dedicated conservationist with a long professional involvement in sea mammals. Contains illuminating comments on Alaska and the Arctic, and on Antarctic conservation, including US Capt Eddie Rickenbacker's interesting proposal to atom-bomb the south polar plateau, thereby unlocking 'the icy doors that withhold from human knowledge the potential riches of the Antarctic continent'.

**THE YUKON CHRONOLOGY.** Smyth, S. 1991. Whitehorse, Northern Directories. 263 p, soft cover.

**A COMPENDIUM OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE YUKON TERRITORY.** Cameron, K. and Gomme, G. 1991. Whitehorse, Northern Directories. 332 p, soft cover.

These books form a two-volume set on 'The Yukon's constitutional foundations', written mainly for Yukoners who desired a general reference source describing, and providing the texts of, documents making up the constitutional framework of the Yukon. As their foreword asserts, this will stand as an essential reference source for anyone with an interest in the Yukon's constitutional past, present or future. No prices are given: refer to authors via Northern Directories Ltd. for details of availability.

**THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY HISTORY OF WORLD EXPLORATION.** Keay, J. (general editor). 1991. London, Hamlyn. 320 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 600 56819 9. £20.00.