

is apparent that in several cases final settlements have had to so closely emulate the dominant political and economic system, that their appropriateness and long-term viability are drawn into question. It is ironic to see that northerners are acquiring complex, government-heavy approaches to management of their claims areas and concerns, when it was the burden of government which prompted pressure for land claims settlements in the first place. Will new systems of governance be more responsive than the old ones?

Some papers elaborate on current conditions in northern societies, and the problems that must be addressed by constitutional development. The assumption is that fuller constitutional powers will enable native peoples to deal with them — an assertion that is easier to credit in some cases than others. On one hand, the requirement for aboriginal control over resource management and development, in order to achieve native economic development and self-sufficiency, is apparent. Elspeth Young discusses the land claims in North America and Australia, and the varying degrees to which they have enabled appropriate development. However, it is hard to believe that fundamental problems of alcoholism and sexual abuse, for instance, must be linked to aboriginal self-government (Jackie Wolfe); this is perhaps as paternalistic an attitude, in terms of denying individual self-determination, as is the government's resistance to aboriginal self-government.

The book proposes that the issues dogging northern regions have application to the rest of the world and how we will all deal with the future. The main issues are protection of renewable resource production; accommodation, recognition and empowerment for indigenous societies; fair distribution of resources and services to indigenous members of larger societies; and economic development appropriate to the needs of these regions.

The book argues that a nation's modes of government must adapt to the changing conditions and needs of its indigenous peoples; ignoring or denying their existence can only lead to increased tensions; yet attempting to create northern systems identical to those in the south is not an adequate solution. Diversity must be tolerated, and reflected in the constitutional arrangements developed to satisfy aboriginal demands for self-government. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

MORE ON THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY

UNRAVELLING THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY: THE INUIT TESTIMONY. Woodman, D. 1991. Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press. 390 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0833-3. £25.00 Can\$29.95.

For readers who enjoy a detailed mystery, here is a new interpretation of the events surrounding the ill-fated Franklin voyage to the Northwest Passage. Woodman has combined his obvious fascination with the Franklin expedition, plus a fertile imagination, and a sympathetic inter-

pretation of Inuit stories, to re-analyze existing explanations about the travels and fate of the men of the expedition.

It is refreshing to see Inuit knowledge about these events taken so thoroughly into account. Woodman has done some very interesting re-interpretation of the records of Inuit stories. He has brought in an understanding of language and cross-cultural interpretation that makes it clear how easy it was for the Franklin searchers to dismiss Inuit information about the fate of the missing men — and how much they missed as a result. Confusion and duplication of place names, for instance, caused one interpreter to be discredited, yet Woodman's revised analysis allows new information to become apparent, and new conclusions to be drawn.

As well, by putting himself, with insight and imagination, in the shoes of the expedition members, Woodman has worked through some of the questions about the fate of the men. He develops theories, among other things, about the number and direction of parties that went ashore; the likelihood of the march south being prompted by the need for fresh meat; the possibility of survivors having lived with Inuit in the region.

For those interested in the Franklin story, this should be an interesting read, opening fresh possibilities for determining what the lost men did. Readers will need a map of the region, however, as the one provided at the front of the book lacks many of the place names referred to throughout the text. The book also provides a useful lesson in how to use and deal with information gained through interpretation from another language and culture. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

SEEN FROM THE SKY

SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING OF POLAR REGIONS. R. Massom. 1991. London, Belhaven Press and Scott Polar Research Institute. (Polar Research Series). 307 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85293-179-5. £39.50.

The polar regions are particularly suitable for study from space. The massive Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are major elements of the climate system, and exert a controlling influence on world mean sea level. Sea ice plays an important role in climate through its modulation of high latitude ocean-atmosphere interactions. Surface and airborne measurements are costly, hazardous and localised. Satellite Remote Sensing provides a means of achieving the global, synoptic coverage necessary to understand the behaviour of polar ice and its role in climate change. The availability of a reference volume concentrating on this topic is thus both topical and timely.

Rob Massom's book is split into two parts. The first consists of six chapters which provide a concise and pithy overview of the physical basis, scope and historical development of polar remote sensing. Care has been taken to produce a balanced and comprehensive account of current instruments and techniques, and to provide a realistic view of their capabilities and limitations. Future developments

and the complex task of ground data processing and dissemination are also discussed. The illustrations provided are plentiful, relevant and clear, although it is a pity that the publishers were apparently unwilling to reproduce some of the computer images in their original, glorious (and helpful) technicolour.

Part 2 consists of a comprehensive compendium of past, current and planned satellite systems relevant to polar studies. It is remarkable in its thoroughness, and, combined with the lengthy bibliography associated with Part 1, provides a valuable source of reference material for the aficionado and novice alike. The volume is a must for all self-respecting glaciological and Remote Sensing research groups. However, the £39.50 price tag may limit its appeal to individual researchers and students. (Christopher Rapley, University College, London, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Holmbury St Mary, RH5 6NT.)

SOUTHERN VOLCANOES

VOLCANOES OF THE ANTARCTIC PLATE AND SOUTHERN OCEANS. LeMasurier, W. E. and Thomson, J. W. (editors). 1990. Washington, American Geophysical Union (Antarctic Research Series 48). 487 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-87590-172-7.

The Antarctic Research Series began in 1963 with funding from the US National Science Foundation. Its publications, now familiar to all who work in Antarctica, have maintained over the years a consistent standard of well-considered and superbly edited monographs and symposia, generally based on topics in which the US Antarctic effort is prominent, but including work by many foreign authors. This is just such a volume, presenting in the words of its editors '... a comprehensive overview of the south polar and subpolar volcanic provinces, and summary data on the status of knowledge of each volcano or volcano group'. It arose from a proposal put forward in 1978 by the Working Group on Antarctic Vulcanology of the International Association of Vulcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior, to replace handsomely the 1960 Antarctic *Catalogue of Active Volcanoes*. The result, involving many active field-workers, is a personal triumph to all concerned in its production.

The work starts with a preface outlining the intentions and organization, defining terms and systems of approach. There follows an overview of Antarctic vulcanism by joint editor Wesley LeMasurier, drawing attention to Antarctica's several points of tectonic uniqueness. Well illustrated with maps and alkali/silica diagrams, this provides an overall guide to the area, its provinces and its volcanoes. In the main text seven sections cover the volcanic provinces of Antarctica and the subantarctic islands: the McMurdo group; Marie Byrd Land; Alexander Island, Palmer Land and Ellsworth Land; Graham Land and the South Shetlands; the South Sandwich Islands; Oceanic islands on the Antarctic plate (including isolated Gaussberg); Subantarctic volcanoes of the Pacific plate (the New Zealand southern islands and Macquarie Island). Each section is preceded by an overview, and made up of individual summaries of

volcanoes or volcanic groups numbering almost 100 in all. These, the work of 38 contributing authors, form the bulk of the book. Each section ends with its own bibliography, and the volume as a whole is rounded off with a solid index. A worthy contribution to an excellent series. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ICELAND IN DECLINE

NATURE AND POLICY IN ICELAND 1400–1800: AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HISTORY AND MENTALITY. Hastrup, Kirsten. 1990. Oxford, Clarendon Press. 367 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-19-827728-8. £35.00.

This remarkable book, based on fieldwork as well as on archival research, analyses the interaction between environment and epistemology at the utmost northern margin of Europe. Here the Arctic reduces a European system of production and its worldview to their most precarious. The picture given of this period is one of unremitting isolation and decline. The settlers from Scandinavia had brought with them an ideology which placed settled farming at the centre of their social system while despising and marginalising fishing. Yet the *bú* or free farming household had by now become associated with a low rate of marriage and exchange with other households. Thus there was a retreat from active engagement between social units.

This was matched by a retreat from engagement with the natural environment, as fences collapsed, fields were overrun and the wilderness expanded into inner social space. This inner social space represented permanence and social order. But while the *bú* retained its central role, more and more people were excluded from the ownership of land which it presumed, and thus from the realm of the fully human. Their own mobility and disorder made much of the population merge into the wild. So the Icelanders' sense of history split into two: in their external relations they shared in the processes of early modern Europe such as witch-hunting, trade and capitalism, while their internal sense of history is characterised by Hastrup as a Uchronia, analogous to Utopia, meaning a timelessness in which the heroic past was more vivid and powerful, more 'event-rich', than the present. The decreasingly representative ideal of the unmoving farmstead 'alienated the Icelanders from their own actual history — a history so full of fish and movement' (p.294)

At the beginning of the book, the author states her aim of contributing to the anthropological theory of change and dynamism in human society. It is impossible in a short review to do justice to the imagination, scholarship and rigour with which Hastrup pursues this aim, as she interweaves the discussion of culture, social experience, collective representations, causality and causation. Few studies set in the North have made a deep impression on professional anthropology at large. But this is historical anthropology at its best, a magnificent book which requires to be read both by anthropologists in general and by