

unfortunately, nowhere could be found to make a safe landing, and Lieutenant Victor Campbell, who was in charge of the party, reluctantly turned *Terra Nova* towards Balloon Inlet, the small break in the Barrier where a brief landing was made at the beginning of the *Discovery* Expedition (1901–1904). They found, as Ernest Shackleton already had on his British Antarctic Expedition (1907–1909), that such a place no longer existed due to the calving of the ice shelf, and instead they sailed into a broader bay that Shackleton had named the Bay of Whales. Here, to the shock of all aboard *Terra Nova*, they spied the famous polar ship *Fram*, and realised that they had come across the base of the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, who, like Scott, was intent on reaching the South Pole.

After visiting Amundsen at Framheim, Campbell and his men returned to Scott's main base at Cape Evans to report the discovery of Amundsen's expedition. They then proceeded to Cape Adare on the northern tip of Victoria Land, where they established a base at the site previously occupied by the members of Carsten Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross* Expedition (1898–1900). When *Terra Nova* sailed north, the party at Cape Adare consisted of Campbell, Naval Surgeon Murray Levick, the geologist Raymond Priestley, Petty Officer George Abbott, Petty Officer Frank Browning, and Able Seaman Harry Dickason. In the next year, they lived through intense weather conditions but nevertheless carried out a number of scientific investigations. However, their planned geographical forays were hampered by exceedingly difficult sledging.

In January 1912, *Terra Nova* returned and collected the six men, who were then dropped off at Evans Coves in Terra Nova Bay for what was supposed to be a period of about six weeks. However, the ship was unable to return for them due to a heavy build-up of sea ice, and the men were left to fend for themselves with few rations in reserve. They eventually cut a small (3.6 × 2.7 m) subterranean chamber out of the ice on the edge of a granite outcrop they called Inexpressible Island. There, with no natural light and a ceiling too low to allow anyone to stand upright, all six men slept, cooked, ate, and spent their waking hours. Most of their diet was seal and penguin, which also provided blubber for their cooking stove, and Priestley carefully divvied up the other rations. Showing remarkable inner strength, the men managed to continue in these gruesome conditions for more than six months without losing hope. Browning and Dickason both suffered dreadfully from enteritis, and each was fortunate to live through the period.

In late spring they decided to try reach Cape Evans by making a forced march down the Victoria Land coastline some 200 geographical miles (370 km) in a planned 40 days, a daunting trek made all the more difficult by the fact that each was physically weakened by the time in the cave. They benefited immeasurably from finding a food cache at Cape Roberts, and then another at Butter Point, and they eventually reached Cape Evans in mid-November 1912 to find most of the members of the expedition gone, having set out to find a trace of Scott and the members of the Polar Party.

Hooper tells this story with an impressive combination of flair and scholarship. She took an interesting approach to the tale by deciding to tell it as the participants would themselves have seen the events, that is, by staying with the story as they experienced it and avoiding putting it into its place in history, which was only later determined in light of the events surrounding the deaths of the Polar Party. 'My aim has been to avoid hindsight and, as far as I can, judgements,' she wrote. 'To let the expedition rebalance. Freed from the burden of the tragedy that descended on the Polar party . . . the story of six of Scott's other heroes assumes its proper place' (page 5). It is an effective way to approach the story, but one that brings with it a few unusual aspects, such as Hooper's regular reference to this part of the expedition as the 'Eastern Party.' This is, of course, how its members thought of and referred to their part of the expedition until after their return to civilisation, but it is intriguingly different for those of later generations, who have always thought of Campbell's command as the Northern Party.

The greatest value of this book is that it is the first telling of this tale making extensive use of all of the extant diaries from the members of the Northern Party. The story has, of course, been told before, but the classic account of it (Priestley 1914) took into account primarily the observations and attitudes of Priestley, the only scientist on this part of the expedition. Harry King later made a valuable contribution by editing the diary of Campbell (King 1988), but, again, it told the story primarily as perceived by the party's leader, who was something of a naval martinet. And while the most recent publication about the Northern Party gave a new viewpoint by emphasising Levick's diaries (Lambert 2002), it continued the pattern by limiting its point of view to primarily that of one of the three officers in the party.

Hooper, on the other hand, included in her research a careful reading of the diaries of Abbott, Browning, and Dickason, which are all held at the Scott Polar Research Institute. By being the first to use these diaries to give a voice to the members of the lower deck, she has not only expanded the knowledge of the events encountered by the Northern Party, but had broadened the interpretation and understanding of this entire segment of Scott's last expedition. This makes *The longest winter* a significant addition to the literature about the exploration of the Antarctic. As it is also a greatly enjoyable read, it should find a place on the bookshelf of every polar enthusiast. (Beau Riffenburgh, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

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RACE FOR THE SOUTH POLE: THE EXPEDITION DIARIES OF SCOTT AND AMUNDSEN. R. Huntford. 2010. London: Continuum. xxi + 330 p. illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 978-1441-16982-2. £20. doi:10.1017/S0032247410000653

Any volume presenting previously unavailable material in an accessible form is to be welcomed. Roland Huntford has trans-

lated the journals of two of the Norwegian party that reached the Pole in December 1911 and has presented them alongside equivalent dated entries made by Scott. Amundsen's complete journal has never been published in English and Huntford was also given access to the account kept by Olav Olavson Bjaaland. He was a Norwegian ski champion and farmer as well as being an experienced carpenter, a skill much utilised by Amundsen. His record is much shorter than those of the two leaders but

as Huntford says: 'It was a record for himself alone. He had trenchancy and wit to set against the outpouring of a readier pen' (page 2).

The book is structured in a straightforward way. Sandwiched between Huntford's 31 page introduction and a shorter epilogue are the expedition diaries of Amundsen, Bjaaland, and Scott, covering the period from Friday 1 September 1911 to Tuesday 5 March 1912. The date is given and entries from the three follow, in a commendably clear fashion. When Huntford comments on passages his text is printed in italics. This type differentiation is to be welcomed as it ensures there can be no confusion about authorship.

Books giving accounts of both expeditions were rapidly published, Amundsen's in 1912 (including the English translation) and Scott's a year later. Amundsen used a narrative format, quoting dates, but not using them as the formal framework for his story. Scott's account of his earlier *Discovery* expedition had also followed this pattern, but because of Scott's death, the account of the *Terra Nova* expedition differed and used his own journal entries, from November 1910 to the last entry in March 1912. In 1913 no mention was made of the editing of Scott's manuscript carried out by Leonard Huxley. Some of Scott's criticisms of individuals were removed, as were passages considered to show Scott himself in a bad light. Huxley had written: 'I believe the revising hand has managed to remain unobtrusive' (quoted in Jones 2005: xxxiii) and readers would have been ignorant about the changes that had been made. It was not until the publishing of a facsimile edition in 1968 that Scott's own reworkings and Huxley's editorial efforts became clearer, but even then only to the limited number of individuals prepared to work through the closely written pages. In 2005 Max Jones edited a volume that clearly presented the complete list of changes made to Scott's original text, as well as providing considerable background material. Huntford makes no reference to this work and only lists the facsimile edition in his bibliography.

Having looked at Huntford's book for many hours, the reviewer is left with very mixed feelings. There is gratitude for the translations he has provided which have enabled non-Norwegian speakers to read two previously unavailable texts. He has given factual insights into subjects as varied as skiing, marine engines and the relationship of Amundsen's expedition to the International Date Line. Yet Huntford cannot resist keeping up his continuous tirade against Scott which began with his first book *Scott and Amundsen* (1979). Every opportunity seems to be taken to pour scorn on Scott's decisions or ridicule his actions. Even the title of the book gives an indication of Huntford's position. Was Scott's expedition really a 'Race for the South Pole'? Much has already been written about this and probably most people with an interest in polar matters have made up their own minds. The present director of SPRI, Julian Dowdeswell, recently wrote: 'to imply failure and success as measured only by primacy in a crude and to some extent contrived "Race to the Pole", is to miss much of the point concerning Scott in particular (Dowdeswell 2010: 45).

Huntford's approach is illustrated by the way he relates the events which led to Scott receiving the news that Amundsen had set up camp in the Bay of Whales. Scott wrote in his diary that he would 'proceed as though this had not happened. To go forward and do our best for the honour of the country without fear or panic' (entry for 22 February 1912). Huntford then quotes Cherry-Garrard's diary: 'For many hours Scott cd.

think of nothing else nor talk of anything else. Evidently a great shock for him . . . I think Scott had a bad night' (pages 25–26). To this reviewer both Scott's responses and Cherry-Garrard's observations seem understandable and reasonable. Huntford's summary of Scott's reaction is 'mental collapse', an extreme interpretation he fails to qualify by reliable evidence.

Huntford has also chosen to ignore careful research concerning the weather endured by the British party. Susan Solomon's *The coldest march: Scott's fatal Antarctic expedition* (2001) analysed the meteorological data collected by the expedition as well as current information, before concluding that Scott's polar party had experienced exceptionally cold conditions that could not have been predicted. Huntford must be aware of these findings but her book is not in his bibliography.

In other academic areas such as interdisciplinary landscape research, 'nature' is recognised as being a heavily freighted word, with multiple meanings of a personal, cultural and changing kind that resist easy definition. Huntford regularly refers to 'Nature' in his comments (always using a capital letter) but it is never defined so readers have to guess at his meaning. The first occurrence gives an indication of this problem, as well as a further example of his continuous denigration of Scott. Huntford writes: 'Scott came from a society divorced from Nature and which thought it knew best, disqualifying him from the land he had chosen to invade' (page 3) Lurking close behind 'Nature' is 'Fate', another amorphous notion which Huntford invokes but does not elucidate. Some may consider it relevant but not all will comprehend or accept its existence.

Yet despite these criticisms, Huntford makes some fascinating points. In a note he exposes the linguistic subtleties behind an apparently straightforward geographical word *vidda*. It is explained as representing 'an aspect of the Norwegian landscape . . . with connotations of untrammelled space. . . . To Amundsen, the Antarctic ice cap would simply be a *vidda* writ large. It would have a homely ring, so the ice cap would appear as an extension of his native terrain, and hence lose its power to instill a sense of mythic fear' (page 319, note 52). When this reviewer was using a form of personal construct theory to elicit individual's concepts about the Antarctic landscape, it was interesting to note how many identified 'home' and/or 'fear' in their constructs (Codling 2001). Familiarity certainly reduced concerns. Another point of interest was the February 1894 diary quotation from a naval lieutenant Sigurd Scott Hansen on the earlier *Fram* expedition who noted that the natural speed of a cross-country skier was the same as that of a loaded dog sledge. Huntford writes: 'The combination was occasionally found among Siberian tribes, but its modern use in polar exploration was specifically Norwegian' (page 13). For highlighting these and other factual matters, Huntford deserves thanks.

Huntford has not been well supported by his editors as there are errors and omissions that should have been corrected. For example, in the index PO Edgar Evans is listed as Edward Evans, and the page references to him and Lieut. E.R.G.R. Evans ('Teddy' Evans, later Admiral Lord Mountevans) are hopelessly mixed. Huntford calls Erebus 'the only active volcano in Antarctica' (page 17), an opinion not shared by Kyle (2007). Vaughan Williams gave his seventh symphony the Italian name *Sinfonia antartica*, not *Antarctica* (page 308).

There are also oddities about the design of the volume. The cover uses a crisp serif typeface superimposed upon a photographic montage, yet on opening the book the headings are in a overpowering, ragged-edged face. Perhaps the intention

was to echo earlier publications, such as Amundsen's 1912 account. Such a mannerism detracts. Quaint typefaces suggest eccentricity. The maps have all been published before in Huntford's books and some are not relevant to this text. They would have profited from further thought. Most are orientated with the Pole/true south to the top of the page, but the figure showing Amundsen's crossing of the Transantarctic Mountains is the other way round. The 'Great Ice Barrier' (now the Ross Ice Shelf) is sometimes textured, sometimes not. Coherent treatment for all maps would have been beneficial.

The conclusions of this reviewer are to value the translations and use them to understand more about Amundsen and his men; consult Jones (2005) for Scott's journals, and take great care over Huntford's remaining text. Find and appreciate the factually supported nuggets, but, with sadness, disregard a great

deal of speculative dross. (Rosamunde Codling, Chapel Loke, 4 Church Street, Wymondham NR18 0PH.)

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SHIRASE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. Chet Ross. 2010. Santa Monica: Adélie Books. xxvii and 121 p, hard cover, USD 350, ISBN 978–0–9705386–4–2. US\$350 (limited edition of 300).

doi:10.1017/S003224741000063X

This is a very timely book published on the centennial of the first Japanese Antarctic expedition, led by Nobu Shirase, aboard *Kainan-maru* (Captain Naokichi Nomura). It was contemporaneous with the expeditions of Roald Amundsen (aboard *Fram*, 1910–1912) and Robert Scott (*Terra Nova*, 1910–1913). Indeed there was a surprising meeting between the Japanese and Norwegian expeditions in the Bay of Whales in February 1912. Although a few general descriptions of the Japanese expedition are published (notably Hamre 1933 and Akashima 1973) and other references to it appear in many publications, the principal work remains in Japanese. *Nankyoku-ki*, the official account of the expedition, was published in 1913 and has been reprinted. Presently a translation is in progress. This is expected to be available in the northern spring of 2011.

The bibliography is dedicated to Zenya Taniguchi, whose photograph, with that of the author, appears on page xxv. The dedication is for a continuous commitment to polar research and efforts to preserve the legacy of Nobu Shirase.

The work is a remarkable achievement of searching, 'detective work', Japanese and international collaboration, which involved five years of difficult and dedicated research. It begins with a foreword, by Michael Rosove, a noted Antarctic bibliographer, briefly outlining the achievements of the expedition and its contributions to the 'heroic age' of Antarctic exploration. The author's perseverance is noted and the observation that he 'neither speaks nor reads Japanese' is made. However he met enthusiastic people in Japan who were eager to help publicise the expedition. This involved the compiler travelling in Japan following a variety of bibliographical leads. The preface describes this comprehensive work, as well as outlining the four classes of documents recorded: primary accounts (9 items), secondary ones and biographies (14 items), periodical articles (20 items), and notable documents including ephemera (4 items). The majority of these are in Japanese. Several pages then give a brief account of Shirase's life and his Antarctic expedition. This devolved into two parts as ice prevented *Kainan-maru* getting

south of Coulman Island during the 1910–1911 summer; thus the expedition wintered in Sydney. The main work was done during the 1911–1912 summer in the Ross Sea region.

The bulk of the book is essentially a series of monographs on each bibliographic entry, the left (even) page has cataloguing information, including concise descriptions, and opposite each is a colour plate of the work showing the cover and selected images. (This reviewer has always warmed to a bibliography with illustrations of the spines of works – it makes them so much easier to find). This information is systematic and very thorough, two pages folds out to allow better representation of the images. It is intriguing to see that several of these publications, often first-person accounts, were published in the mid 1950s which corresponded to a renewed Japanese interest in Antarctica when 'Syowa' station was founded as a contribution to the International Geophysical Year.

Appendices give a chronology of Nobu Shirase's life (1861–1946) with a series of photographs. Two notable subsequent events include the naming of the new Japanese icebreaker *Shirase* and the opening of the Shirase Museum. The book concludes with a list of the personnel of the expedition.

The presentation of the volume is a tribute to the publisher and much effort has been applied to its design and materials involved. The cover and slip case are adorned with the Southern Cross, the symbol adopted by the expedition. The end papers show Shirase, *Kainan-maru*, and a contemporary Japanese map of Antarctica. A consequence of this, combined with the costs of visiting Japan, is that it is an expensive volume, but nevertheless it is essential for understanding this enigmatic expedition. Although this reviewer is not a Japanese reader, he is impressed by its thoroughness. It will combine very well with the forthcoming English edition of *Nankyoku-ki*. (R.K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER).

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