

information is also provided on some of the human history of the continent, with a focus on the politics, Antarctic Treaty, and management. These are done with the same well-written prose that one expects from a Stonehouse book, and they do a fine job of educating the potential tourist about what to expect on a holiday to the Antarctic. A thorough index makes it easy to find what you are looking for, although the narrative style of writing makes this book more enjoyable when read from start to finish, rather than just dipping into it. The book does not set out to be a wildlife guide, but some basic identification and natural-history information is provided. One useful addition not found in the first book are black-and-white line drawings that show the scale of seabirds, seals, and whales, in relation to each other and a human figure. This is especially valuable for the large albatrosses, the gigantic stature of which is never fully appreciated from the deck of a ship.

Most people who buy travel guides do so in order to get some specific information about a place they intend to visit. The six chapters in the middle of this book are therefore the real 'meat' of the volume. Stonehouse starts by describing the South American ports that serve as the gateways for tourists. The information provided is fairly general and will give one a feel for the cities, but it will not be very helpful if you are looking for, say, a particular service or hotel. The lack of maps also limits the usefulness of these entries.

The next chapters describe a sample of destinations in the Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic itself. Included are the most popularly visited sites, and the list of places is very similar to those covered in the previous book. The only changes are the addition of King Haakon Bay (South Georgia) and the deletion of Ronge Island (Antarctic Peninsula). Both of these modifications reflect changes in visitor trends. The site descriptions are of varying length and, unfortunately, not all are accompanied by photographs. In one case, a photo of Saunders Island is used (and captioned) in the entry for New Island (Falklands).

Eleven maps are included, ranging from a continent-wide perspective, to close-ups of specific areas like the islands around the Gerlache Strait, or the South Shetland Islands. Sadly, there are many short-comings with these. The first map, showing the entire continent, has been squished laterally, as if someone wanted to make it fit a vertical page. The clearly marked Antarctic Circle is actually an oblong. The second map, showing the length of the Antarctic Peninsula, is the best of the bunch, with generally accurate outlines and clear contrast between the white of the land and the blue of the sea. The remaining maps are difficult to read because of the poor contrast between the blue of the sea and green used for landmasses. Further, many of the landing sites described are not included on the maps, or in some cases (for example, Half Moon Island), are incorrectly marked. Map 10 (page 143) is perhaps the worst of the lot. Depicting the area around the Gerlache Strait, the labels for Pleneau and Petermann

Islands have made it on the map, but the landmasses they point to have not. And Paradise Harbour, one of the most-visited sites in Antarctica, is not labelled at all. Clear, easy-to-use maps are important if a travel guide is to do its intended job.

Occasionally, the book includes some outdated information. For example, the Antarctic Protected Management system no longer lists Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) — they are now Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs), and the no-go area described for Pendulum Cove (page 126) does not include the burned out Chilean station remains. Another quibble about the text and content is the lack of visitor behaviour suggestions for individual landing sites. These are included for a few destinations, but with tourist numbers climbing sharply while the average experience of tour guides declines, more advice from seasoned professionals can only be a good thing.

What really disappoint are the illustrations. The book includes numerous colour photographs, but many are not sharp or their colours are washed out. Almost all of these pictures were included in Stonehouse's earlier book, and it is clear that the reproduction of many of them has been greatly improved for this edition, especially with regard to colour. But overall, the photos are not up to the same high quality as the text, and this discrepancy may hinder the book's appeal to the southern traveller. (Peter W. Carey, 8 Estuary Road, Christchurch 8061, New Zealand.)

### References

- Carey, P.W. 2000. Review of: *The last continent: discovering Antarctica*, by Bernard Stonehouse. *Polar Record* 36 (199): 357–359.
- Johnson, S. 1998. *Who moved my cheese? An amazing way to deal with change in your work and in your life*. New York: Putnam.
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### BRIEF REVIEWS

**THE MYSTERIOUS CAPTAIN BROCKLEHURST: GENERAL GORDON'S UNKNOWN AIDE.** Jean Bray. 2006. Cheltenham: Reardon Publishing. 198 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-873877-77-3. £9.99. doi:10.1017/S0032247407006894

Readers of *Polar Record* might ask straightaway why a book purporting to relate to Gordon of Khartoum is being reviewed in this journal. But the subject of this very interesting biography was one of those remarkable Victorian individuals who was involved in all sorts of noteworthy events in a variety of places stretching throughout the world, and although he never travelled to the Antarctic himself, he did play a role in one of the most

important expeditions of the 'Heroic Age' of Antarctic exploration.

Born in Macclesfield in 1852 to parents whose alliance joined one of the area's leading silk millers with a powerful family in the cotton trade, John Fielden Brocklehurst was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, before gaining a commission in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards (or Blues). Early in his career, he met Gordon and travelled with him to Abyssinia, a trip bonding the two men as fast friends. Gordon subsequently requested that Brocklehurst be allowed to accompany him on various assignments in Africa – including his last, to the Sudan — but each time Brocklehurst's military superiors refused.

Brocklehurst's career was one of continued upward mobility, and included service in some of the most significant actions of the Victorian era. In 1882, as a captain, he served under Sir Garnet Wolseley in the Egyptian campaign putting down the anti-European revolt under Colonel Arabi. Two years later, he joined the Gordon Relief Expedition at the special request of Wolseley, its commander. This was in part because Wolseley and Brocklehurst were Gordon's two greatest friends, the only two, he wrote, for whom he prayed every night. In 1895, as a colonel, Brocklehurst took command of the Blues, and four years later he was appointed Equerry to Queen Victoria. He had hardly settled into that position, however, before he was promoted major-general and given command of a cavalry regiment in Natal, making him the youngest general officer at the front as the Boer War began. Trapped in Ladysmith with the rest of Sir George White's troops, Brocklehurst distinguished himself in sorties outside the town, until the extended investment forced the besieged men to eat their horses rather than ride them.

Following the relief of Ladysmith, Brocklehurst returned to Queen Victoria's service, and when she died, Queen Alexandra kept him as her own Equerry. It was as such that he made his contribution to Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition. One of Shackleton's shore party was 20-year-old Sir Philip Brocklehurst, the cousin of Johnny Brocklehurst. Hoping that royal patronage might increase donations to the expedition, Shackleton and Sir Philip approached the older Brocklehurst, whose high standing at court had been shown by his recently being named Lord Lieutenant of Rutland. Although Brocklehurst failed to gain the BAE official patronage, he did arrange for King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and Prince Edward (later King Edward VIII) to visit the expedition ship *Nimrod* at Cowes before she sailed.

As the royal visit ended, the King suddenly conferred upon Shackleton the Royal Victorian Order. And the Queen presented him a flag, with a note that read, 'May this Union Jack, which I entrust to your keeping, lead you safely to the South Pole.' It was the first such gesture made to a British explorer by a monarch, and it clearly had been orchestrated by Johnny Brocklehurst. As hoped,

the visit gave Shackleton a much-increased cachet with potential backers.

In 1914 Brocklehurst was created a Baron, styling himself Lord Ranksborough. The following year he was named Lord in Waiting to King George V. But there was much more to Brocklehurst than military and royal honours, and by investigating his own interests as well as his friendships with Gordon, Cecil Rhodes, Admiral Sir John Fisher, the famed newspaper editor W.T. Stead, and other key figures, this book gives insights into the imperial era and the mentalities that helped drive expansion and exploration. As such, although tangential to exploration, it is a valuable addition for those who wish to understand its background.

This book can be ordered directly from Reardon Publishing, PO Box 919, Cheltenham GL50 0AN; email: [Reardon@Bigfoot.com](mailto:Reardon@Bigfoot.com).

**THE HISTORY OF SIBERIA.** Igor V. Naumov. Edited by David N. Collins. 2006. New York: Routledge. xiv + 242 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 978-0-415-36819-3. £75.00; \$US135.00.  
doi:10.1017/S0032247407006900

This slim book is a translation of a Russian text that originated as a series of lectures at Irkutsk State Technical University, where the author is the head of the History Department. It is notable as being almost the sole such history written by a native-born *Sibiriak*, and the author's background gives him a depth of understanding rarely equalled in writings about this vast region, which covers the entire northern part of the Asian continent.

The book is divided into eight chronological sections, and, within those, 30 chapters. As these cover the thousands of years of the region's history, from the appearance of man to the twenty-first century, the chapters are, by necessity, rather brief. This makes the book more of a primer than an in-depth investigation into any particular aspect of Siberian history, and therefore more appropriate for students and novices in the field than those with significant expertise. That said, there is a great deal of information here for anyone without extensive knowledge of Siberia, and it is produced in a very reader-friendly fashion, with numerous information boxes, maps, and photographs adding greatly to the main text (although the photographs have been printed in uniformly poor quality).

The early sections of the book, giving general information about the region and then overviews of Siberia in antiquity and in the period up to the eve of its annexation by Russia, simply fly along, because there is so much material to cover in a limited space, all being done in 50 pages. The heart of the book, occupying slightly less than half of the total, is the history of the Tsarist period, divided into three sections: the early penetration, subjugation, and exploration; the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries; and the mid-nineteenth century to the Russian Revolution. The section that receives the most in-depth treatment is