

draws on the author's own experience with BP's work in the Beaufort Sea and summarises the results of many hitherto proprietary studies. It also contains a description of measurement techniques and their application.

Chapter 6 deals with the theoretical analysis of ice failure. Here the reader becomes aware of the gap which still exists between the mathematical analysis of elastic buckling, creep buckling and fracture, and the real behaviour of ice on a large scale. Our lack of knowledge of the ways in which cracks nucleate and propagate is one of the major obstacles. The final chapter, on calculation of design loads, makes use of the earlier material to give advice on the immediate practical problem faced by the ice engineer, that of estimating the maximum load exerted by ice at a given site on a given structural design. Continuous static and dynamic loading are considered, as well as the discontinuous impact forces of isolated multi-year floes and icebergs on a structure.

Everyone concerned with ice problems will find this book of value. The design engineer may start with the last chapter and work his way backwards in order to understand the theoretical and observational underpinnings to the design load calculations recommended. The ice physicist or oceanographer will start with the first two chapters but will read on in fascination at the ways in which the methods of physics and engineering complement one another in the attack on an immensely important practical problem.

The continuation of low oil prices has caused a lull in the development of Arctic resources, but there is no doubt that the Beaufort, Labrador and Barents seas will once again become a main focus for oil exploration. This book will be of the greatest value to everyone involved in that frontier. (Peter Wadhams, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ALASKAN HISTORY IN MAPS

ALASKA EXPLORATION MAP SERIES. Marshall, Philip S. (compiler and editor). 1987. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press (Produced by the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center). 4 maps folding. US\$25.00 plus US\$2.00 p and p.

In a series of four maps, compiler Philip Marshall shows the routes of sixty expeditions in and around Alaska, from Vitus Bering's maritime voyage of 1728 to the transpolar dirigible flight by Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile in 1926. The maps, scaled at one inch to 69 statute miles, summarize two centuries of Euro-American efforts to delineate the coastline, discover a Northwest Passage, chart the rivers and mountain ranges, locate minerals, collect specimens and artifacts, establish communication lines, and Christianize the native inhabitants. The selection of expeditions has been guided by their historical and geographical significance and by the availability of adequate documentation. The result is not an

'exhaustive' representation of Alaskan exploration but a generalized picture intended mainly for secondary school history students.

The large (2 x 3 ft) maps fold into a paper envelope (9 x 12 ins). Coloured symbols showing the tracks of expeditions are generally clear, although more arrows indicating direction of travel would be useful. Additional information, sometimes anecdotal and trivial, is provided in approximately 100 boxes, and a number of portraits and small sketches are scattered about. The style resembles that of National Geographic maps, but the execution is not as good. The map envelope contains notes and corrections, and nearly 100 bibliographic sources are listed on the backs of the maps.

With the space available on these large maps latitude and longitude could easily have been indicated, and the areas blanketed by boxes might have been used more effectively by showing some of the major environmental features that have influenced the course of exploration, such as topography, natural vegetation (in particular the tree line separating arctic tundra from subarctic forest), and the seasonal limits of sea ice. The lack of physical information to provide a context for the understanding of the geography of exploration is especially curious, as the maps were produced by a centre of environmental information. Despite this shortcoming the map series constitutes a convenient guide to the Alaska's exploration. (W. Gillies Ross, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BEAUFORT SEA GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

MARINE SCIENCE ATLAS OF THE BEAUFORT SEA; GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS. Pelletier, B.R. (editor). Ottawa, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada Miscellaneous Report 40. 43 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-660-53107-0. Can \$30.00 in Canada, \$36.00 in other countries.

This handsome atlas is an outgrowth of the Beaufort Sea Project, begun in 1974-75 by the Canadian government and a segment of the Canadian petroleum industry as a study of the coastal and offshore area of northwestern Canada that has the hydrocarbon potential perhaps equal to that of Prudhoe Bay to the west. More than 40 research projects were conducted on the physical, biological, and human aspects of potential development of oil and gas in this area. More than 60 investigators contributed to this atlas, which contains only topics on geology and geophysics.

The format is large folio 14 x 20 ins (35.6 x 50.8 cm), in which each of 38 fold-out plates shows information on the tectonics, seismicity, magnetic setting, gravity anomalies, geothermal gradients, geology, and permafrost zones. All those are in color, and several plates include black- and-white photographs of representative land and geologic features. Each plate includes explana-