

collapse of the industry sixty years later. The book is written in a style which vividly portrays the conditions and problems encountered in Arctic whaling, and one which reflects the author's long personal experience in these waters, including hunting with Eskimo whaling crews. The author details the preparations for a whaling voyage, and problems encountered en route to the whaling grounds. He describes hunting, capturing and processing techniques, and compares them with Eskimo methods. The development of the industry is related, from the initial successes of the first two seasons to the subsequent decline due to decreased whale stocks, and to the whales' adaptation by going further into the ice. The destruction of the fleet by CSS *Shenandoah* in 1865 is documented, as are subsequent disastrous losses of vessels in 1871 and 1897 when trapped in ice. Walrus oiling, the introduction of steam whaling in the 1870s and commercial shore whaling from the mid 1880s are described. The book ends with an account of the Herschel Island fishery, until whaling stopped there around 1908 with the decreased demand for corsetry whalebone.

The industry is presented from an historical and economic viewpoint. Discussion on the morals of whaling, and the effects of whalers on the lifestyle of native communities from trading and social intercourse, is minimised. The text is profusely illustrated from private and public collections, and there are useful appendices on major events, catch sizes and product prices. Gazeteers of whalers' place names and whaling terms are included, together with an extensive list of repository sources and references. The book will appeal to those with scholarly or general interests in the western Arctic, and in all aspects of whaling. It is probably destined to become a classic in the extensive literature on American whaling: a most interesting and highly recommended book. (A. B. Dickinson, Department of Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's, Canada)

HISTORY IN POSTCARDS

POSTCARDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, A CATALOGUE: 1900–1950. Henry and Frances Heyburn, 1985. Picton Publishing (Chippenham). 255 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 902633 99 6. £14.95.

This is a remarkable compilation which treats what might be considered a very narrow theme very broadly. Thus, through investigation and discussion of postcards with their messages and details of postal transmission, a fascinating amount of the history, social matters, and other aspects of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies is revealed. The proverb of a picture being worth a thousand words is very well proven. Although principally concerned with the Falkland Islands, descriptions and discussion of material from South Georgia and the South Shetland and South Orkney Islands is included. Much of the latter shows themes from the whaling industry and is from Norwegian sources. The catalogue is the result of many years work and is very comprehensive. However the authors recognize that to be complete is virtually impossible, and have solicited advice from readers about material they may have missed. Thus the work forms the basis of a continuing project. It concludes with a historical chronology (1899 to 1950), an excellent index, details of postcard publishers, and information for those who wish to study the postal (and other) aspects of the region further. I found it fascinating to see and recognize buildings and scenery shown in cards from early in the century, which I know from the last decade; and interesting to see much of what now no longer exists. On this basis I would give the book a particularly strong recommendation to visitors to the region. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)