

logbooks and includes suggested formats for data extraction. Additional examples of such formats for Sperm whale and Bowhead whale data are given in appendices to the workshop report itself. Another paper examines the use of logbook data for studying certain aspects of the social structure of Sperm whale populations. Here again the logbook of a particular voyage to the Pacific Ocean in the years 1836 to 1840 is analysed. The third paper in this group uses published records to reconstruct the catch history of eighteenth and nineteenth century Sperm whaling. The effects of changing operational methods on whaling effort, and the numbers of whales lost and not processed for various reasons are considered. Finally, a list is given of the data required from logbooks and other records to allow evaluation of the effect of this historic whaling on the stocks of Sperm whales.

The remaining paper in the volume gives a short account of the life, cycle, distribution, migration and stocks of the Greenland (Bowhead) whale, based on published sources, and of the history of whaling for this species. The nature and extent of the available statistics for the Greenland whale fishery from European ports are discussed. The Dutch statistics are the only readily available series covering all of the whaling ports of a country taking part in this fishery, and they are tabulated, analysed and compared with published German and some British statistics. Appendices list some of the sources of Dutch, German and British statistics and tabulate whaling statistics for Harburg, based on a manuscript in the State Archive there.

As indicated, most of the papers relate to the use of historical whaling records, especially logbooks and journals, as a source of data for the study of biological problems related to the management of whale stocks. They do, however, contain much on the kinds of information contained in these manuscript records of voyages and on methods of extracting and tabulating this information for detailed analysis. This well-produced volume is therefore a valuable reference and an important addition to the work of Henderson (1972), Ross (1975), Stackpole (1969) and others, who have also recently used whaling logbooks and journals to good effect.

References

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AUSTRALIA IN ANTARCTICA

ANTARCTIC ODYSSEY. Law, Phillip. 1983. Richmond, Australia, Heinemann. 284p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0–85859–320–3. A\$35.00.

Phillip Law is particularly well qualified to write about Australian post-war Antarctic work since he was Director of the Department of External Affairs Antarctic Division from 1949 to 1966. Part I of *Antarctic Odyssey* opens with an historical chapter describing early Australian Antarctic interests, followed by twelve chapters detailing the establishment

of parties on Heard and Macquarie Islands and the building of Mawson Station. There are many facets to this story of the voyage in *MV Kista Dan*, including the difficulties of navigating a small ship in ice, the problems of choosing a site for a new station and of setting the party ashore, the part played by the tiny seaplane she carried.

Everyone who has approached Antarctica by sea will have a nostalgic recognition of the difficulties which his own party once encountered; but this is an Australian story and Australians will be especially pleased to read a first-hand account of one of the early voyages and the original building of their famous Mawson Station. Perhaps the most vivid episode is in Chapter 12 when the vessel was all but lost in hurricane conditions;

'Suddenly...the ship heeled over until I was lying on my stomach on the bulkhead, practically horizontal, with my nose flattened against the submerged glass of the porthole, gazing down into the green-black depths. There I waited and waited for the recovery that would not come...and my terror mounted.'

That extract reveals something of the dramatic events which, in 1954, became known to the whole Antarctic community. Part I ends with the safe return of the ship and a look at the future of Australian work as seen at that time. In five chapters Part II discusses the headquarters arrangements and how these developed, the selection of Antarctic personnel, the design of huts and provision of equipment, the complex problems of deciding upon Antarctic place names, and finally takes a look at the continent as the scientific laboratory it has now become.

These are interesting records of a developing system of operation, and perhaps the most engrossing to the general reader is the chapter on selection. The problems of living in a small isolated group are clearly shown and discussed in detail. It is interesting to find that most of the situations and events recounted could equally well have occurred at a British base, and perhaps also at those of other nations. In drawing attention to these matters the author has provided a valuable service for, as he says, 'Life at a remote station is life in a test tube ... I feel that ... lessons which are learnt have important implications for the more complicated urban environment in which most of us lead our daily lives.'

The book will have a special appeal to all past and future members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions, but it is particularly valuable in placing the activities it chronicles on record for the polar community at large. It contains thirty-one colour and fifty-three black-and-white pictures, together with ten sketch maps including the end papers.

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LAST OF THE HULL WHALERS

CAPTAIN WILLIAM WELLS AND THE LAST YEARS OF THE HULL WHALING FLEET. Hepton, Philip. 1984. Malet Lambert Local History Originals, 17. Hull, Malet Lambert High School. 53 p, illustrated, soft cover. £1.25.

This account of the career of William Wells (1815–80), one of the last of the Hull whaling masters, is a valuable addition to the literature of the northern fishery. Wells's career was outlined by the same author in a recent *Polar Record* profile (21(133): 383–86, 1983). Here his career among the whalers and sealers is put into perspective, from his first whaling