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SOVIET ARCTIC CONFERENCE

ARCTIC RESEARCH: ADVANCES AND PROSPECTS. Kotlyakov, V. M. and Sokolov, V. E. 1990. Moscow, Nauka. 2 vols, p 366 and 447. ISBN 5-02-007269-9.

This is the English-language version of the proceedings of the conference of Arctic and Nordic countries on coordination in the Arctic, held in Leningrad, December 1988. After some introductory pieces on international cooperation and the world importance of the Arctic, articles fall into the following sections (wordy titles are paraphrased): Upper atmosphere and near-space; Air-sea heat exchange; Water circulation in the Arctic Ocean; Arctic sea ice; Arctic climate; Air and sea pollution and general problems of environmental protection; Geology and tectonics; Glacial and quaternary geology, glaciology and permafrost; Ecology, biological resource management and ecosystem conservation; terrestrial ecosystems; aquatic ecosystems; Flora and vegetation; Palaeoecology; Ethnic problems of indigenous peoples; New life for traditional economic activities; Health and medical research; Economic problems and priorities for research cooperation in all fields.

The volumes include a huge range of Soviet and foreign authors, many of them leading specialists in their fields. Despite obvious disadvantages of short programmatic surveys, this will be an indispensable work of reference for anyone concerned with Arctic research. The small print run (1000) will quickly make this English language version scarce. (Piers Vitebsky, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

THE ESKIMO DIET: HOW TO AVOID A HEART ATTACK. Saynor, R. and Ryan, F. 1990. London, Ebury Press. 192 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-85223-809-6. £5.99.

Fish oil, say these authors, and the importance of oily fish in our diet, is one of the most significant nutritional discoveries of the century. The discovery arose from Hugh Sinclair's pioneering studies in the 1940s on Eskimo health and diet, and his conclusion, now backed by many other studies, that fish oils are beneficial in reducing risks of blood clotting, heart attacks, psoriasis and a wide range of other conditions affecting the developed world. In this book a chemist and a consultant physician explain in simple terms how fish oils enhance diet, and why everybody is the better for taking them. A generation of indoctrinating Grannies held similar views on cod liver oil in the 1930s and 40s, though for rather different reasons. The book reads well and should, perhaps rightly, do wonders for sales of fish and fish oils.

THE WORLD AT 18,000BP. Vol. 1. HIGH LATITUDES. Soffer, O. and Gamble, C. 1990. London, Unwin Hyman. 353 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-04-445126-1. £45.00.

Volume 1 of a two-volume series covering the archaeology and anthropology of the Last Glacial Maximum. 'High latitudes' includes northwestern, southern, central and eastern Europe, eastern Eurasia and the New World; the 'low latitudes' of Volume 2 will cover north and sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, southern Asia, Sunda and Australia. The aim of the two is '... to show that it is appropriate and possible to assemble archaeological data on a global scale'. Papers in this volume deal with dating, climate and sea-level correlation problems, palaeogeography, ecology and hunter-gatherer man, in areas that were peripheral to the ice sheets just before the start of the current interglacial. A fascinating and useful compilation.

ARCTIC RESEARCH OF THE UNITED STATES. Vol 4, Spring 1990. Washington, National Science Foundation. 120 p, illustrated, soft cover. NSF 90-72.

Published twice annually by the NSF for the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee and Arctic Research Committee, this most useful publication includes summaries of current and planned research by federal, Alaskan and local governments and by private organizations and other nations in the Arctic. There are also reports on IARPC and ARC meetings, and a calendar of forthcoming local, national and international meetings. Edited from the Division of Polar Programs, Room 620, National Science Foundation, Washington 20550 USA.

POLAR LITERATURE IN THE UMBERTO NOBILE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. Stolp, G. N. (compiler). 1990. Rome, Air Force History Museum. 115 p, soft cover. Available from Museo Storico-Aeronautica Militare, 00062 Vigna di Valle, Roma.

A bibliography of documents in the Umberto Nobile centre relating to polar research and exploration with airships and other means of transportation. Items are catalogued under three headings, Arctic regions, Antarctica, and polar periodicals.

WINDS OF CHANGE: LIVING IN THE GLOBAL GREENHOUSE. Gribbin, J. and Kelly, M. 1989. London, Headway, Hodder and Stoughton. 162 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-340-51505-8. £9.95.

A popular account of world climate change, written to accompany a television documentary, 'Can polar bears tread water?', and bringing in ozone holes, acid rain, deforestation, greenhouse gases, excessive energy consumption, flooding, meat-eating, the Sahel, glacier melting and almost every other current environmental issue. Well-produced, well-marshalled facts and arguments, fully committed to the proposition that climatic warming is upon us and likely to accelerate. Those who dismiss this kind of book as green propaganda might consider producing the counter-arguments in no less readable form.