

is apparent that in several cases final settlements have had to so closely emulate the dominant political and economic system, that their appropriateness and long-term viability are drawn into question. It is ironic to see that northerners are acquiring complex, government-heavy approaches to management of their claims areas and concerns, when it was the burden of government which prompted pressure for land claims settlements in the first place. Will new systems of governance be more responsive than the old ones?

Some papers elaborate on current conditions in northern societies, and the problems that must be addressed by constitutional development. The assumption is that fuller constitutional powers will enable native peoples to deal with them — an assertion that is easier to credit in some cases than others. On one hand, the requirement for aboriginal control over resource management and development, in order to achieve native economic development and self-sufficiency, is apparent. Elspeth Young discusses the land claims in North America and Australia, and the varying degrees to which they have enabled appropriate development. However, it is hard to believe that fundamental problems of alcoholism and sexual abuse, for instance, must be linked to aboriginal self-government (Jackie Wolfe); this is perhaps as paternalistic an attitude, in terms of denying individual self-determination, as is the government's resistance to aboriginal self-government.

The book proposes that the issues dogging northern regions have application to the rest of the world and how we will all deal with the future. The main issues are protection of renewable resource production; accommodation, recognition and empowerment for indigenous societies; fair distribution of resources and services to indigenous members of larger societies; and economic development appropriate to the needs of these regions.

The book argues that a nation's modes of government must adapt to the changing conditions and needs of its indigenous peoples; ignoring or denying their existence can only lead to increased tensions; yet attempting to create northern systems identical to those in the south is not an adequate solution. Diversity must be tolerated, and reflected in the constitutional arrangements developed to satisfy aboriginal demands for self-government. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

MORE ON THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY

UNRAVELLING THE FRANKLIN MYSTERY: THE INUIT TESTIMONY. Woodman, D. 1991. Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press. 390 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0833-3. £25.00 Can\$29.95.

For readers who enjoy a detailed mystery, here is a new interpretation of the events surrounding the ill-fated Franklin voyage to the Northwest Passage. Woodman has combined his obvious fascination with the Franklin expedition, plus a fertile imagination, and a sympathetic inter-

pretation of Inuit stories, to re-analyze existing explanations about the travels and fate of the men of the expedition.

It is refreshing to see Inuit knowledge about these events taken so thoroughly into account. Woodman has done some very interesting re-interpretation of the records of Inuit stories. He has brought in an understanding of language and cross-cultural interpretation that makes it clear how easy it was for the Franklin searchers to dismiss Inuit information about the fate of the missing men — and how much they missed as a result. Confusion and duplication of place names, for instance, caused one interpreter to be discredited, yet Woodman's revised analysis allows new information to become apparent, and new conclusions to be drawn.

As well, by putting himself, with insight and imagination, in the shoes of the expedition members, Woodman has worked through some of the questions about the fate of the men. He develops theories, among other things, about the number and direction of parties that went ashore; the likelihood of the march south being prompted by the need for fresh meat; the possibility of survivors having lived with Inuit in the region.

For those interested in the Franklin story, this should be an interesting read, opening fresh possibilities for determining what the lost men did. Readers will need a map of the region, however, as the one provided at the front of the book lacks many of the place names referred to throughout the text. The book also provides a useful lesson in how to use and deal with information gained through interpretation from another language and culture. (Heather Myers, 5 Negus Place, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.)

SEEN FROM THE SKY

SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING OF POLAR REGIONS. R. Massom. 1991. London, Belhaven Press and Scott Polar Research Institute. (Polar Research Series). 307 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85293-179-5. £39.50.

The polar regions are particularly suitable for study from space. The massive Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are major elements of the climate system, and exert a controlling influence on world mean sea level. Sea ice plays an important role in climate through its modulation of high latitude ocean-atmosphere interactions. Surface and airborne measurements are costly, hazardous and localised. Satellite Remote Sensing provides a means of achieving the global, synoptic coverage necessary to understand the behaviour of polar ice and its role in climate change. The availability of a reference volume concentrating on this topic is thus both topical and timely.

Rob Massom's book is split into two parts. The first consists of six chapters which provide a concise and pithy overview of the physical basis, scope and historical development of polar remote sensing. Care has been taken to produce a balanced and comprehensive account of current instruments and techniques, and to provide a realistic view of their capabilities and limitations. Future developments