

If the main purpose of international symposia is for scientists to tell each other what they have been up to, this was clearly a successful symposium, and to have the proceedings published in just over a year is no mean feat. Despite the swingeing price, every academic and institutional library will need this volume on its shelves. Every polar ecologist will need to keep it handy, and a sabbatical six months or a long sea voyage to absorb it. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF MAC.ROBERTSON LAND (EAST ANT-ARCTICA). Ravich, M. G., Solov'ev, D. S. and Federov, L. V. 1985. Rotterdam, Balkema. (Russian Translations Series 24). 247 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 90 6191 439 6. £20.75.

Translated from *Geologicheskoye Stroyeniye Zemli Mak-Robertsona (Vostochnaya Antarktida)*, published in Leningrad in 1978, this summarizes studies by Soviet geologists from 1971 to 1974 in Mac.Robertson and Princess Elizabeth Lands, which form part of the East Antarctic craton. 'Besides the Archean crystalline basements geologists were able to identify thick Proterozoic fold formations in the narrow troughs of the craton and Permian coal-bearing deposits in the grabens. The tectonic structure of this region allows us to separate a continental rift zone possibly filled with Meso-Cenozoic rocks. The book also provides data on metamorphic and igneous rocks [and] analyses of all the facies of regional metamorphism and a scheme of development of intrusive complexes.'

SMEERENBURG. Hacquebord, L. 1984. Groningen, Hacquebord. 311 p + plans, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 90-70319-08-3.

In Dutch, with an extended summary in English, this is an account of 17th century Dutch whalers on Spitsbergen, especially at the settlement of Smeerenburg, Amsterdam Island. It examines the effects of early arctic whaling on the Arctic ecosystem, and living and working conditions in the seasonal whaling settlements at a time when climate and oceanic conditions were changing radically. Conclusions based on data from excavations are compared with information from written sources.

TO KEEP THE PAST ALIVE: THE POINT LAY CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE SURVEY. Neakok, W., Neakok, D., Bodfish, W., Libbey, D., Hall, E. S. and the Point Lay Elders. 1985. 111 p + plans, illustrated, soft cover. \$10.00.

As part of a scheme to document Native subsistence and cultural activities, North Slope Borough of Alaska has for some years '... been gathering information from its communities detailing the ways that their areas are used. These studies include cultural/historical associations the communities have with the coast. Reports based on this information are used as resource documents for the Borough's land management programs to assure that local needs and concerns are not overlooked in the planning effort.' This report is available from the North Slope Borough Planning Department, PO Box 69, Barrow, Alaska 99723.

YUKON WILDLIFE: A SOCIAL HISTORY. McCandless, R. G. 1985. Edmonton, University of Alberta Press. 200 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-88864-093-5. Can\$14.95.

This book examines the social development of the Yukon Territory from the Gold Rush to the 1950s, with particular reference to the wildlife laws that governed market hunting,

big game hunting and fur trapping—all important in the economy of the times. The author concludes that current abundance of game in the Territory has more to do with the thin population than with a history of sound game management.

THE EXPEDITIONS OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR, 1882–83. Barr, W. 1985. Calgary, Arctic Institute of North America. 222 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0–919034–59–4. Can\$15.00 + Can\$3.00 postage.

Written by a polar historian who often contributes to *Polar Record* (indeed some of the material in this book will be familiar to our readers), this is a concise but comprehensive account of the American, Austrian, British, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish expeditions to the north, and the French and German southern expeditions that contributed to the first truly international exercise in polar data-collecting. Compiled from sources in diverse languages; an interesting and valuable contribution to polar history, available direct from AINA, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

FLUCTUATIONS OF GLACIERS 1975–1980. Haeberli, W. 1985. Paris, International Commission on Snow and Ice of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, and UNESCO. 265 p + maps, soft cover, boxed. ISBN 92–3–102367–5. US\$32.00.

Fourth volume in an international series covering changes in glaciers the world over, well known and indispensable to glaciologists; includes records of northern and southern polar glaciers.

In Brief

NEW FINNISH ICEBREAKER DELIVERED

The icebreaker *Otso*, first of a new class of shallow-draught icebreakers designed for operations in Baltic ports, was delivered to the Finnish Board of Navigation on 30 January 1986 from the Helsinki shipyard of Wärtsilä. Ordered in December 1985, the ship is the first of two which will replace three existing *Karhu* class icebreakers, longer and with deeper draught, that have been in service for 25 years. *Otso* and her sister-ship are 99 m long, with 24.2 m beam and maximum draught 8.0 m. New design features include four Wärtsilä Vasa 16V32 Diesel generators, carried on the maindeck below a helicopter deck. Kymi-Strömberg propellor motors, with total shaft output 15.0 MW, are controlled directly from the wheelhouse; speed is regulated by varying the AC frequency. Control positions are on the wings of the bridge, allowing almost all-round visibility, and the ships carry advanced radar navigation systems. Forward propellers common in recent icebreaker design have been replaced by Wärtsilä's patent air-bubbling system. A surface layer of stainless steel sheathes the ice zone, and epoxy paint reduces friction below the water line. The 28 crew members are accommodated in separate cabins in the superstructure, where noise during icebreaking is reduced, and *Otso* is equipped with a gymnasium and two saunas. (Source: Wärtsilä information releases.)

AWARDS FOR SOVIET ANTARCTIC RELIEF MISSION

The title 'Hero of the Soviet Union', the USSR's highest award for bravery, has been conferred on Capt Valentin Rodchenko, commanding officer of the Soviet polar research