

to *Russian California*, a collection of documents now being prepared by Fedorova and J. R. Gibson of Canada for the Hakluyt Society. (Terence Armstrong, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ARCTIC JOURNAL OF JOHN RICHARDSON

ARCTICORDEAL. Houston, C. Stuart (editor). 1984. Kingston and Montreal, Canada, McGill–Queen’s University Press, and Gloucester, Alan Sutton. 349 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0–7735–0418–4. £16.50.

When Lieutenant (later Sir) John Franklin’s first expedition of 1819–22 explored the northern coast of Canada, among the party was the surgeon and naturalist John Richardson. It is his journal that forms the basis of *Arctic Ordeal*. The expedition was ultimately beset by tragedy. Only a small amount of coast was surveyed, and on the return journey over half the party perished; starvation, murder and execution are recorded with rumours of cannibalism. Stuart Houston has already edited the journal of Robert Hood, another member of the expedition. Published in 1974, this covered an earlier part of the journey to 15 September 1820. Richardson’s journal begins on 21 August 1820 and continues to 19 December 1821. Thus together the two works cover the period the expedition spent north of Fort Resolution and supplement the official account written by Franklin. (Hood was murdered on 20 October 1821; Richardson executed the death sentence on the culprit.)

The journal includes many details of biology, geology and meteorology of the region; some of this is summarized in the appendices which give details of the birds, mammals, fish, lichens and other plants, and geology recorded. There is also an excellent commentary by the editor which assesses and interprets Richardson’s contribution to exploration of the Canadian north. The narrative account becomes progressively more interesting as Richardson records details of the expedition’s increasing difficulties. The editorial comments are very helpful, including extracts from Franklin’s account of the expedition and other sources. The book is illustrated with many attractive engravings by H. A. Hochbaum, who recently followed the expedition’s course. The maps, although adequate to show the route, have not reproduced well. A bibliography of the expedition and a good index complete an excellent contribution to knowledge of Franklin’s first expedition. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

A GUIDE FOR MARITIME HISTORIANS

A GUIDE TO THE LLOYD’S MARINE COLLECTION AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY. Hall, C. A. 1985. London, Guildhall Library. 55 p, soft cover. £3.00 plus postage.

In the 18th and 19th centuries there were a thousand whaling voyages for every naval polar voyage. Except for the Scoresbys, father and son, they are nearly all forgotten. When the whalers came back, they wrote no double-decker quarto volumes about their experiences and failures. They were only too glad to get home for a few weeks if they had a good catch, or make a winter voyage to earn some money if it had been a bad season. They were the Silent Service. Little has been published about them, save for the contributions of Tom and Cordelia Stamp.

However, in *Lloyd’s List* there are some 15,000 shipping movements in the Greenland and Davis Straits trade, but they have to be dug out of the millions of entries. Without

such facts there can be no hope of a history of the whaling trade. Details of hundreds of ships need to be dug out of *Lloyd's Register* and the *Register of the Society of Merchants*, to unravel the background of the trade.

Lloyd's List survives in an almost continuous series from 1741, while *Lloyd's Register* is continuous from 1789, with a broken series back to 1764, and the *Register of the Society of Merchants* exists for 1800 to 1833. In addition, *Lloyd's Captains Registers* from 1869 give the careers of masters, sometimes back to 1851; many of the Scottish whaling masters are to be found there, and others like Captain William Colbeck. In this collection there are many other sources which provide a mass of detail. For example Lloyd's records show that when in 1901 Ernest Shackleton joined the *Discovery*, he had three times as much sea time as Commander R. F. Scott RN, and years serving in sail, where Scott had no such experience. This helps to explain much.

Most of the Lloyd's collection is irrelevant to polar historians. To find what is valuable, the historian needs this list, which will tell him quickly what would be of use. That and the knowledge of the Guildhall Library staff can be a short cut to many maritime questions in polar history. For example, many of the facts concerning the shore whaling stations on Baffin Island are in the pages of *Lloyd's List*. Much of the history of the South Shetlands can be found nowhere else.

A Guide to the Lloyd's marine collection at Guildhall Library is obtainable direct from the Sales Office, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ. (A. G. E. Jones, The Bungalow, Bayhall Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4UB.)

ERNEST SHACKLETON; MUDDLE AND MAGIC

SHACKLETON. Huntford, R. 1985. London, Hodder and Stoughton. 774 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 340 25007 0. £19.95.

Ernest Shackleton was born in Ireland in 1874, grew up in south London, and became a merchant service officer in sail and steam. In 1901 he sailed with Scott's *Discovery* expedition to Antarctica. With health broken by a traumatic sledging journey he returned at the end of the first year, married, started a family, and became secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Edinburgh. In 1908 he returned to Antarctica in a bid for the South Pole, pioneering the Beardmore Glacier route to the plateau and man-hauling to within 100 miles of the pole. Fêted in Britain, but hard up and unsuccessful in both business and politics, he again headed south, in 1914 leading an expedition that aimed to cross Antarctica from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. His ship *Endurance* was crushed in the pack ice and sank; Shackleton's open boat journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia saved his marooned party and confirmed, with a flourish, his flair for leadership. After service in World War I and further unsatisfactory business dealings, still only in his late forties, in 1921 he led a final expedition to visit the little-known islands of the Southern Ocean, and perhaps a sector of the Antarctic coast. Reaching South Georgia in his tiny ship *Quest*, he died of a heart-attack.

Roland Huntford, the controversial polar historian who recently flayed Scott, has turned a sharp, cool gaze on Shackleton. He is not the first to write of this complex, commanding figure; Marjory and James Fisher's biography has served well for almost 30 years, and Hugh Robert Mill's, published a year after Shackleton's death, is still a vivid reminder of the man and his times. Huntford is more searching and less forgiving than his predecessors, with an eye for detail and an ear for well-authenticated gossip. He clearly has more time for Shackleton than he had for Scott; neither adulation nor acid mar this book, though his continuing dissection of Scott becomes tiresome. My impression after