

# Reviews

## NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTHERN ISLANDS

**BEYOND THE ROARING FORTIES: NEW ZEALAND'S SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS.** Fraser, C. 1986. Wellington, Government Printing Office. 214 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-477-01362-7.

The author of this book was given the enviable task of researching, directing and filming the documentary *Beyond the Roaring Forties* for New Zealand's National Film Unit. Many will now have seen the excellent result, and those who have not would do well to keep an eye open for it on cinema circuits or TV. Meanwhile, this is the book of the movie, written by Conan Fraser and illustrated by his excellent colour photographs. Like many other of the Southern Ocean's islands, those that lie south of New Zealand—the Snares, Auckland, Bounty and Antipodes islands and Campbell Island—offer a fascinating blend of natural and human history.

The Bounties are bare; the rest have their own unique mixes of vegetation from forest to fellfield; many have landbirds (even snipe and parrots) and all are the homes of massive seabird and seal populations. Human histories are varied; some had Moriori or Maori settlements, some were farmed, all were ravaged by sealers, a few supported shipwrecked mariners, and some were occupied by 'coastwatchers' on the lookout for enemy shipping in World War II. All have filthy climates, redeemed by occasional warm, sunny days that transform them to a naturalist's Nirvana. Fraser is interested in every one of these aspects. He and the NZ Government Printing Office have produced a superb, informative, nostalgic book that covers them well. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER UK.)

## AN ANTARCTIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

**AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Knight, Russell. 1987. Hobart, University of Tasmania, Institute for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies. 460 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-85901-370-7. Aust \$37.50.

It is fitting that the first publication to be attributed to the Institute for Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies should be a bibliography—a statement of the foundation on which future research must be built. It is a compilation long needed. The bibliography is intended to include all references to work covering the Australian Antarctic Territory and the sub-Antarctic Macquarie, Heard and McDonald Islands. The listings are divided into sections along the above lines and in addition, there is a section on Southern Oceans and Seas. References include both English and non-English language publications. There are some 7500 entries. The inclusion of a comprehensive list of Soviet literature on the area is a very welcome

development. Entries are arranged alphabetically under each category.

The task of compiling such a volume is a daunting one, particularly for a single author. It was done by integrating some Australian bibliographies, the *Antarctic Bibliography*, and appropriate elements from *Polar Record*. Only time and reactions from authors and other interested readers will tell the degree to which the bibliography is complete and accepted. Russell Knight has produced this book after several years of dedicated endeavour and has produced a volume which is easily readable, well designed and presented between attractive spiral bound covers. The classification is comprehensive and readily understandable.

In the brief time available to me, and bearing in mind that my Antarctic interest spans only a few years in a restricted range of disciplines, I am of the opinion that the volume is comprehensive and entries usually correctly placed. There are places where my opinion would be to allocate a reference differently, or to place it under more categories. A quibble I have is with inconsistency in including a few newspaper articles and a few articles from *Aurora*, the ANARE Club journal. Several comprehensive newspaper items are omitted as are very numerous examples from *Aurora*. My own view would have been to exclude both as these do not constitute publications in any normal sense. A few entries are misplaced, either because they report on areas from outside those indicated, or because they are recorded under the wrong category. This is an important and valuable initiative. I am sure the few omissions or misplacements will be notified and the second edition (for such I hope there will be) will be even more complete. I feel IASOS will be pleased to hear comment on the volume. The price is very modest considering the size and scope the volume. It is recommended. (Patrick G. Quilty, Antarctic Division, Department of Science, Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania, Australia 7150.)

## INUIT LEGENDS AND STORIES

**TALES OF TICASUK: ESKIMO LEGENDS AND STORIES.** Brown, Emily Ivanoff. 1987. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press. 134 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-912006-24-2.

*Tales of Ticasuk: Eskimo legends and stories* adds to the growing body of literature in which indigenous peoples are taking the responsibility for collecting, transcribing and translating their own oral traditions. In doing so, they are taking the job out of the domain of ethnographers who might wish to "preserve" tales of the exotic. Instead, the expressed intent of many is to continue telling their stories with their original purpose—to teach the younger genera-

tion the whys and wherefores of customary ways. This collection presents legends of the Unalit and Iñupiat peoples who live along the northern and northwestern Alaskan coastline. Emily Ivanoff Brown's Eskimo name Ticasuk means (according to the Notes on the Author, p xiii), "a hollow place in the ground' where the four winds store the treasure they gathered from all parts of the world". She took her name seriously, and spent much of her life gathering all sorts of knowledge, from the legends recorded here to the knowledge that is gathered on university campuses.

Like the oral traditions in many parts of the world, Eskimo story-telling was expressed and understood on multiple levels, for adults spending an evening in the community house, or for children being told a story before going to sleep. Ticasuk spent much of her life teaching school and the form of these tales (in contrast to a more 'grown-up' presentation of many of the same legends in *People of Kauwerak: legends of the Northern Eskimo*, by William Oquilluk) clearly shows that she wanted them to be accessible to children, both Iñupiat and non-Iñupiat. It is to be hoped that they are afforded the opportunity to enjoy them. (Barbara Bodenhorn, Wolfson College, Cambridge.)

#### NORTHERN PEOPLES

LIVING ARCTIC. Brody, Hugh. 1987. London, Faber and Faber. 254 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-571-15096-9. £4.95.

PART OF THE LAND, PART OF THE WATER. 1987. McClellan, C. Vancouver, Douglas and McIntyre. 382 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-88894-553-1.

These two books each present a clear, well written orientation to issues confronting modern arctic and subarctic aboriginal peoples. Both are written by anthropologists who have spent extended periods in northern Canada and have published scholarly ethnographies; both are prepared for a general audience rather than for a specialized readership; both authors aim to give readers a framework for interpreting the photographic images and voices of northern people prominent in each book.

There are differences, though. *Living Arctic* is written for a European audience. It was prepared as a guide to the museum exhibit by the same name, sponsored jointly by the Museum of Mankind (the ethnography department of the British Museum) and by Indigenous Survival International, an alliance of indigenous peoples from Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The book is a guidebook, in the broadest sense, based on Brody's conviction that the 'facts' in an exhibit "... do not quite speak for themselves. They are not neutral pieces of information ... We look at 'them' with reference to 'us' ..." Our own cultural baggage colours our perceptions.

Brody tackles his argument with a clarity that characterizes all his work. It is not arctic and subarctic hunters who are primitive, he says, but our understanding of them that is simple. Europeans fashion a mental image of 'the other' and then expect indigenous peoples to live up to it.

He reviews various stereotypes associated with 'Indian' and 'Eskimo', marvelling that Dene, Cree and Inuit have managed to survive as living modern cultures, getting on with pressing concerns about making a living, raising a family, living in balance with the land and its resources *in spite of* the mental templates by which they are evaluated.

Brody examines, in twelve chapters, ideas and experiences that are critical in the north: the ability to take advantage of cold, the efficiency of a diet composed exclusively of meat and fat, the quality of understanding hunters have about their relationship with animals (characterized, uncertainly by westerners, as 'spiritual'). He discusses the cultural importance of mobility to hunters, attitudes toward authority in hunting societies, behaviour toward children and old people, the importance of Dene, Cree and Inuktitut languages. In each case, the ideas contrast sharply with any familiar in western Europe, and Brody is able to bracket a number of western assumptions in ways that make a reader re-evaluate commonly held views about the arctic. Central to his argument is the view that European-based animal rights groups currently opposing trapping of fur-bearers in the Canadian north are simply re-enacting a familiar colonial drama, whereby opinions developed within a restricted western industrial society are presented as universal moral positions. Once imposed on other societies in the name of 'progress', those ideas have far-reaching consequences.

A skilful argument works best if it begins from clear general principles, and Brody might be criticized for glossing over the cultural differences among the variety of hunting cultures across northern North America, or for phrasing his argument about these cultures largely from the perspective of male hunters. His objective, though, is to provide a framework for thinking about issues, and he does this thoughtfully and well, letting the photographers and the voices of northern hunters say the rest.

Catherine McClellan has spent more than forty years doing ethnographic research in the Yukon, and her writings provide the baseline for subsequent research on Yukon Native history. *Part of the land, part of the water* is a collaborative work initiated by the Council for Yukon Indians, framed by McClellan's broad experience, and involving Native people, anthropologists and a poet. It is written primarily for a Yukon Indian audience, and to a large extent it is their own words we read on these pages. McClellan emphasizes the richness of their history and the subtle differences among subarctic communities; she uses this framework to ask what it means to be a Native person living in the Yukon in the 1980s.

This volume would be a valuable addition to any high school or university course on northern cultures, but it is much more than a textbook. In the first four chapters she approaches human history from different perspectives, by reconstructing hypothetical portraits of everyday life from 25,000 BP until the present, by reviewing evidence from archeologists and geologists, by turning to written records, maps, drawings and photographs. The next two