

organise it. There is some duplication, particularly in the brief polar histories that introduce many chapters, and some unnecessary, out-of-date information, for example Appendix C, 'Lives lost in polar explorations to 1909.' Notwithstanding these minor criticisms, I believe the editors have succeeded in their aim and have compiled a cohesive presentation.

Appendices give further details of a number of areas: the Antarctic Treaty and the responsibilities of visitors contained within it; IAATO documents and addresses of the tour operators; detailed agendas of the Cambridge conference; the ACEP guidelines; the IAATO medical-evacuation plan provided by Adventure International for the Antarctic; sources of worldwide assistance; and the transport of controlled substances. The book is well referenced, and biographical details are given of all the contributors. (C.J.H. Andrews, Medical Director, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth PL6 8DH.)

THE OCEANITES SITE GUIDE TO THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA. Ron Naveen. 1997. Chevy Chase, MD: Oceanites. 129 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-9661011-0-3. \$25.00.

This guide contains a wealth of information about landing sites in the Antarctica Peninsula region, most of which has not been published before. It provides cautionary notes that will help visitors to avoid adversely impacting the environment and the species that live there. It includes some useful maps, a lot of historical details, and many superb photographs.

The Oceanites site guide will be particularly useful to the leaders and staff of tourist expeditions, including yachtsmen, and to members of national Antarctic programmes who may have the opportunity to travel beyond the immediate areas of their own research. It will also be of interest to the tourists themselves, although much of the information should be provided by their tour leaders anyway. On the down side, from the cruise-management perspective, the book contains details of far more places than can be visited in the course of a single tourist cruise, and one can imagine leaders often having to explain why they will not or cannot visit certain sites.

For example, visitors may have heard from their friends about the wonders to be seen at, say, Hannah Point on Livingston Island, and may well pester the ship's staff to find out why their particular cruise will not be going there (if that should be the case). As one who has been in that position, I know that there are a variety of possible answers, perhaps including some of the following: 'The approaches to Hannah Point have not been properly charted, and our captain does not want to risk it (or, our draft is too great even to consider it)'; 'parts of the site can get very crowded, and I don't trust you guys to stay clear of the nesting giant petrels'; 'last week we managed to disturb the two pairs of macaroni penguins that are breeding here this year, and I want to give them a break'; 'we've landed here on the last four cruises and the staff and I just decided we'd

like to go somewhere different'; 'the forecast for the Drake Passage is very bad, and if we don't leave right now for the continent, it's likely that you'll all miss your flight out of Ushuaia.'

Ron Naveen deserves congratulation for assembling a great deal of useful and interesting information in book form, but it is nevertheless not quite clear whom he is really addressing. Undoubtedly the prime reader is likely to be an expedition leader on a cruise vessel, but there aren't many of them, and they are probably quite familiar with the majority of sites already.

There are several pages of introductory information, including two pages of dedications, thanks, acknowledgements, and copyright details; three contents pages; introductions by R. Tucker Scully of the US State Department and Mike Richardson of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office; a seven-page foreword by the author; and a five-page essay on 'Visiting the Antarctic Peninsula' by expedition leader Matt Drennan. The latter is pleasant reading but is clearly aimed at tourists who have never been to Antarctica, rather than professionals who have.

The core of the book consists of detailed accounts of some 39 'prime' visitor sites, plus brief mentions of 21 others that are visited less often. In some cases these accounts are accompanied by a sketch map, and sometimes by an aerial photograph as well. These illustrations are of variable usefulness. Sometimes the map's orientation on the page has the reader landing at the top, sometimes at the bottom (bottom is best, as that's how one would approach in a Zodiac). And the map orientations themselves sometimes have north at the top, sometimes at the bottom. In a few cases, the maps have been reduced to a size that taxes the eyesight. The value of the aerial photos would have been increased if arrows or other information had been overprinted, indicating, for example, landing places. These comments may sound like small quibbles, but I had to concentrate hard in some cases to interpret maps and photos, and to link these images with my own mental picture of the site. Someone who had not been there before would have found the process more difficult. In one case, Yankee Harbor, both map and photo are perfectly aligned, side by side. But unfortunately, the photo shows the melt lake twice the size that is indicated on the map — while the preferred landing site indicated on the map just happens to appear unreachable, as shown in the photo, because of the presence of a huge patch of brash ice right along it!

The writing is informative, untechnical, and easy to read, although with an occasional tendency to patronise or state the obvious, as in: 'Take the *Site Guide* ashore. It easily stuffs into parka or backpack, so you can readily flip to the orientation map or aerial view of the site you're visiting. All sites are indexed in the table of contents. Sit down and relish the wildlife and scenery. Keep notes.' Incidentally, in a future edition it would be useful to include a proper alphabetical place-name index at the back, since the table of contents only gives page numbers

for sections of the book, not individual sites. British readers may not feel at home with some American usage, such as 'stay off of scree slopes.' And I wonder if the features at Hannah Point identified as 'Shag Point,' 'Suicide Wallow,' and 'Big Damn Rock' are the author's own inventions?

One further comment must be made about the book's appearance. Its 128 pages plus cover are in landscape format, about the area of a paperback book, and bound with wire rings. The quality of printing and reproduction is excellent, but the design is, quite frankly, a mess. Unless one enjoys numerous side bars and information panels in a bewildering kaleidoscope of colours.

This review may seem somewhat critical, but never mind. Ron Naveen has done a very good job at collating useful and important information, which will certainly help all concerned to keep human impacts in the Antarctic Peninsula region to the absolute minimum. The book was worth producing for that reason alone. And worth owning just for Ron's great photographs.

The Oceanites site guide is available from the book store Longitude, 718 Broadway, No 9C, New York, NY 10003, USA. (Nigel Sitwell, 92a Earlsfield Road, London SW18 3DP.)

EAGLE OVER THE ICE: THE US IN THE ANTARCTIC. Christopher C. Joyner and Ethel R. Theis. 1997. Hanover, NH and London: University Press of New England. xvi + 303 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-87451-778-8. \$US49.95.

In its reporting of American activities during the 1957–1958 International Geophysical Year, the *New York Herald Tribune* noted that: 'Americans taking part today in conquering the frozen Antarctic continent at the bottom of the world — probably the last frontier on Earth before the conquest of outer space — are setting some unbelievable records' (1 July 1958). With little hint of understatement, the newspaper proceeded to record a litany of American achievements ranging from early-summer-season flying to recording the lowest temperatures on the Antarctic continent. The subsequent creation of a South Pole station further codified that sense of geographical and technological triumph. On the one hand, the tone of the article was undoubtedly shaped by the widespread desire in the United States to demonstrate its technological, scientific, and cultural superiority over its Cold War ideological adversary, the Soviet Union. Americans were made of the 'right stuff.' On the other hand, it could be argued that long-standing traces of moral exceptionalism and triumphalism were being manifested in Antarctica, as they had been in other parts of the world.

Eagle over the ice is a collection of essays concerning American polar policy and achievements since the 1960s. Ostensibly, it is concerned to chart, in some detail, the making and implementation of US Antarctic policies in a variety of contexts ranging from the funding of scientific research to the ratification of the Protocol on Environmen-

tal Protection. It clearly differs from existing publications such as Frank Klotz's *America on the ice*, because Christopher Joyner's position at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, has enabled him to develop close relations with key American policy-makers such as Tucker Scully (see Klotz 1990). As a consequence, the footnotes are littered with references to interviews with Scully and individuals based in organisations such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of State. The book also represents the final outcome of a lengthy period of research by the senior author on the interaction between international law, politics, and environmental issues. Some of the material on US Antarctic policy-making has already been published by Joyner in a recently edited collection entitled *Governing the Antarctic* (Stokke and Vidas 1996).

The timing of publication is also fortuitous in the sense that US Antarctic policy has just undergone two extensive reviews of its scientific and logistical priorities. In 1996, the Committee on Fundamental Science, of the National Science and Technology Council, produced a review of the US Antarctic Program. The following year, the US Antarctic Program External Panel also analysed American policy for the Antarctic continent. The main conclusion of these reports has been that the American government will retain 'an active and influential presence' in Antarctica. This commitment for influence is to be bolstered not only by the upgrading of McMurdo and Palmer stations, but also through a process of modernisation directed at Amundsen–Scott Station. The 1997 report recommended that the latter station should be in effect completely replaced by the year 2005. In the field of research, support of collaborative international science is reaffirmed by US participation in a range of projects, including the Cape Roberts Drilling Project in the Ross Sea sector.

In organisational terms, this book is well presented with regards to the themes addressed. However, the investigation of US Antarctic policy is a curious mixture of careful analysis, uncritical celebration, and banal generalisation. There is no doubt that Joyner and Theis present many helpful points on the production and implementation of American policy-making. The chapters on scientific research and environmental issues, for instance, are filled with useful information for the general reader. Yet, in other parts of the book, the authors have touched upon some issues concerning environmental ethics and ideological interests without really giving them due elaboration. It would have been very interesting to have read, for instance, whether there is a strong normative ethical commitment to the Antarctic on the part of American policy-makers and/or institutions. Phrases such as maintaining an 'active and influential presence' are by themselves rather vague. This is significant because there has been comparatively little concern for moral and ethical debates about the future of the Antarctic in contrast to the legalistic concerns.

In a different vein, the authors' presentation is restricted in part by their concern about how particular institutions, individuals, and programmes may contest and