

REVIEWS

The Place Names of Svalbard. *Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet*, Nr. 80. Oslo: Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-Undersökelse, 1942. 540 pp., map, Kr. 50.00.

Over three centuries of exploration by whalers, sealers and explorers of various nationalities have led to more than ten thousand place-names in Spitsbergen. Many are duplicates, others have varied spellings, and a great number have been translated or modified in usage. Until Norway took over control of the group in 1925, in terms of the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1919, there was no controlling authority and there were no standards of reference. Owing to the widespread use of the Admiralty Chart (No. 2751) English forms tended to predominate. Now a committee under the Norwegian State has produced an authoritative list which gives under each name its origin, position, synonyms and discarded equivalents. Generally the oldest name has been accepted, but this practice has not been slavishly followed for features of which the original name has fallen out of use. Some names and all the geographical terms are translated into Norwegian. In all names, except those of royal persons, the article is added as a suffix. A few names have been arbitrarily changed to avoid duplication and a few have been added to commemorate important Norwegians and others. Some names have been discarded as being applicable to features that do not require names, presumably on the present small-scale maps, a principle of doubtful wisdom since large-scale maps are sure to come in time. The disappearance of familiar names such as Ice fjord, now Isfjorden, Green Harbour, now Grönfjorden, and Bear Island, now Björnöya, is unwelcome but inevitable.

All names are in one vocabulary with cross-references, the accepted in heavy type, the discarded in italics. English is used throughout. Heights are given above mean sea level and so do not agree with those on the charts which are referred to mean highwater level. The name Spitsbergen remains for all the islands except Kvitöya (White Island), Kong Karls Land (Wiche Islands), Hopen (Hope Island), and Björnöya (Bear Island). Svalbard includes Spitsbergen and the above four islands and island groups. There are very few slips or omissions: the list however does not include names given after 1934. A few decisions may be questioned, e.g. Kong Karls Land for Wiche Islands, the use of Gipshuken (Gips Hook), and Van Mijenfjorden for Low Sound, but drastic changes are few and generally justified. There is a long preface on the history of nomenclature and exploration. An appendix gives a fairly complete bibliography and there is a modern map on a scale of 1 : 2,000,000. The volume was printed and published during enemy occupation of Norway and thus is not widely obtainable at present. The compilers are to be thanked for a thorough and most useful piece of work of a kind that is needed for most parts of the polar regions.

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Geographical Narrative and Cartography. *Scientific Reports, Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14*. Series A, Vol. 1. By Sir DOUGLAS MAWSON. Sydney: Alfred Henry Pettifer, Acting Government Printer, 1942. 363 pp., 30 text-figs., 7 map plates, 124 photographic plates, 2 folding maps. £3. 7s. 6d.

The long-awaited first volume of the scientific reports of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14, has now been published. The delay was due