

this courtesy is not accorded to Tallinn or to Suomenlinna. There is also a muddle in the use of the different calendars, which the editor only attempts to clarify in the case of the chapter on the *Seniavin* voyage and that entitled 'The sea calls.' In other sections, dates are sometimes given according to both calendars, but more usually only in one, with no indication which. On page 198, referring to the actions at Petropavlovsk in 1854, a letter sent to Litke on 4 September, commenting on the doings of his son, states that 'On the twentieth and twenty-ninth,' not mentioning a month. As the two actions at Petropavlovsk were not that time distance apart, these dates must be wrong even if the quotation is complete. The translated text is here, as throughout, a faithful reproduction of Alekseev's, even where it is patently absurd.

There is no editorial introduction, surely essential, which might, for example, provide information on the confusing rank structure of the Russian Navy and other background material. The editor confines herself to additional footnotes, and, as there are fewer than 20 of these in the entire book, it cannot be said that her work was irksome.

The illustrations also betray a lack of care in compilation. They are selected from those that appeared in the original volume, with some additions. Curiously, the editor has chosen no fewer than four pictures of the pendulum apparatus used by Litke, and it seems equally superfluous to have two virtually identical portraits of the subject of the book (pages xii and 215). The maps are strictly as in the original; the Russian place names have not been transliterated to assist a reader unfamiliar with the language.

All in all, a remarkably slipshod effort and one that lowers the standards of the series as a whole. In this context it is interesting to compare the original volume with the translation, as exemplars of the cultures from which they came. The Russian book is substantially bound, in attractive colours and with embossed lettering. The paper is poor and the illustrations badly reproduced. The current volume is clearly printed but the cover is grey and unattractive. Of course, in the original, cost was hardly a factor in the production, whereas in that of the translation, cost considerations were obviously important.

Despite this negative review it should be repeated that this book is most welcome as filling a gap in the literature in English relating to Russian exploration. It is a pity that the opportunity was not taken to provide a properly edited text with appropriate corrections and clarifications, which

would have made the book more useful. (Ian R. Stone, Tartu University, Ulikooli 18, Tartu, Estonia.)

#### BRIEF REVIEW

**EXPLORE ANTARCTICA.** Louise Crossley. 1995. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 112 p, illustrated, hard cover (ISBN 0-521-49591-1) and soft cover (ISBN 0-521-45566-9). £19.95 (soft cover).

Hardback and paperback editions of Louise Crossley's *Explore Antarctica* were published simultaneously in 1995, produced by the Australian Antarctic Foundation and the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG). Not surprisingly, the book has an austral lean, and the view of Antarctica presented is very much in the vein of Australia's post-CRAMRA policies, particularly evident in the sections on managing Antarctica and issues for the future. However, this does not detract from the book, which is well researched, attractively presented, and imaginative. It is aimed primarily at school children, although it will appeal to adults who want basic information on the southern continent, including geological history and structure, ice and climate, discovery and exploration, ecosystems, human adaptations, science, politics, and environmentalism. Each spread covers a different topic, each one generously illustrated with clear colour diagrams and photographs.

Particularly well-designed is the section on the ice sheet, with short paragraphs designed to answer simple questions such as how deep is the ice, how is it measured, and how fast does it accumulate. Maps of mean annual snow accumulation and Antarctic ice-sheet thickness are provided, along with an ice radar profile and micrographs of slices of an ice core. The section entitled 'Images of Antarctica' contains part of Coleridge's *The rime of the ancient mariner* and examples of illustrations by Edward Wilson, Herbert Ponting, Gustave Dore, and the contemporary artists Sidney Nolan and Jan Senberg, all selected to demonstrate different ways in which Antarctica has been presented to the public. The Australian angle is seen in the section '50 years of ANARE,' which describes the origin of the programme, Philip Law's contributions, and Australia's active stations.

This is not a volume that will educate the hardened polar specialist, but that is not the audience at which the book is aimed. As a basic introduction to the south, the book is excellent, and would be a valuable addition to any public or school library.