

In a short introduction, the editor reveals the purpose of the symposium, which was to confront current development theories with the experience of development in the Arctic. As such theories normally derive paradigms from Africa, Asia, and South America, the conference was a deliberate attempt to enlarge the debate to northern regions. A keynote address by Johannes Schmidt of Aalborg University provides an overview of development theories. This is followed by a paper that outlines a multi-causal approach to the problem of providing a scientific explanation of economic development in the Arctic. Of the remaining material, seven of the papers are either exclusively devoted to, or draw largely on, issues associated with Greenland, and researchers with a specific interest in development in post-war Greenland will find this a convenient compilation of material. However, the book also contains two papers on protected-use areas as a strategy for conserving the traditional culture of the Khanty in Siberia in the face of encroaching industrial development, and therefore may properly be said to encompass an Arctic, as opposed to a Greenlandic, perspective.

In addition to the material that lies comfortably within the purview of sociology, economics, and anthropology, the book contains papers that are peripheral to developmental studies, and of interest to scholars in other disciplines. These include material on linguistics — an engaging piece by David Lipscomb on a nationalistic language in Arctic Canada — a paper on tourism studies, and a consideration of the juridical continental shelf with particular reference to the Arctic by Jürgen Taagholt. These are papers of interest in their own right that might be overlooked in a review of Arctic development.

As with other conference proceedings, this is a book that draws together a number of often diverse strands of research under a unifying theme. Each of the papers in the report is a developed argument or description, rather than a simple summary of a presentation. This lends strength to the report as an intellectual contribution to the issues in its own right, as opposed to being principally an aid to those who attended. The overview of development theory by Johannes Schmidt is a useful foundation to other contributions, and it does not shy away from the difficulty that the social sciences have had in advancing compelling accounts of development as a phenomenon.

It is perhaps no surprise that this publication should come from the Danish Polar Center, as it has a particular strength in its treatment of the history of development and its problems in Greenland, and contains useful overviews of particular aspects of development in which the Greenlandic experience may be taken as either an icon of Arctic development issues or a means of comparison with other northern regions. Nonetheless, the generality of topics adds to the strength of the final work. Whereas development is often considered in terms of industrial improvement, the book, through its contributors, reminds the reader of the fundamental issue of what development really means. It draws attention to an aspect of develop-

ment in the post-industrial world of special concern to the Arctic — tourism — and provides comment on a critical issue to indigenous identity in the next century, the choice of a common language.

The contributors whose mother tongue does not appear to be English demonstrate an admirable grasp of the language. Nonetheless, in some places, the writing detracts from the easy reading of the material. The diagrams and maps are generally clear, and correlate well with the text, but in some cases would better serve the reader if they had been printed as slightly larger images. These comments aside, *Development in the Arctic* is an interesting contribution to its specific domain and to the study of development in general, and it is a source of material for scholarship in several disciplines. The book, and the conference it reports, achieve the aim of broadening the geographical domain of development studies by highlighting the work of researchers in the northern regions, and the work is a varied resource for the Arctic scholar. (John Ash, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

THE ALASKA-KLONDIKE DIARY OF ELIZABETH ROBINS, 1900. Victoria Joan Moessner and Joanne E. Gates (Editors). 1999. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. xviii + 309 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-99-4. \$US22.95.

Elizabeth Robins was, as the sub-title of her biography, written by the second editor of the present work, succinctly states, 'actress, novelist, feminist' (Gates 1994).

The first child in a large family, she was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1862, and, after an excellent education, she became an actress in both the United States and Great Britain. She became famous as an interpreter of Henrik Ibsen's characters and acquired a grasp of Norwegian sufficient to enable her to translate Fridtjof Nansen's works. In the late 1890s she wrote plays, a collection of short stories, and three novels. In the twentieth century she wrote more novels and other works and became involved in suffrage and feminist issues on both sides of the Atlantic. She died in England in 1952.

The polar interest in Robins arises from a trip that she undertook to Nome and the Klondike in the summer of 1900 in search of two of her younger brothers, Raymond (1873–1954) and Saxton (1869–1901), who had last been heard of by their family from that area. Combining family duty with business, she took the opportunity of arranging for the publication of pieces she would write on her travels with W.T. Stead, the editor of *Review of Reviews*, who advanced her money for reports on life in the north. The journal of her travels is preserved in the library of New York University. It is printed intact in the present volume.

The journal is roughly divided in three parts. The first is the journey from New York to Seattle and thence to Nome by the steamer *Tacoma*, arriving on 14 June 1900. The core of the book records Robins' residence in Nome, where she found her brother Raymond, who appears to

have been a combination of lay preacher and missionary and who performed some informal civic duty. The rest details Robins' voyage up the Yukon River to Dawson via Anvik, where she met her brother Saxton, and her passage via Skagway to Juneau and Louisville.

From the point of view of the historian of Alaska and the Yukon, this is a most fascinating and useful document. It is precisely in the detail that the value is evident, and it constitutes a primary source of the highest significance. Robins was a most perceptive observer, and, as far as Nome is concerned, the prominent position within society of her brother enabled her to meet important people and to achieve a level of insight that an independent traveller without her connections would not have been able to attain in such a short residence.

Nome, at the turn of the century was in the throes of the gold rush, with all the general disorganisation and lawlessness that the arrival of a large number of people intent on making their fortunes, with all the associated parasites thereon, might have been expected to produce. Robins noted the opinion of one resident that there would be likely to be more disorder in Nome than at Dawson because there was 'no such body as the Mounted Police' (page 94). She wrote wittily and well upon the situation that she found on board and on shore, including, on pages 49–50, an excellent description of the voyage in the cramped *Tacoma* under all the misery of seasickness and the general uncouthness of her fellow passengers. On page 55 is an amusing description of a bollard, and one would not have thought that such could produce a smile. At Nome, the problems of landing people and stores on an open beach and the chaotic conditions on the beach itself are well described (pages 68–71) and accompanied by a wonderful photograph. Onshore, Robins' relations with her brother take up much of the diary. He appears to have been an obsessive personality about whose welfare Robins had serious reservations. But, as is illustrated on page 85, with regard to a dangerous climb to the roof of his building to admire the view, she was unable to defy him, even though he was several years the younger.

In this reviewer's opinion, the immediacy and point of Robins' writing declines after her departure from Raymond; clearly she found contact with him emotionally exacting. But the value of the diary for historians is no less. She met Saxton briefly in Anvik and arrived in Dawson on 15 August, during the stay there of the Earl of Minto, governor general of Canada.

The quality of the edition is excellent and a model of its kind. Certainly any reader who was contemplating the edition of a text would be well advised to use this work as an exemplar. The editors have performed their task with care and great diligence, even finding it necessary to inform the reader what N.B. means (page 90)!

There is a useful editors' preface in which the stylistic conventions to be adopted are set out, a full chronology of the life and works of Robins, and a concise and informative introduction. It may seem churlish — but after all it is a

reviewer's privilege to carp — to comment that the final sentence of the introduction makes the meretricious point that the publication honours women who went to the far north, 'especially those who went alone or whose names have never appeared in print.' It does nothing of the kind, of course; if it honours anyone, it honours Robins herself and the editors.

The text of the diary has many footnotes and the range of the matters commented on reveals the depth of the editors' research. As a bonus, the editors have republished five of Robins' articles based upon her travels, which appeared in various journals. These are valuable, illustrating as they do, the process of polishing from diary entry to finished paper. The work concludes with a list of references, including e-mail communications, and name and subject indices.

The book is illustrated by contemporary photographs, some from Robins' camera, and these serve to add to the immediacy inherent in the text. There are two maps, one of which is on an agreeably large scale. To sum up: a first-rate edition of a text that is an important source. The editors deserve our warmest congratulations. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

Reference

Gates, J.E. 1994. *Elizabeth Robins 1862–1952: actress, novelist, feminist*. Tuscaloosa and London: University of Alabama Press.

NOEL WIEN: ALASKA PIONEER BUSH PILOT. Ira Harkey. 1999. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. xxvii + 307 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-889963-16-X. \$US24.95.

This is a reprint of a book originally published 25 years ago under the title *Pioneer bush pilot* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1974). Noel Wien, though not the first to fly in Alaska, was the pre-eminent bush pilot from the day he arrived in 1924 until the Second World War. His early biplanes had an open cockpit, no compass, and no radio; yet in them he made many pioneering flights through all kinds of weather to places where no aircraft had been before. The most important cockpit instrument was the engine oil pressure gauge — it could warn of an imminent forced landing. The terrain below was unmapped.

Ira Starkey intersperses his well-researched narrative with accounts in Wien's own words. Modest and shy, Wien had to have stories wrung out of him. In those days there were no airfields. Landings were on sand bars, on hilltops, and on tundra, sometimes causing his aircraft to nose over, bending or breaking at least the propeller. Wien took to carrying a spare propeller strapped to the side of the fuselage, and he was skilled at bending struts and control surfaces back into shape. One of the most astonishing things to anyone versed in modern bush flying was that for some years he carried no survival equipment — its weight would have made the reduced payload uneconomic. More than once this nearly cost him his life, but it was the only