

stuffs from Spanish California, but although Spanish officials let Rezanov take away a cargo of grain, they refused his requests for a regular trade. Disappointed in the practical and scientific results of his efforts, Langsdorff returned to Europe by way of Alaska, Kamchatka, and Siberia, reaching St Petersburg in March 1808.

It is good to have this accessible edition of Langsdorff's book included in the Alaska History series of the Limestone Press, but the editorial policy is open to question at several levels. Both the amount and standard of annotation are inadequate. To read that Chirikov 'was second in command under Vitus Bering on the First Kamchatka Expedition. He also assisted Bering in organizing the Great Northern Expedition from 1733–43' (volume II, page 43, note 2) would seem to reverse the order of things. To be told that Roggeween, who died in 1729, visited Easter Island in 1772 (volume I, page 61, note 4, and volume II, page 280) is carelessness. To discover that Bligh, born in 1754, 'was Captain Cook's sailing master on his second expedition between 1772 and 1774' (volume I, page 60, note 1) is absurd, and suggests that nothing on Bligh more recent than the erroneous entry in the *Dictionary of national biography* (1903) has been consulted. More vexing than such errors at the margins is that little effort has been made to include citations to much recent work in English, which one might reasonably expect in such an edition. The sections on the attempts to provision Russian America from California carry no mention of the work of James Gibson on this subject; the introductory material on Russian activities in the Pacific lacks any reference to the books of Glynn Barratt; even the general editor's volume on Rezanov's mission to California fails to find a place. Finally, the six-page index is the poorest I have seen in a work of this scale. Readers will look in vain for place-names or events relating to the expedition's visit to Japan; they will have to be content with a single, all-purpose entry: 'Japan (Oct 1804–Apr 1805), 161–218.' (Glyndwr Williams, Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.)

**THE LANGUAGE OF EMPIRE: MYTHS AND METAPHORS OF POPULAR IMPERIALISM, 1880–1918.** Robert H. MacDonald. 1994. Manchester: Manchester University Press. xii + 268 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7190-3749-2. £40.00.

*The language of empire* is the latest book in the Manchester University Press 'Studies in Imperialism' series, a steadily growing and continually impressive collection of works that is making a key contribution to the study of imperialism by demonstrating that in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries this phenomenon was based on much more than political, economic, or military decisions. Imperialism was equally a complex interplay between government and the populace, an interplay that had a wide variety of mediators and interpreters, and that, although it at times led to dramatic displays or jingoistic outbursts, was generally part of a much deeper, more ingrained, and more widespread cultural and intellectual expression in an

era of unrivalled European supremacy and expansion.

As has been shown throughout this series, by the end of Queen Victoria's reign, all levels of British society reflected, were influenced by, and were instrumental in an imperial nationalism that emphasised monarchism, militarism, and cultural superiority *vis-à-vis* the rest of the world. But how were these concepts communicated? How did empire itself gain any popular meaning?

In this book, Robert H. MacDonald has attempted to uncover how the very concept of empire was constructed, imparted, and changed. To do this, he has focused on the role of language — that is, of imperial discourse as a specific style of language with a very powerful and privileged way of communicating — in creating and conveying knowledge, images, and myths. Specifically, he has examined the metaphorical constructions of empire in what he has defined as popular texts — fiction, poetry, popular biographies, juvenile literature, and, to a considerably lesser extent, the press. The author's sophisticated analysis and subsequent interpretation of these documents make the book an unquestioned success as far as it goes. The only question is whether its net should have been cast a little wider.

The subject of the book is one that has direct significance for the exploration of the Arctic and the Antarctic during the 'Heroic Age' of polar exploration. Indeed, the British advances into the far north and south were presented to the public in much the same way, and for many of the same reasons, as the empire's expansion into Africa and Asia. A close reading of the same general sources that MacDonald has used shows how many concepts of empire normally applied to new or developing lands in the tropics are equally related to the polar regions. Unfortunately, from a polar perspective, the author has based all his examples on Africa and Asia, with little regard for the overall picture of imperialist-nationalist exploration and expansion, which, of course, included the Antipodes, large areas of North and South America, the Arctic, and the Antarctic. In doing this, he not only excludes at least one relevant audience, he also misses the chance to break out of the model so frequently imposed on imperial thought — that linking it directly to only Africa or India. Had the author even tangentially brought in some of the key polar figures of empire — Franklin, Scott, or Markham — his arguments would have been considerably strengthened and broadened. (Beau Riffenburgh, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**IN A CRYSTAL LAND: CANADIAN EXPLORERS IN ANTARCTICA.** Dean Beeby. 1994. Toronto, Buffalo, and London: University of Toronto Press. xii + 262 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-8020-0362-1. £19.00; US\$29.00.

Some years ago I corresponded with the author of this book in connection with a short paper in which I had brought together, probably for the first time, the names of a dozen Canadian Antarctic explorers. In this paper, I concluded

that 'if Canada as a country ever decides to play an active role in Antarctic research under the Antarctic Treaty, it...may...look with pride on the past achievements of individual Canadians on that continent' (Hattersley-Smith 1986: 369).

I find it extraordinary that the author, in the extensive references cited in his end notes, should have chosen completely to ignore my paper, in which I referred in brief to the work of 10 of the 14 Canadians whose exploits he has now related in some detail. His conclusion, elaborated at length, is the same as mine was, now that for six years Canada has been a signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, although only as a non-Consultative Party and thus not committed to research on the continent.

Notwithstanding his discourtesy, the author has made a useful contribution to Antarctic literature. His Canadians comprise: Hugh Blackwell Evans (*Southern Cross*), Dr Rupert Michell (*Nimrod*), Sir Charles Wright (*Terra Nova*), Professor George Vibert Douglas (*Quest*), Jack Bursey, Dr Frank Davies, Alan Innes-Taylor (Byrd Antarctic expeditions), Al Cheesman (Wilkins Antarctic Expedition), Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, Pat Howard, 'Red' Lymburner, James Trerice (Ellsworth Antarctic expeditions), Dr Andrew Taylor (Operation 'Tabarin'), and Dr Fred Roots (Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition). These men, of whom only Roots is still living, are portrayed with remarkable accuracy, if I may judge from personal acquaintanceship with six of them.

Thus, the experience of the Canadians in this book encompasses all phases of Antarctic exploration from the first wintering on the mainland in 1899 (Evans), through the 'Heroic Age' epitomized by Shackleton's and Scott's expeditions (Michell and Wright) and the transitional phase of the 1920s and 1930s that saw the first use of aircraft in the Antarctic (Douglas, Byrd's, Wilkins', and Ellsworth's men), to the British wartime Operation 'Tabarin' (Taylor), and, finally, to the post-World War II phase of high-tech science (Roots). The author has admirably woven this entire story together, with access to previously unpublished material and personal reminiscence that bring out sterling qualities in these Canadians. Here are a few reflections prompted by reading the book.

It is a sad commentary on the fickleness of public memory that, on his return from the Antarctic, Evans passed into obscurity, until he was 'rediscovered' in the early 1970s. Although the author does not mention it, his 'rediscovery' led to Evans at the age of 100 being awarded the Polar Medal. He was the only member of the *Southern Cross* expedition to be so honoured — and 76 years late! Michell, on the other hand, lived out the rest of his life and died in obscurity. The author suggests that his two voyages south in Shackleton's *Nimrod* destroyed his health, but there remains a 'mystery' as to how this came about, for his manuscript journal is unrevealing.

There is one crucial episode in the experience of Wright on Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition that the author fails to mention. It concerns the choice of Apsley Cherry-Garrard to undertake the dog-sledge journey to One Ton

Depot in support of Scott's returning polar party in March 1912. I know that, to the end of his long life, Wright regretted that he, an experienced navigator, had not set aside his scientific work — against Scott's implicit wishes — and insisted on leading that relief journey. If he had done so, how different the eventual outcome might have been.

The author is particularly revealing on the subject of the Ellsworth air expeditions. Ellsworth was a hard man for his pilots to serve, since he apparently lacked, either through ignorance or vanity, the ordinary instincts of self-preservation. He was extremely rash to doubt the judgement of such great polar airmen as Bernt Balchen and Hollick-Kenyon for turning back in poor flying weather. In 1935 Ellsworth's luck, not judgement, and Hollick-Kenyon's airmanship led to their great achievement of flying across the continent.

As regards Operation 'Tabarin,' 1943–1945, the author properly records Taylor's outstanding service, as virtual second-in-command to James Marr in the first year and then as commander of the operation in the second year. However, I must correct the author's statement that 'in 1953 Britain awarded the prestigious Polar Medal to the men [who had wintered at Hope Bay] — to all except their Canadian commander.' In fact, Taylor's award was notified in the *London Gazette* in the same list as the awards to his companions, but through inexcusable oversight he was not informed of the award at the time. He learned about the award from me in a casual encounter in Ottawa about a year later and drew the inference that he had been excluded from the original list — an inference that I corrected only a few years before his death in 1993 by sending him a copy of the relevant notice from the *London Gazette*.

In conclusion, I commend this book especially to Canadians who may look to the time when Canada becomes a full Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty. (Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, The Crossways, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AG.)

#### Reference

Hattersley-Smith, G. 1986. Some Canadians in the Antarctic. *Arctic* 39 (4): 368–369.

**DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY. VOLUME XIII: 1901–1910.** 1994. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. xxi + 1295 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-8020-3998-7. £55.00; Can\$110.00.

One does not have to subscribe to Emerson's view that 'There is properly no history; only biography' to wait with anticipation for the appearance of each new volume in this, the definitive national biography of Canada. With volume 13, the *Dictionary of Canadian biography* reaches the twentieth century, and, not surprisingly, fewer Arctic explorers are to be found than in the immediately preceding volumes. Indeed, one is a little taken aback to find an entry for Sir Francis Leopold McClintock. McClintock died aged 88 in 1907 and was almost the last survivor of those who, in searching for Sir John Franklin's expedition, unveiled the true lineaments of the Canadian Arctic archi-