

Tucker Scully and John Gulland, will be familiar to readers of *Polar Record*, who will welcome attempts to provide global perspectives on the Antarctic scene, including those of Consultative Parties, non-Consultative Parties, new Treaty powers and outsiders. Perhaps the most interesting contributions emerge as part of the seven panel/floor discussions reprinted on various themes, as evidenced by the supportive and critical viewpoints revealed during the session on the Antarctic Treaty System (pp 413–35).

The general effect is to provide a relatively full, informed and supportive view of the Antarctic Treaty System, although Zain Azraai, the Malaysian representative at the UN, offered a critical and alternative viewpoint (pp 305–13, 433–35). Other speakers identified various weakness in the system, such as in the issue of environmental protection, and one would have liked more effective inputs from both non-Treaty governments and informed academics. From this point of view the workshop and the book might be dismissed as part of the public relations effort, now being conducted by the Treaty powers, to establish that the Antarctic Treaty System is working well and that Antarctica is neither a problem nor a candidate for UN action.

But this book is far more than a mere public relations exercise. It illustrates key aspects of the Antarctic scene today, and enhances the quality of current international dialogue on the future of Antarctica; discussion chapters display evidence of genuine debate, in contrasting to post-1983 UN discussions which tended only to state opinions. This dialogue will no doubt produce further compilation volumes, punctuated occasionally, one hopes, by single-author books offering more comprehensive, balanced and even syntheses. There is a reasonable number of illustrations and diagrams, especially for the scientific chapters; in so long a book the absence of an index is a matter of regret. (Peter J. Beck, School of Arts and Languages, Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2EE.)

ANTARCTIC POLITICS AND RESOURCES

ANTARCTIC POLITICS AND MARINE RESOURCES: CRITICAL CHOICES FOR THE 1980s. Alexander, L. M. and Hanson, L. C. 1984. Kingston, Rhode Island, Center for Ocean Management Studies, University of Rhode Island. ISBN 0-932413-07-2, 263p, hard cover.

This is the proceedings of the eighth annual conference of the Center for Ocean Management, held 17–20 June 1984. It presents good analyses of a difficult series of problems at a time when these are becoming increasingly important. The work is divided into five sections, considering the Antarctic Treaty system, Antarctic science policy, marine living resources, the Antarctic minerals regime, and the future of the Antarctic Treaty system. Each section is followed by a report of subsequent discussion. The assessment of the Treaty is in the form of a debate between a supporter and one critical of it. The Antarctic science policy described is virtually that of the United States alone; although comprehensive, it could have benefitted by a discussion of some of the problems other countries have in this matter. The two sections on Antarctic resources emphasize the importance of obtaining sufficient scientific knowledge of Antarctica to be able to manage commercial exploitation efficiently; biological conservation, effects on the physical environment, and assesment of maximum sustainable yields are discussed as well as associated political problems. The possible future of the Treaty is considered by the Australian and Malaysian delegates to the United Nations and by a representative of a private conservation organization; their views show interesting contrasts. In general the book is a useful and timely assessment of Antarctic resources, their investigation, exploitation, and some of the associated politics. Unfortunately the high level of the

papers and discussions is marred by some very poor typography and editing. It is apparent that much more attention was given to rushing to print than to accuracy and correctness of the presentation; there are several embarrassing howlers. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

STEFANSSON: A BIOGRAPHY

STEF: A BIOGRAPHY OF VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON, CANADIAN ARCTIC EXPLORER. Hunt, W. R. 1986. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press. 317p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7748-0247-2.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson (for an obituary see *Polar Record* 11(73): 513-14) was a great explorer and a many-sided personality, to whom others reacted as diversely as they spelled his Icelandic name. With his independent mind he was always individual in purpose and original in performance: too much so for most of his colleagues on his last and best known expedition.

His introduction to the Canadian Arctic came on the Mikkelsen-Leffingwell Expedition in the Beaufort Sea in 1906-07. Crippled by the loss of the ship, divided aims and lack of money, the expedition achieved meagre geographical success. Stefansson joined only in time to meet the two leaders as the expedition was being disbanded. Hard feelings remained at least on one side; as Captain Einar Mikkelsen put it bluntly to me nearly 50 years later, 'Stefansson is no friend of mine'. Yet Stefansson, pursuing anthropological work and living with Eskimo families, found the expedition an immensely useful introduction to the Arctic and set the course of his career. His vision of the North took shape and he resolved to follow the methods of the Eskimos, who '... found the secret of the North alone, And mastered it with weapons of its own.' In other words he went native, shocking his contemporaries. He shocked them further after his second expedition to the Canadian western Arctic in 1908-12, by gaining what some considered vulgar publicity from his report of blond Eskimos in the Prince Albert Sound area of Victoria Island.

So the author of this book has skilfully set the scene for the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18, again to the western Arctic. The expedition was financed by the Canadian Government with Stefansson in overall command. He led not only men of his own choice, but also a group of Geological Survey of Canada staff under Rudolph Anderson, a zoologist who had accompanied him before. It was an unhappy arrangement, for the latter group possessed only Civil Service loyalties and regarded Stefansson as a quasi-scientist and adventurer. The expedition ship *Karluuk* was beset by ice in the Beaufort Sea from 13 August 1913 and drifted to destruction. Stefansson left on a hunting trip shortly after the drift began and was unable to regain the ship. He subsequently had to defend himself against those who unjustly thought that he had deliberately abandoned *Karluuk* to her fate. For the 25 people in the ship 'the succeeding months brought death to eleven of them and horror to those fortunate enough to survive'. Stefansson found himself unable to cope with the Government scientists, who formed a mainland group under Anderson while he ranged far among the northwestern Arctic islands. The arrangement led to '... a pageant of acrimony, slander, backbiting, and mutiny, a chronicle as amazing in its way as are the glorious accomplishments of the same men'.

Using native methods of travel and living largely off the land, Stefansson discovered islands and improved maps of the whole northwestern region. (The map on p xvi-xvii of the present volume is incorrectly captioned, and half of it is reproduced on p 127, with