personal feelings, daily routine, stress and hardship of dog-sledge travelling, and to the endurance of a yearlong Arctic fieldwork. The mystery of his amazing professional productivity and of his contribution to Inuit anthropology is not part of the daily journal entries or the letters to his parents and his beloved fiancée, Marie Krackowizer. Rather, it is the magic of eventual transformation of the daily field routine into refined intellectual scholarship that entices one to the accounts of the minute details of Boas' professional endeavours — be it letters from the field, unpublished personal notes, or diaries.

In this regard, *Franz Boas among the Inuit* is clearly just part of a much bigger 'package' that preserves the full legacy of Boas' trip to the Canadian Arctic in 1883–84. It includes the three major scientific products of this trip — the German-language *Baffin-Land: Geographische Ergebnisse* (1885), *The central Eskimo* (1888), and *The Eskimo of the Baffin Land and Hudson Bay* (1901–1907). In fact, the fourth component of the same 'package' is a recently published monograph by Marc Stevenson, *Inuit, whalers, and cultural persistence* (1997), which tells the full story of the Cumberland Sound Inuit and re-evaluates Boas' Baffin Island data from a modern perspective. While the latter monograph was unavailable when the volume of Boas' diaries went to press, a more extensive use of the three former ones probably could have been made. While here and there the journal entries are peppered with brief notes like '[cf. Boas 1885: 70, 1886: 426],' I wish the text had more than these very laconic references. This probably would help to bring us closer to the charm of Boas' transformation from an educated novice on his initiation trip to the experienced field professional, later to become the father of American cultural anthropology.

This comment notwithstanding, *Franz Boas among the Inuit* is an insightful and stimulating reading. Through the lenses of Boas' daily writing, one can see the Inuit people and their land, the ways and means that helped them to endure their environment and to face the outside world. And one can certainly learn a great deal about Franz Boas as a person — a romantic and an intellectual (who read Immanuel Kant in an Eskimo tent); a hard worker and innovator; a character of discipline; and a loving family man. For these and many more reasons, this virtual journey along Boas' Baffin Island diaries is worth undertaking. (Igor Krupnik, Arctic Studies Center, Department of Anthropology, NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, USA.)

References

Boas, F. 1885. *Baffin-Land: Geographische Ergebnisse.* Gotha: Justus Perthes.

Boas, F. 1888. *The central Eskimo.* Washington: Bureau of Ethnography.

Boas, F. 1901–07. *The Eskimo of the Baffin Land and Hudson Bay.* Washington: Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History.

Stevenson, M. 1997. *Inuit, whalers, and cultural persistence.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

SIR JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER: TRAVELLER AND PLANT COLLECTOR. Ray Desmond. 1999. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Antique Collectors' Club, with the Royal Botanic Gardens. 286 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85149-305-0. $29.50.

Up until now, Joseph Dalton Hooker, the Victorian explorer, botanist, and director of Kew Gardens, has been a curiously neglected figure. While biographies of his close scientific friends T.H. Huxley and Charles Darwin stream from the presses, and biologists endlessly debate the finer points of the Darwinian revolution, Hooker seems to have been left behind in a weed-filled backwater. His role as a daring explorer in the early days of empire is mostly forgotten. His contributions to science and to the administrative structure of science, as in the Royal Society, the British Association, the India Office, and various government departments, are generally overlooked except perhaps by those systematic botanists who come across his name regularly in plant-classification schemes. Who remembers that Darwin once gratefully said that Hooker's letters were like a 'jam-pot' to him? And although Hooker's exceptional career at the forefront of Kew Gardens has long been noted, it is rarely explored in depth. During the middle years of the nineteenth century, with Hooker at the helm, Kew rose to the height of its influence by becoming an indispensible hub of the far-flung colonial botanic-garden system, encouraging the transportation and relocation of cash crops, testing new forestry concerns, and masterminding tea plantations, rubber stocks, sugar cane, and other economic plants, as well as advancing knowledge of local floras and sending specimens back to London. Born in 1817 and dying in 1911, he had a hand in nearly every scientific achievement of the Victorian era.

At last, here is a carefully researched and lively account of Hooker's activities, lavishly illustrated with his own sketches and wonderful coloured prints by Walter Fitch, the talented botanical artist who worked at Kew for Hooker and his father. As the title suggests, the book takes a particular interest in Hooker's geographical explorations and plant-collecting activities, and reproduces many unknown drawings from the archives. Ray Desmond's easy writing style and great knowledge of Kew Gardens turns it into a first-rate story.

Joseph Hooker was brought up in a thoroughly botanical environment and seemed never to wish for anything else. He was the younger son of William Jackson Hooker, professor of botany at Glasgow University, who was subsequently the first director of Kew. Educated at Glasgow, the younger Hooker graduated MD in 1839. Soon afterwards he leaped at the chance of a place as assistant surgeon and botanist on James Clark Ross' exploring expedition to Antarctica, on HMS *Erebus* and *Terror*, 1839–1843.

Although plants were clearly the first love in Hooker's life, ice came a close second. When travelling with Ross, he longed to see a penguin and follow the unsteady shelf of packice far into the Weddell Sea. The voyage was often

very dangerous, the two sailing ships entirely dependent on the captains' skills and response to circumstance. They eventually circumnavigated the ice shelf, working mostly at sea in the area now named after Ross, with Hooker turning his botanical eye to seaweeds and pelagic organisms, but calling also at Franklin and Possession islands, Campbell and Auckland islands, as well as the Falkland Islands, Prince Edward and Crozier islands, and then Isle Kerguelen, where he collected tussock grass and the curious Kerguelen cabbage, good for scurvy but a poor substitute for spinach. The expedition touched on Graham Land before making for the Cape of Good Hope and home. It was utterly thrilling, utterly terrifying. Although the ships were as well reinforced as Victorian shipwrights could contrive, on one occasion the two nearly collided when dashing between floes. But Hooker saw his penguin and collected thousands of plants, the foundation for years of work on his return. Some of these plants were unwilling sacrifices to science: Hooker discovered that he had to sit on lichen-encrusted rocks for 20 minutes in order to warm them up sufficiently to collect a sample. His letters home provide a fascinating account of early Antarctic adventure that will stir the heart of any *Polar Record* reader.

Ice also drew him to the Himalayas in 1848, where he collected alpine plants and rhododendrons for three years, bringing back the beautiful blue and golden *Meconopsis* (Himalayan poppy) and cartloads of rhododendrons that became the basis of all our modern garden cultivars. This too was pioneering work. He travelled partly with Thomas Thomson, with whom he wrote an unfinished *Flora indica* (1855), and partly with Andrew Campbell, with whom he was briefly imprisoned in Sikkim. Hooker liked to say afterwards that Britain would never have annexed Sikkim without his uncomfortable spell in prison, accused of being a spy; nor would he have survived without the fruit cake smuggled to him by Mrs Campbell, along a line of friendly sherpas. He published several fine illustrated works depicting the plants he found, and a less successful *Himalayan journals* (1854). Two of the most beautiful species of rhododendron that he discovered were named in gratitude after Thomson and Campbell.

His career was thereafter notable for consolidating Kew's position as a pre-eminent centre of colonial botany, masterminding the plantation economy of the British empire and encouraging high-level taxonomic research. He published prolifically in scientific journals, ranging widely over the entire fields of systematics, geography, morphology, and palaeontology, and took a prominent part in supporting his friend Darwin's evolutionary views. At this point, he also began a lifelong undertaking with George Bentham to re-examine the whole botanical kingdom for a *Genera Plantarum*. His own research was very diverse, but he continued a long-term interest in the physiology and distribution of Arctic–alpine plants.

Although his time was increasingly occupied with Kew, Hooker afterwards travelled in Syria, where he investigated the Cedars of Lebanon. He went to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco in 1871, yearning to touch the snowline again, with ice caking his beard. A similar love for the mountains took him to the Rockies in Colorado in 1877, where he collected high-altitude plants that found their way into his important work on plants of the Arctic Circle. Desmond reproduces a period photograph of the exploring party in their camp, with all the flunkies and trappers, plus two wives and a coffee pot, that nineteenth-century travel entailed.

Hooker's last years were dedicated to administrative matters, but he managed to sit on several Royal Society committees and panels concerned with further polar research. He helped frame the scientific programme for the *Challenger* expedition, and lived long enough to contribute to the plans for Captain Scott's first foray to the south in *Discovery*. He was buried in the Anglican church on Kew Green, where a memorial plaque incorporates some of his favourite blue-and-white Wedgwood ware. It is very good to see this interesting man brought so vividly to life by Ray Desmond. The book deserves great success. (Janet Browne, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.)

BIRDS OF SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA AND ANTARCTICA. Martín R. de la Peña and Maurice Rumboll. 1998. London: Harper Collins. 304 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-00-220077-5. £19.99.

Despite being published as a Collins Illustrated Checklist, this book is a field guide to the birds of the southern cone of South America. The northernmost boundary of coverage moves eastwards from the northern extremity of Chile. Then, in Bolivia's Santa Cruz province, this boundary turns southeast, brushing the northeast frontiers of Paraguay, before hitting the Atlantic coast of Brazil about five degrees south of São Paulo. Thus coverage extends to all of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay, as well as the Antarctic Peninsula. Also included are southern Bolivia and the extreme southeast of Brazil. More vividly, the coverage extends from the waterless gravelly barrens of the Atacama desert to the lush rainforest of Misiones to the magnificent ice-caps bordering the Beagle Channel. The treatment in one volume of the 1000 or so bird species living in the region is the book's strength.

Particularly for the roving visitor from farther north, the checklist is more useful, because it is more comprehensive, than either of the obvious competitors, Narovsky and Yzurieta's *Birds of Argentina and Uruguay* or Araya and Millie's *Guía de campo de las aves de Chile*.

In fact this book is based on the 1992 Spanish *Guía de las aves argentinas*, a six-volume work by de la Peña that is here compressed into field-guide format. The plates are opposite the relevant text, which is generally informative and accurate, if necessarily brief. Distribution maps are sandwiched at the end. They are clear enough, but I failed to find any legend to guide me through the different styles of shading. However, the fact that the checklist is based on an Argentine guide with bits added in is, at times, all too