

policy. Sten Henrysson's discussion of Swedish Saami education during the twentieth century also addresses major issues. Until land rights and education have been settled, the region will be politically divided.

Finally, I must mention a commendable paper on reindeer herding on the Kola Peninsula by Hugh Beach, and another on the names of the Saami thunder-god in their pre-Christian religion. (Ian Whitaker, Department of Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6, Canada.)

**ANTARCTICA: EXPLORATION, PERCEPTION AND METAPHOR.** Paul Simpson-Housley. 1992. London and New York: Routledge. xviii + 131 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-415-08225-0. £16.99.

Previously noted for his publications relating to behavioural and cultural geography, to hazard perception, and to the analyses of literary landscapes, this is the author's first study devoted to the polar regions. Simpson-Housley describes his book as approaching 'the evaluation of Antarctica from the perspective of environmental perception. It [Antarctica] is diverse and a polyphony of voices is heard. Throughout the focus is on individual views and perceptions' (page xvii). Misperceptions are of particular interest, and these are attributed by the author to a variety of causes, including the sheer strangeness of the southern continent, the prevalence of mirages, and the inability to determine exact location through difficulties of calculating longitude. Attention is paid to the views of poets and artists as well as to those of scientists and explorers, since 'In a postmodern world we deny nobody their right to speak' (page xvii).

Clearly an interesting subject has been identified, and the method of approach is also intriguing, with chapters entitled 'The seaman's view' (Cook, Bellingshausen, Wilkes, Ross...) and 'The landsman's view' (Borchgrevink, Scott, Shackleton, Amundsen). Simpson-Housley's distinction here is not that the latter were not seamen, since clearly they were, but that perceptions of Antarctica were not the same for expeditions based on the continent as they were for those in vessels voyaging around it. Other chapters explore such topics as Bouvetøya and its mysteriously disappearing neighbor, Thompson Island; feelings of fear, desolation, and — contrastingly — beauty inspired by Antarctic seas and landscapes; and the particular problems of Antarctic navigation and the misperceptions consequent upon them. This last matter is pursued further in two chapters devoted respectively to Benjamin Morrell's claimed discovery of New South Greenland and to Wilkes' charting of the coast of Wilkes Land up to 200 miles north of its correct location. Simpson-Housley defends the honesty of both Morrell and Wilkes, arguing that misperception resulting from the effects of superior images in each case led to error. A final chapter studies Antarctic poetry, much of which consists of an examination of Coleridge's sources for *The rime of the ancient mariner* and echoes of Coleridge's expressed sentiments in the

writings of explorers such as Scott and Shackleton.

Interesting as Simpson-Housley's book undoubtedly is, my overwhelming impression is that, given this topic and the author's breadth of learning (particularly with regard to the more 'cultural' aspects of his subject), this publication does not really live up to its promise. At only 131 pages, it is brief, and a substantial proportion of the limited space available is spent in re-telling familiar expeditionary exploits without shedding much new light on the specific subject of environmental perception. Chapter 3, for example, contains thumbnail sketches of the Borchgrevink, Scott, Shackleton, and Amundsen expeditions, all told in the space of 20 pages. Little room remains for the author to investigate potentially fascinating questions such as whether there were any systematic differences in the ways in which these very different expeditions perceived Antarctica. Did the personalities of the various leaders, for example, have any influence upon perceptions of expedition members, and, if so, what type of influence? To what extent did perceptions vary with an individual's role in the expedition, social background, or motive for joining the expedition? It is frustrating that a publication that does so much to stimulate interesting questions so frequently fails to pursue them.

Any newcomer to polar studies is likely to make certain mistakes, but the author's comparative inexperience does show up particularly disadvantageously in his confusion on pages 14–15 between the two Rosses, where James Clark Ross rather than John Ross is described as charting the Croker Mountains when leading his first Arctic expedition with Parry as second-in-command.

My final criticism is that too great reliance appears to have been placed on a relatively small number of largely secondary sources, a point borne out by a quick scan through the bibliography. Whilst I can appreciate that time is limited and that the potential reading matter for an ambitious subject of this nature is almost inexhaustible, it is surely the case that there is simply no substitute for detailed textual study of the expedition accounts themselves whenever possible, since only these will prove truly revealing about the perceptions of those encountering Antarctica, rather than the perceptions of those subsequently encountering and filtering their written words. (William Mills, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEANS LAW AND POLICY OCCASIONAL PAPERS 1–5.** Hobart: Law School, University of Tasmania. Soft cover. \$A12.00 each.

These are the first five papers in what promises to be a lively series, aimed at 'encouraging research and providing a forum for public discussion on law and policy issues relating to the Antarctic and the Southern Oceans generally.' Published by the Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania, in production they show an interesting evolution from ad-hockery to self-confidence: from No. 3