

ignored.' These include giving little information on artifacts and manufactured items apart from boats and clothing. David Crantz, the next major observer of the scene, was a Moravian missionary, and he gave much more information about several subjects, for example the attitudes of the people and concerning their weapons. His book *The history of Greenland* (1767) devoted some 100 pages to his description. But, of course, some explorers made valuable contributions to the knowledge of the peoples in question, and Oswalt singles out in this respect George F. Lyon, William Edward Parry, Gustav Holm, Lavrentiy A. Zagoskin, and Elisha Kent Kane, among officers, and John Simpson among medical men.

Oswalt's text provides a comprehensive overview of such contacts and its value is greatly increased by the fact that each chapter is followed by a bibliographic commentary providing full details of the sources, not only by expedition or writer but also by subject. For example, in the section following the chapter on the search for the Northwest Passage, 'The perfect craze,' there is a paragraph on the question of whether the Eskimos were fat. Oswalt mentions those who wrote on either side of the question and refers to the autopsy of an Eskimo by Edward Doddinge in 1577. Other topics mentioned in such sections include 'Arctic hysteria,' the hunting techniques of polar bears, and trade markets.

The book is very well illustrated. There are no fewer than 69 pictures, all of which are taken from works referred to in the text. This assists the reader to appreciate the points being made by the writers. An example of this is the picture taken from Crantz depicting several different types of weapons used against aquatic species by the inhabitants of West Greenland. The preparation of this picture was no mean task. It must have involved many hours of observing how each weapon was used, what its adaptations were to the particular prey for which it was intended, and not least a certain artistic dexterity in the draftsmanship. Another observer who was interested in weapons was Henry Ellis, who sailed with William Moor in 1746, and a beautiful illustration from his book published in 1748 is presented. This shows 'The great harpoon for whales,' with six labelled parts and 'The small harpoon, its bladder & barb, with the instrument to dart it at the seals.' Of course, not all the pictures are as sophisticated as these. Some of the earlier ones, for example that showing the first illustration of hostilities between explorers and Eskimos in 1577, are little more than caricatures, but this in itself is interesting since it demonstrates the image of the peoples presented to those who read the explorers' records. The book also has two maps that are, unusually in this cost-conscious age, of the foldout type. One is entitled 'Aboriginal population and distribution of tribes,' and the other is of the placenames referred to in the text. This, however, also includes the explorers whose names are associated with particular areas.

There are two appendices — one relating to the first map and the other to 'The Eskimo culture area' — a full bibliography, and two indices.

To sum up: a worthwhile second edition of a book that has long been known as a valuable introduction to the subject. Those who read the first edition when it came out should certainly refresh their memories with this new edition. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

**ANTARCTIC ODYSSEY.** Graham Collier and Patricia Graham Collier. 1999. London: Robinson Publishing. xiv + 194 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-84119-104-3. £19.99.

*Antarctic odyssey* is a cleverly crafted book in which the authors' seven visits to the Antarctic have been seamlessly molded into two cruises. The first leaves from Punta Arenas, crosses the Drake Passage, and spends some time at Deception and Elephant islands. The various aspects of the journey are graphically described, giving the reader a good feel for the 'tempestuous seas and howling winds and pounding surf and the petrels and albatrosses that carve great spatial arabesques as they sweep the sky.' Once ashore he wanders through penguin rookeries and in amongst seal wallows before recalling the exploits performed there by the men of the heroic era of Antarctic exploration. From Elephant Island and Shackleton's epic boat journey, the authors take the reader down the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, through the picturesque Gerlache Strait into the Bellingshausen Sea and on to Peter I Island for an all-too-brief sojourn ashore, registering in the process only the ninth recorded landing.

From Peter I Island it's full speed ahead to the Ross Sea, Ross Island, and on to Cape Adare. Here the book earns its subtitle — 'In the footsteps of the South Polar explorers' — as the better-known stories of various polar parties, including Douglas Mawson's lone trek after the loss of Mertz and Ninnis and the privations suffered by Victor Campbell's northern party, are recalled.

The second cruise follows Mawson's British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expeditions of 1929–31 from Cape Town to the sub-Antarctic islands of Crozet, Kerguelen, and Heard, on to Klua Point on the Mawson Coast, then along the coast across Prydz Bay to the vicinity of the Vestfold Hills, before sailing north to Fremantle. The format is as before, with comparisons drawn between the two sides of the Antarctic; Mawson is the major explorer here, and emperor penguins dominate the last chapter. During the course of their travels, the authors visited several Antarctic bases, and I was disappointed that they did not investigate these further.

The book is lavishly illustrated with many full-page photographs, all of which follow the text admirably, although there is nothing spectacular about any of the wildlife photos. Indeed, the rear view of a pair of macaroni penguins going for a walk gives the impression of all-too-brief a time spent ashore. There are nine maps that cover both historical and geographical points, but several of them appear to be crammed in and have lost the explanatory key. *Antarctic odyssey* is a small coffee-table book suitable

for the first-time reader with little or no previous knowledge of the Antarctic. Finally, the title of this book is regrettable, as it has been used before. It will detract from, and cause confusion with, the excellent account of the setting up of the Australian Mawson Base by Phillip Law, published by William Heinemann in 1983. (Herbert Dartnall, Copper Beeches, 76 Lewes Road, Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8TY.)

#### BRIEF REVIEWS

**THE ESKIMO STORYTELLER.** Edwin S. Hall Jr. 1998. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. xv + 491 p; illustrated; soft cover. ISBN 1-889963-02-X. \$US24.95.

First published in 1975, this is a first-rate and enduring account of the narrative and oral history of the relationship between people and place in northwest Alaska. Edwin S. Hall gathered this collection of 190 stories from the Inupiaq village of Noatak mainly in the early 1960s, and from two master storytellers, Edna Hunnicutt and Paul Monroe. *The Eskimo storyteller* is essentially their book, and Hall contextualises and structures the narrative with reference to the socio-economic situation in northwest Alaska at the time he first began to visit Noatak. Hall also discusses the social and cultural importance of storytelling for the Inupiaq people, describing how stories were told and how they were passed on to the next generation of storytellers. The stories collected here have recognisable motifs that are common to other Inuit stories and oral histories elsewhere in Alaska and other parts of the Arctic; whether they are about family life, social relationships, animals as spiritual beings, the dual existence of both humans and animals, and the everyday, yet ambivalent, preoccupations of human beings.

Despite the obvious value of the stories it contains within its covers, *The Eskimo storyteller* has a contemporary significance in a methodological sense. More than 20 years after it first appeared, Hall's book is a fine example of the kind of collaborative research between anthropologist and local people that is increasingly promoted and encouraged in the Arctic today. Hall's account of how he actually went about gathering the stories (and the storytellers' reactions to why he was interested in gathering them), translating them, and reproducing them for publication in as accurate a way as possible so as to convey their original feelings is a valuable account of how to do research. In his analysis, Hall is wary that too much interpretation may deny the stories the meaning they have for those who tell them. These are the people's stories, and,

as Hall says, they are to be savoured and enjoyed, not questioned.

**THE INUPIAQ ESKIMO NATIONS OF NORTHWEST ALASKA.** Ernest S. Burch Jr. 1998. Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Press. xviii + 473 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-912006-95-1. \$US49.95.

In 1994 the distinguished anthropologist Ernest S. Burch produced a report summarising his research into extinct nations in northwest Alaska. This report was highly scholarly, and was circulated only to polar libraries and a few eminent researchers in the field. *The Inupiaq Eskimo nations of northwest Alaska* is a modified version of this extensive work. It is intended to be accessible to a wider audience, and to be a record of cultures that ceased to exist in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Burch has achieved his objective admirably. The book contains a brief introduction, including basic information on the geography and history of the region as well as documenting research methods. Then there are 11 chapters, each one dedicated to a specific Inupiaq nation, and a conclusion in which various theoretical issues relating to the information provided are addressed. At the end of the book are several useful appendices, including an essay on the missing village of Qikiqtagruk (a large village reputedly near present-day Kotzebue that features in oral accounts, but that archaeologists and historians have failed to locate), a detailed reference list, subject and geographical indices, and a list of oral sources that were used in compiling this volume. There are many detailed and clear maps, and the text is divided into small and very readable sub-sections. Thus, it is not only possible to read each chapter in its entirety, but also to use the book as a reference source by locating specific well-defined topics.

The essence of the book is based upon previous research conducted in the area and on oral accounts gathered from the elders of Inupiaq villages at a time when such narratives were still the primary form of historical record. Like Knud Rasmussen, whose accounts of the people of Greenland and Arctic America are unique and valuable sources of information not available elsewhere, Burch has compiled a history of all-but-forgotten nations that will prove to be a major reference work for many years to come.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

**SCOTT'S LAST JOURNEY.** Peter King (Editor). 1999. London: Duckworth. 192 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7156-2938-7. £20.00.