

minor variation only in naming.) He recorded his experiences in his famous book contentiously called *The friendly Arctic*: the title did not endear him to professional colleagues, who counted the lives lost on the expedition it described. Books and lectures became his living. In 1924 he visited the Australian desert; having portrayed a frozen desert as a productive and comfortable region, and wanted to do the same for a hot desert. There is no mention of this venture in Hunt's book, though it is referenced in the bibliography.

Few matters of Arctic interest escaped Stefansson's pen. He provided, for example, his own plausible explanation of the fate that overtook the Swedish balloonist Andree and his companions, when in 1930, 33 years after their disappearance, their bodies were found on Kvitøya (White Island), Svalbard. (By a regrettable error Professor Hunt confuses this island with Winter Island, Foxe Basin, Arctic Canada.) At the same time Stefansson's philosophy spread to a younger generation of explorers, notably Watkins in Greenland, Manning in Canada, and Gould in Antarctica. In his later years, as the author shows, there was a greatness about Stefansson that enabled him to live down the Wrangel Island fiasco, an abortive reindeer project on Baffin Island, and finally unpleasant innuendoes resulting from his political naïvety in the McCarthy era. Ultimately he became a respected sage of Arctic affairs and saw many of his predictions realized, *Arcticae jacentis vindex impavidus*. This book provides an objective assessment of his career that would have appealed to Stef. It brings out the unity of purpose of his life, and his kindness, open-mindedness and lack of pomposity, in a way that rings true to those of us who knew him. (G. Hattersley-Smith, Polar Regions Section, South America Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.)

WHALING LOGBOOKS AND JOURNALS

WHALING LOGBOOKS AND JOURNALS 1613–1927. Sherman, S. C. (compiler), Downey, J. M. and Adams, V. M. (editors). 1986. Garland Publishing, New York and London. 469p, hard cover. ISBN 0–8240–9328–3. US\$80.00

This is a concise and practical compilation of data from 5018 logbooks, diaries and similar papers kept by masters, officers, crew and others aboard whalers, sealers, and other vessels, from all the world's oceans. These men were often the discoverers of remote islands and the most frequent visitors to many of them during the old whaling era. The compilation was begun in 1977 as a result of an International Workshop on Historical Whaling Records and had support from many organizations. Although it particularly covers the whaling industry of the New England region of the United States (where the vast majority of such records are preserved) records of many other vessels and countries are included. The records are held in 82 repositories and helpful notes about access is provided. The entries provide all the basic information needed to identify a voyage; vessel, rig, port, dates of voyage (or journal if different), master, record keeper (if different), area of operations, and repository. I am particularly pleased to note the effort that has been made to give full names of masters and other men involved, avoiding the confusion that may arise, especially among members of the large whaling families, when only surnames or initials are used. Another particularly favourable aspect is the indexing; by port, masters and keepers, year, whaling grounds, and repositories. The arrangement of the entries is in alphabetical order of the names of vessels and a short bibliography is appended. Well organized and presented, the work is an essential reference for anyone working on the old whaling and sealing industries, and history of remote places,

satisfactorily complementing the lists compiled by Starbuck (1878), Clarke (1887), Hegerty (1959 and 1964), Schult (1965), Decker (1973) and several others. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

ANTARCTIC CENOZOIC HISTORY FROM THE MSSTS-1 DRILLHOLE McMURDO SOUND. Barrett, P. J. 1986. Wellington, SIPC (New Zealand DSIR Bulletin 237). 174p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-477-06785-9: NZ\$55.00, US\$27.50.

Drilled in 1979 off New Harbour, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, the first core of the McMurdo Sound Sediment and Tectonic Studies drilling programme yielded 227 m of sediments ranging in age from Quaternary to Late Oligocene. The core supplemented data obtained nearby from the Dry Valley Drilling Project, helping to fill gaps in an important period of the glacial history of the Victoria Land Basin. This well-produced collection of papers reviews stratigraphy, sedimentary succession, palaeomagnetic stratigraphy, palynology, clay mineralogy and other aspects revealed by the core, with ample illustrations and a full index.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS. Rymill, J. 1986. Colwall, Knell Press. 167p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0 950 8218 29. £11.00.

An attractive, modestly-priced reprint of a modern Antarctic classic, the official account of the British Graham Land Expedition 1934-37, written by the expedition leader and first published in 1938. This issue faithfully reproduces the Travel Book Club edition, not forgetting the photographs and fold-out map, and includes a reprint of a 1985 anniversary lecture by A. Stephenson and C. G. L. Bertram, two surviving members of the expedition. Obtainable from the Knell Press, Fossil Bluff, Upper Colwall, Malvern UK WR13 6PR; inland mail £12.00, surface mail overseas £12.50, air mail overseas £17.50.

HISTORICAL SITES AT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS. Cooper, J. and Avery, G. 1986. Pretoria, Foundation for Research Development (South African National Scientific Programmes Report 128). 82p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-7988-3811-6.

The results of a workshop on the historic sites of sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands (Marion Island, Prince Edward Island), listing all known visits up to 1948, and cataloguing and mapping all known historic sites, most of which are associated with 19th century whaling and sealing.

ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. Fox, R. 1985. London, British Broadcasting Corporation. 336p, hard cover. ISBN 0-563-20332-3. £12.95.

A personal account of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and parts of British Antarctic Territory following the author's reporting of the warfare of 1982, and subsequent visits to the region. A second edition is in preparation which will incorporate substantial revisions and indicate the latest developments. The book is extensively illustrated.