

ately sceptical.

The report is comprehensive and well-reasoned, but lacks in-depth, penetrating analysis. It is more of a lengthy executive summary than a full report. On balance, however, it is a very useful document, and the four principal objectives it sets for a northern foreign policy (national security and peaceful cooperation; self-reliance for aboriginal people; protection of the arctic environment and better understanding of it; promotion of economic development consistent with environmental protection) are all laudable. (Gerald Graham, 4-60 First Ave., Ottawa K1S 2G2, Canada.)

### ANTARCTICA THROUGH SOUTH AMERICAN EYES

ANTARCTICA AND SOUTH AMERICAN GEOPOLITICS: FROZEN LEBENSRAUM. Child, Jack. 1988. New York, Praeger. 232 p, maps, hard cover. ISBN 0-275-92886-1. £28.95.

The author, a specialist on Latin American affairs, previously wrote *Geopolitics and conflict in South America*, which included a substantial amount of material on South American considerations of Antarctic regions. This present work examines the subject in much greater detail and provides an excellent elucidation of a decidedly complicated set of circumstances.

The book begins with introductory notes on the geography, history, resources and sovereignty of Antarctica, and describes the operation of the Antarctic Treaty. This is followed by an analysis of the concept of geopolitics, particularly with regard to the nature and significance of South American geopolitical thinking, which strongly reflects the influences of the history of the states concerned. One chapter is devoted to each of the principal South American countries involved — Argentina, Brazil, and Chile; another summarises the views of Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador, and has a synopsis of those of several others. The treatment of each national section is on a very similar plan and this greatly helps in appreciating the often distinctive views expressed. Such a crystallization, together with an explanation of the concept of an 'organic state', I found particularly useful in understanding much present South American thought about the problems of Antarctica.

Although concerned primarily with Antarctica, Child discusses the Falkland Islands and some Southern Ocean islands, especially as the events of 1982 were important for regions further south. The different national announcements and activities are described from this period. The work is provided with a comprehensive series of notes and a detailed bibliography which incidentally provides a very useful source for information on South American Antarctic thinking. Several maps and an efficient index complete a very timely work which I highly recommend. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

### EPIC SOUTHERN OCEAN VOYAGE

THE TOTORORE VOYAGE: AN ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE. Clark, G. 1988. LONDON, Century Hutchinson. 357 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7126-2438-4. £15.95.

This is a personal account of an exceptional circumnavigation in high southern latitudes by the 11 metre wooden cutter *Totorore*. Gerry Clark departed from Kerikeri, New Zealand and travelled, in nearly four years, over 24,500 nautical miles. *Totorore* visited remote coastal parts of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, several sub-Antarctic islands, and went as far south as the South Shetland Islands and Curtis Bay, Graham Land, where a landing was made. The book is Clark's edited daily account with explanations and descriptions added; it is a fascinating tale of adventure, exploration, exhilaration and survival through the eyes of an experienced and resourceful navigator. Clark is a keen ornithologist and his interest in Antarctic wildlife, and for its conservation, was no doubt a strong motivation for the circumnavigation and for this book.

Despite the extreme hardship of the voyage, including hazards of sea ice, capsizes, dismastings and the departure of crew at Marion Island, Clark visited all but one of the islands he originally intended to visit. He does not hide the dangers; there are overtones of H. W. Tilman where routine reference is made to high seas and the difficult circumstances confronted. An important message from this book is its relevance to national Antarctic activities. Small yacht voyages form a category of polar tourism that will not diminish. Clark's circumnavigation is an extreme example, but his book is an enlightened account of the great attractions that high latitudes hold for many small boat owners, and shorter excursions are likely to become more popular. Readers will be interested in the mixed reception that *Totorore* received at several of the outposts visited.

Century Publications are to be congratulated on the quality of production. Photographs, maps and wildlife sketches are of high quality; the sketches are well positioned and complement the text. I thoroughly recommend *The Totorore voyage* to nautical enthusiasts, and to those with an interest in remote islands and in Antarctic conservation. Gerry Clark's voyage must rank as one of the epic small yacht voyages of our times. (Peter Keage, Australian Antarctic Division, Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania 7050, Australia.)

### AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTICA: PEOPLE, PENGUINS AND POLITICS

SITTING ON PENGUINS: PEOPLE AND POLITICS IN AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTICA. Murray-Smith, Stephen. 1988. Surrey Hills, NSW, Hutchinson Australia. 249 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-09-169120-6. Aus\$29.95.

Stephen Murray-Smith, a distinguished Australian historian and author, died shortly after completing *Sitting on penguins*. It is a great pity he will not be able to gauge the

impact of this powerful work. On the surface, the book is an anthology of Murray-Smith's experiences on an Australian Antarctic resupply voyage aboard MV Icebird in 1985-86. Three landfalls were made, at Mawson's 1911-14 hut at Commonwealth Bay, and at Casey and Davis stations. This is not a travellers' tale which the diary structure might suggest. The reader is immediately involved in shipboard life, politics, and in Murray-Smith's interactions with companions who represent the cross-section of those involved in the Antarctic program. The descriptions and perceptions of shipboard and station politics, together with day-to-day situations, are entertaining and stimulating. The reader is skilfully drawn into personal (and at times frank) exchanges, mishaps and controversy. In addition, several press releases that Murray-Smith wrote during the voyage are dovetailed into the text as the end-product of the circumstance in which they were written. They are escapes or explorations of normal reaction to this splendid frontier.

At another level, Murray-Smith provides a lucid and frank investigation of the spirit, motives and operational sense of Australia's Antarctic program. Analyses are exposing and, with force, cut to the bone at several places. Each cut exposes a web of ideas and re-assessment. In his preface, Murray-Smith says he takes a more charitable view of shortcomings than he perceived at the time, but the published word will no doubt upset program administrators. However, *Sitting on penguins* is an analysis by an intelligent man whose Antarctic travel was at the request of Barry Jones, the (then) Australian Federal Government Minister responsible for the Antarctic Division. Murray-Smith knew the program's history and politics better than most involved; his target is the program's intellectual perception of Antarctica. The searching questions that vex him are relevant to other nations with Antarctic operations.

Hutchinson Australia have taken a great deal of effort to produce this book. Jan Sensberg's modern and busy sketches compliment the intensity of Murray-Smith's pen, although the combination might be too strong for some. Colour photographs of human activity, not wildlife, reinforce the human and political fabric that the author uniquely portrays. *Sitting on penguins* is expert writing and, together with its political, social and historical analysis, has immense literary value. It is an acquisition for all Australians with an eye on their Antarctic endeavour. In the longer term, I hope that the literary value of the book will be recognised in some formal way. (Peter L. Keage, Australian Antarctic Division, Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania, Australia 7050.)

#### ONE AUSTRALIAN'S ANTARCTIC

BREAKING THE ICE. Butler, R. Sutherland. 1988. Tring, Lion Publishing. 159 p. illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7459-1189. £12.95.

Rowan Butler, a professional electronics engineer, has served with Australian National Antarctic Research

Expeditions (ANARE) since 1980. This book is an account of seasons spent at Mawson (1981-82), and Casey (1984) stations, a visit to Heard Island in 1985 on the Antarctic Division's BIOMASS Experiment (AD-BEX), and finally a trip to the Bunger Hills, Knox Coast, in 1986. Mr Butler's speciality was the setting up and servicing of automatic weather stations, but he also doubled as photographer and his professionalism in this field is exemplified throughout this well illustrated narrative. The photographs by no means eclipse the text, however, which presents a readable and exhilarating account of life on a modern Antarctic station. Daily routine has not fundamentally changed since Sir Douglas Mawson's time; the author succeeded in turning his hand to all manner of chores including scouring the latrines and acting as duty cook. His technical expertise found him frequently in the field sledging with dogs (an acknowledged favourite) or with skidoos, and on longer trips in tractor trains from whose heated cabins measurements of the ice sheet could be carried out.

The author has lurid tales to tell of the susceptibility of modern technology to the 'Antarctic factor', the dreaded jinx that plays havoc with electrical circuits and causes tractor engines to seize up. Amazingly, fatal accidents are few; heroics are not encouraged in present-day Antarctica. The nearest the author gets to being a polar hero is when he finds himself playing the part of Mertz in a production of 'The survivor', a TV film about Mawson's last famous trek in 1912, made on location. This involved some uncomfortable moments down a yawning crevasse, and the odd experience of listening to one's own burial service being preached.

Present-day Antarctic exploration has much to do with international cooperation as the good relations existing between Australian scientists and their neighbouring Russian colleagues make evident. The author quotes a message attached to a bottle of vodka left by the Russians at a cache: 'Accept our small gift please, as a symbol of friendship between Australia and Soviet people. For the peaceful world without wars'. The little note spoke volumes about Antarctica today. In conclusion, Mr Butler pays tribute in an appendix to *Nella Dan*, which for 85 voyages transported personnel and equipment safely between Australia and Antarctica. In December 1987 she sank off Macquarie Island greatly mourned by ANARE veterans. (H. G. R. King, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

#### POLITICS IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC

THE ROAD TO NUNAVUT: THE PROGRESS OF THE EASTERN ARCTIC INUIT SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR. Duffy, R. Q. 1988. Kingston and Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press. 308 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-0619-5. Can\$35.00.

Duffy must have spent several years in the basements and archives of government, to have produced this very thoroughly documented history of development in the eastern