

to bursting with informative and useful figures, maps, graphs, and tables of excellent quality.

My principal complaint with this book is that, where it excels in authority, it lacks in eloquence. First, the flow of the text suffers from the authors' attempt to integrate the findings from such a vast quantity of source material. The result is choppy text that in places reads like a patchwork of extracts from articles in academic journals. Readability further suffers from an excessive use of scientific jargon. Familiarizing students with the *lingua franca* of various scientific disciplines is a valid goal; nevertheless, a glossary is much needed to make this text fully accessible to the broad audience it seeks to inform.

Despite these criticisms, *Antarctic environments and resources* is a valuable text for those requiring a comprehensive, yet concise, treatment of Antarctic science, history, politics, and environmental management. As such, it is especially appropriate for university students and professionals alike. If you are looking for an authoritative and balanced reference text on the Antarctic, and you want to buy only one book, then this is an excellent choice. (Steven G. Sawhill, Jesus College, Cambridge CB5 8BL.)

ICEMEN: A HISTORY OF THE ARCTIC AND ITS EXPLORERS. Mick Conefrey and Tim Jordan. 1999. Basingstoke and Oxford: Boxtree. 189 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-7522-1341-5. £6.99.

This book is the 'companion' to the BBC television series with the same name, which was broadcast in 1998. The 'book of the series' presents obvious problems to a reviewer. Should the review be based strictly upon the book itself, and of what it claims to be — in this case nothing less than 'A history of the Arctic and its explorers' — or an attempt to present material that will serve to embellish and enrich that shown in the programmes and that will not be comprehensible without having seen them?

In this case, the reviewer saw only one of the programmes, that based upon Salomon August Andrée, and so would be constrained to follow the former approach in the absence of any direct information set out in the book itself concerning the programmes. This is, in fact, the case. Beyond a remark in the acknowledgements concerning the countries in which the series was filmed and a comment in the postscript about an expedition that was setting out as filming started, there is no reference in the body of the work to the series at all, and therefore the reader should assume that the book is intended to stand on its own and should judge it strictly on its merits or lack thereof, exactly as if he had picked the book up in a shop and was not aware of the existence of the series.

The structure of the book is simple. There is an introduction followed by 10 chapters and the postscript. The first of the chapters relates to early British expeditions in the Canadian Arctic archipelago and concludes with the Franklin search. There are then two chapters on Robert E. Peary and Frederick Cook, one on Andrée, two on Roald Amundsen and Umberto Nobile, one on Gino Watkins and

Augustine Courtauld, one on the operations undertaken by the Germans and the allies in World War II, one on the Arctic in the Cold War, and a final one on the Canadian policy of Inuit relocation.

The deficiencies of this scheme are obvious. And what is one to make of 'A history of the Arctic and its explorers' without a single reference to, for example, Samuel Hearne, Thomas Simpson, Karl Weyprecht and Julius Payer, and George Washington de Long? There are three minor references to Fridtjof Nansen, but of these one is incorrect, claiming as it does that Nansen overwintered on the same island as Andrée's depot at Cape Flora. Moreover, the book is entirely one-sided. The 'history of the Arctic' is exclusively western, and, beyond mere one-line references, it appears that nothing happened on the Russian side at all. No Great Northern Expedition, no Bering, no Nordenskiöld and *Vega*, no Soviet ice stations, and nothing on the relations between the successive governments of Russia and the indigenous peoples of northern Siberia beyond a note that while the Inuit were 'subject to the same collectivisation policies that were active in the rest of the country...the government did try to protect many of the unique aspects of their culture' (page 179).

It is, of course, likely that even if the producers of the series had wished to include programmes relating to the Russian side of the Arctic, the logistical and financial difficulties of getting film groups to the relevant places could have deterred them, constrained, as they no doubt were, by a limited budget, and that, therefore, the series centred exclusively on the more accessible regions. This should have been made absolutely clear in the introduction, and the reader should at least have been informed concerning what was not included and why. This is more important in the case of non-specialist readers who might not be aware of how biased and limited the book is.

When one turns to the contents of the individual chapters themselves, it becomes apparent that the writers have done a workmanlike journalistic job. This is the reason why others who do workmanlike journalistic jobs have been so lavish in their praise for the book, as recorded in extracts from their reviews which are set out on the cover. However, polar specialists will learn little or nothing from the book, although they will find sweeping statements that may irritate, interesting vignettes that may amuse — for example, the comment by the late Alfred Stephenson that he always kept a spade inside the door, even in Wiltshire — and frequent 'facts' that, if not totally inaccurate, reveal the shallowness of the authors' understanding concerning the material about which they write. But, and this is this reviewer's but, because of the book's racy style, most will continue to the end and, having done so, will then put the book aside forever.

The writers have thoroughly contemporary attitudes to their subject. Sex intrudes frequently and no opportunity is missed to comment on miscegenation by explorers with Inuit women. Reference is made in the introduction to the taking by Peary of 'readers' wives' nude pictures of his Inuit lover: no doubt the authors assume that all readers of

the book will be familiar with the genre. Indeed, out of a total of 27 photographs, one is included. So much for the 'history of the Arctic and its explorers.' Matthew Henson is, of course, given prominence, and he merits two individual photographs. The chapter entitled 'A town called Resolute' is a politically correct account of the relocation policy. Ignoring the Russian Arctic enables the authors to avoid mention of gulags, in comparison with which the Inuit relocation in Canada, unfortunate as it might have been, was a mere picnic.

It would be tiresome to list all the errors in the text, as they are legion. To illustrate the general inadequacy of the attention devoted to their task by the authors, one is informed on page 130 that the British Arctic Air Route Expedition of the early 1930s was the first British expedition that 'had successfully adapted to Eskimo methods of travel and hunting.' This overlooks the fact that, on page 30, the same honour had been awarded to John Rae. A further example is on page 132, where the reader is informed that 'For the first time in its history, the Arctic was dragged into a modern war.' This is with reference to World War II. The authors have underestimated the serious hostilities between the English, French, and Dutch in Svalbard in the seventeenth century, which were, of course, 'modern' then. These culminated in one full-scale battle, at Sorgfiord in 1693. Even with regard to World War II, they are inaccurate, claiming on page 133 that the United States declared war on Germany. It was actually the other way around. Germany (and Italy) declared war on the US in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor.

Comment has previously been made on the illustrations. There are 27 photographs, very few of which were specially taken. There is a picture purporting to be of Spitsbergen, although it could have been of almost any mountainous polar region, while another is of a signpost along the route towards Resolute from its airstrip. There is a picture of Atle Gresli, a Norwegian active against the Germans on Svalbard during the war, and another of Minnie Allakariallak, an Inuit relocatee in her comfortable sitting room.

The low point of the book is the map; there is only one, and it is of 'Canada's Arctic Archipelago.' It is the most useless map this reviewer has ever seen in a published work. It is, however, typical of the book as a whole — cheap and cheerful, designed to secure a certain number of sales from persons who were interested in the television series. It would have been far better, and more honest, if the producers of the programmes had referred viewers to, for example, Clive Holland's recent book *Farthest north* (Holland 1994), which covers most of the included material and much more, is entertainingly written, and has an author who is an acknowledged expert in the subject. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

Reference

Holland, C. 1994. *Farthest north: a history of North Polar exploration in eye-witness accounts*. London: Robinson.

WAITING TO FLY: MY ESCAPADES WITH THE PENGUINS OF ANTARCTICA. Ron Naveen. 1999. New York: William Morrow and Company. viii + 374 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-688-15894-3. \$US26.00.

I had a memorable encounter with Ron Naveen in 1985 aboard *World Discoverer*, when he was a staff naturalist and I was a hitchhiker traveling to South Georgia to conduct a study of diving behavior of king penguins. When it came to putting us ashore in strong winds and rough seas, Naveen volunteered to accompany the boat operator and me during a very wet ride, which got wetter. As we approached the beach, Naveen unhesitatingly leaped over the side in water much deeper than his waders. Such enthusiasm for polar seas and penguins has not been dampened through the years. This book is an autobiography, as the subtitle indicates, by an unmitigated penguinophile.

This book has nine chapters plus an introduction, epilogue, and section of color photographs. The chapters are titled with colloquial expressions like 'Stonecrackers,' 'Slick chicks at the Copa,' and 'The burial pool,' which is not much help for someone checking out the table of contents for an idea on what the book covers. The text does include a substantial amount of information on the three brush-tailed species of penguins occurring in waters and islands around the Antarctic Peninsula. Woven into the author's numerous accounts of adventures in the sub-Antarctic and Antarctic are many details about the breeding behavior, diet, and other aspects of gentoo, Adélie, and chinstrap penguin biology. The cover jacket gives a clue to the main title 'Waiting to fly,' and the answer is on the last page of the epilogue. The color photographs are all of penguins, and mostly of Naveen's favorite, the chinstrap, so do not expect any Antarctic scenery of historic interest except as background for the penguins.

The text is dynamic and exudes the enthusiasm of the author. His heroes are some of the best. Everyone familiar with sea birds knows about Robert Cushman Murphy's book on oceanic birds. Anyone that works on penguins knows of Wayne and Susan Trivelpiece. It is clear that some of Naveen's best moments have taken place while working with them at King George Island. Much of the grit and hardship of their work and living conditions are far better described in this book than can be discerned from the technical papers written by Wayne and Susan. The methods are described in exceptional detail and provide informative reading for anyone wondering how some penguin research is conducted.

Perhaps at times there is too much anthropomorphic exuberance and literary license. Is the molt painful? Do penguins frolic at sea? Can penguins have a demonic rage? And, in the trendy vernacular of our time, Naveen could not resist being politically correct by suggesting that emperor penguin females are liberated feminists on a lark to the north while the males incubate the egg. Therefore, he proposes that maybe they should be called 'empress' penguins.