

It starts with a brief foreword by Douglas Hurd, the ex-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. In parenthesis, this reviewer has never understood why publishers seem to believe that the incorporation of a couple of pages by a politician should make a book more attractive to the reader. The introduction, however, by Rear Admiral Layman and Jane Cameron, provides a useful background to the state of the colony at the time and a biography of Wiseman, who had had a distinguished naval career before being assigned to *Dwarf*. The bulk of the text is pure Wiseman, with a modest critical apparatus.

The letters cover the period 3 December 1881, when Wiseman assumed command of *Dwarf* at Montevideo, to 14 February 1882, when *Dwarf* was on her way back to that port, having completed her duties in the islands. In that time, *Dwarf* circumnavigated the archipelago. She arrived at Stanley on 23 December 1881, and Wiseman was chagrined to find that the very legislation he was to enforce had not actually been passed by the legislature. This was completed on 27 December, and *Dwarf* departed on her voyage on 29 December. During her travels, landings were made at many settlements and at uninhabited places. At each of the former, friendly relations were established with the people and there was an extensive social programme. Shooting appears to have been a main preoccupation of the officers of the vessel, and efforts at securing game, both for fresh food and for sport, were made continuously. It all appears to have been very agreeable.

As far as the actual purpose of the voyage was concerned, this was something of an anticlimax, since only two sealers were found, and they were duly warned about the new law.

Wiseman's letters are well-written, entertaining to read, and full of wry comment. They provide much information concerning the islands, their inhabitants, and, in particular, their natural history. The editing is light and effective, and the footnotes and comment are informative but never intrusive. The presentation of the book is pleasant and the illustrations copious and well selected. There is a map providing a track chart of the voyage on the front endpaper, while that at the back is a chart of Stanley harbour. The editors are to be congratulated on unearthing these letters and for the care with which they have undertaken their task.

The book is highly recommended for those with interests in the Falkland Islands. One hopes that the publishers are sufficiently satisfied with the results of this venture that they remain willing to produce similar works relating to other out-of-the-way parts of the world. (Ian R. Stone, The Registry, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.)

HUSKIES IN HARNESS: A LOVE STORY IN ANTARCTICA. Shelagh Robinson (Editor). 1995. Kenthurst, NSW: Kangaroo Press. 144 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86417-726-7. \$Aus29.95.

As part of its implementation of the Madrid Protocol, in 1992 the Australian Antarctic Division relocated the last

huskies at Mawson Station to Australia and North America, thus ending more than 40 years' involvement of huskies in Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE).

Shelagh Robinson has brought together more than 45 works about huskies, from government policy behind their relocation, to personal accounts and poems about the significance of the huskies at several Australian stations and bases, as well as coverage on British Antarctic Survey activities. The work, however, is much more than a compendium of stories.

Firstly, it is very likely the first major popular work on ANARE to actively embrace the wide cross-section of people that have participated in its 50-year history — remarkable testimony itself of how the huskies' relocation galvanised opinion among past and present expeditioners.

Secondly, anybody interested in Antarctica will recognise that most of the book's contributions are written from the heart. The rich and frank language, and the sense of humour that is central to expeditions, runs through the book — rare qualities in most contemporary works on Antarctica. Extended husky trips in Antarctica are not for the faint-hearted, and this comes through in the stories about training and running huskies.

Finally, the book is an important historic piece on ANARE and a companion to Bob Dovers' book (Dovers 1957) on his experiences with huskies with the 1951–1952 French Expedition. Dovers subsequently led the establishment of Mawson Station and mapping of Mac. Robertson Land using huskies.

This eclectic work adds greatly to the understanding of the contribution made by huskies to Antarctica, from heroic to modern times. (Peter Keage, Tourism Victoria, 11th Floor, 55 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Australia 3001.)

Reference

Dovers, R. 1957. *Huskies*. London: G. Bell and Sons.

BRIEF REVIEWS

ALASKAN ESKIMO LIFE IN THE 1890s AS SKETCHED BY NATIVE ARTISTS. George Phebus Jr. 1995. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. 168 p, Illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-79-X. £18.95.

This is a reprint of the well-known book published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 1972. In it is reproduced a series of sketches, mostly in pencil, ink, crayon, or watercolour, by native peoples of Alaska and depicting the Arctic landscape and scenes of their daily lives. The sketches were discovered in an old storage unit at the Smithsonian in 1967. Phebus, who was then on the staff of the Smithsonian Department of Anthropology, concluded that the sketches had been prepared during the 1890s by pupils of Alaskan schools and realised their value as providing 'a record of Alaskan Eskimo life...just prior to the drastic changes of the 20th century.'

The sketches are divided into generic groupings, of