

shenanigans, Australian Antarctic Territory was surveyed, and the total of sound and innovative science done in the 50 years of ANARE's existence is impressive.

This book gives much information and insight into the personnel, organisation, and politics of ANARE, which will be of great interest to the general reader on Antarctic matters and of particular value to the historian concerned with the interaction of science and politics. It has been carefully researched and annotated; the lists that attracted my initial attention should not have been disparaged — they are useful records and are properly confined to appendices. The book is beautifully produced and the main text is enlivened by reminiscences and anecdotes. I was particularly fascinated by Syd Kirkby's report on the conditions encountered at the bottom of sleeping bags used as emergency photographic darkrooms. My only criticism is that in accounts of the science, the boundaries between the necessary background information and the achievements of ANARE are blurred so that it is difficult to know to what country specific advances are to be attributed. Not that this matters very much; Antarctic science has become an international venture to which Australia has made a worthy contribution. (G.E. Fogg, Bodolben, Llandegfan, Anglesey LL59 5TA.)

NATIVE LIBRARIES: CROSS-CULTURAL CONDITIONS IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR COUNTRIES. Gordon Hills. 1997. London and Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press. xvi + 361 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-8108-3138-4. \$US59.50.

In this book, author Gordon Hills raises issues of what an ideal library serving indigenous peoples should be. Drawing largely upon his personal experiences as a librarian working in several native American communities, Hills comments not just about libraries, but also about cultural identity, social conditions, multiculturalism, literacy and orthographies, and other topics. The book is a series of bibliographies coupled with essays, photographs, and appendices.

Although much of the book focuses upon Alaska, library-related topics of other circumpolar regions are covered: pre- and post-perestroika Russia, Canada, Greenland, and contemporary library services in northern Scandinavia. Hills' selectively annotated bibliographies in multiple sections reveal the literature in English about libraries and circumpolar native peoples through 1995. These bibliographies are the substance of the book and will be of particular interest to researchers and librarians.

The chapter 7 title, 'A potpourri...', best describes the book. The individual chapters are informative and provocative, and sometimes also redundant. Extraneous material clings to the chapters. An editor could have improved the book by fact-checking — such as 'village corporations were established by Alaska State law' (page ix) — paring the text, and unifying the sections.

Hills' chapter on oral and written traditions thoughtfully discusses the concept of a library in indigenous

communities. Native peoples' histories and contemporary experiences are being documented through 'traditional knowledge' programs that are increasingly common in the Arctic regions. Several native American groups are developing 'cultural centers' that collect the standard library references about their own cultures (many of which are rare and out-of-print but now available in microform or CD-ROM formats); these cultural centers also record elders on audio- and videotape, and provide the museum functions of collecting, curating, and interpreting cultural items.

Hills documents several attempts to provide library services during native peoples' transitions from subsistence to cash economies and migrations from rural to urban locations. He chronicles efforts to provide such services to the Alaskan Yup'ik Eskimo people in the delta of the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

National library policy is an interesting thread throughout the book. Most of the circumpolar nations have such public policies, but the inclusion of native peoples has been largely recent and inadequate. Hills' reviews of Canadian, Greenlandic, and Russian policies are very informative. US library services to native peoples have been largely local or regional, serious national policy emerging only since the late 1970s.

Having selectively surveyed the literature on native peoples and libraries in the circumpolar north, Hills' work is a major contribution. (Ron Inouye, Bibliography of Alaska and Polar Regions, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-6808, USA.)

WAKE OF THE INVERCAULD: SHIPWRECKED IN THE SUB-ANTARCTIC: A GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER'S PILGRIMAGE. Madelene Ferguson Allen. 1997. Montreal, Kingston, London, and Buffalo: McGill-Queen's University Press. 256 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7735-1688-3. \$Can 19.95.

The sub-Antarctic islands have been the scene of many shipwrecks, in particular during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when maritime technology had advanced sufficiently to make navigation in the 'furious fifties' comparatively safe, but when it had not advanced to the point at which isolated islands (and icebergs) could be detected before it was too late. The motivating force behind the selection of routes that exposed ships to this risk was, of course, that of cost. If voyaging, for example, from the Cape of Good Hope to Australia, the great circle route offered considerable savings in distance covered and, hence, in time en route. However, there was always the concomitant risk of falling in with one of the many imperfectly charted island groups, and this could easily be fatal at night or in foul weather.

The Auckland Islands, in New Zealand's sub-Antarctic territories, were the scene of several such wrecks and one of them, that of *Invercauld*, which met her end in 1864, is the subject of this book. A seaman on board the vessel, Robert Holding, wrote an account of the voyage, of the