

### WHALING IN DAVIS STRAIT

ARCTIC WHALERS, ICE SEAS: NARRATIVES OF THE DAVIS STRAIT WHALE FISHERY. Ross, W. G. (editor). 1985. Toronto, Irwin Publishing. 263p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7725-1524-7.

For over 15 years W. Gillies Ross has been providing us with a steady flow of scholarly and informative publications on the history of Arctic whaling, of which the most outstanding so far is perhaps his thorough study of the American period of whaling in Hudson Bay, *Whaling and Eskimos: Hudson Bay 1860-1915* (Ottawa, 1975). When seen beside such learned works, this latest book may appear at first sight to be a much more lightweight effort: clearly aimed at a broader, more popular market, attractively produced and amply illustrated, *Arctic whalers, icy seas* seeks to entertain us as much as to inform. It consists of 15 extracts from 19th and early 20th century whaling literature, each carefully selected to show a different aspect of whaling life. The extracts, presented in chronological order from 1824 to about 1915, range from a surgeon's journal of a fairly routine voyage to Davis Strait to narratives of the sufferings of whalers forced to winter in the ice; from a whaleman's reflections on Eskimo life in Baffin Island to an Eskimo's experiences on a visit to the whaling port of Aberdeen. Ross provides each extract with his own commentary to highlight its significance in the history of whaling, and the whole is provided with an extensive glossary of whaling terms. All Ross's own contributions are written with his usual authority and occasional wit, but it is the thoughtfulness behind the selection of extracts, to offer as broad a cross-section as possible of whaling experiences, that stands out as one of the most impressive aspects of the book. Just over half of the extracts are taken from manuscript sources, the remainder from published works, and Ross must have seen and rejected some hundreds of journals, narratives and reminiscences before making his final selection: the book is clearly not the simple compilation that it may first appear.

We still wait from W. G. Ross a comprehensive history of Davis Strait whaling, which must surely come one day; in the meantime *Arctic whalers, icy seas* will us well as an illuminating insight into whaling in the 19th century. (Clive Holland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER)

### GLACIERS AND GEOLOGY

GLACIAL GEOLOGIC PROCESSES. Drewry, D. J. 1986. London, Arnold. 276 p, illustrated; hard cover ISBN 0-7131-6485-9, £29.95; soft cover ISBN 07131-6390-9, £12.50.

The main aim of this book is to bridge a gap between purely glaciological texts and the needs of geologists and geomorphologists who study glacial products. Two initial chapters dealing with the physical properties of ice, glacier dynamics and thermodynamics, and water in glaciers, are followed by four chapters on glacial erosion. The glaciological section provides an adequate foundation for the subglacial scenario in which processes such as bedrock failure by crushing and fracture, abrasional wear, and mechanical and chemical erosion by meltwater are considered. Highlights include a very informative discussion of rock strength, clast contact stresses and fracture propagation: exactly the gap-bridging information the book purports to contribute. The next four chapters consider sediment in ice and meltwater, and touch on topics such as entrainment characteristics, transport and modification, and processes of deposition and resedimentation. The important work of D. Lawson at Matanuska Glacier and of G. Boulton and