

come sufficiently reliable that Nansen's fears of mechanical failure could be realistically discounted. Thus machines had effectively replaced dogs, and even BAS had only 14 dogs left at Rothera. Dogs had only a waning justification and almost no product, in terms of research, that could not be provided by mechanical means. Only a small handful of countries had dogs in the Antarctic. Too many others had no experience of them and were scared by a scientifically doubtful observation that a 'canine distemper-like' virus had been found in Antarctic seals. And so the dogs had to go — a casualty of negotiation by consensus.

For those who have been to the Antarctic, and, for a period of their lives, have made the Antarctic a way of life, enhanced by the presence of dogs, this book will provide a great deal of satisfaction. And those, too, who may not have had the Antarctic experience, but who value the relationship that builds between animals and humans bent on the same endeavour, will also find much in this book that will both make them laugh and give them a lump in the throat. But there is one characteristic that overwhelms all others — the sense of humility that seems to pervade the relationship between dogs and men that it describes. It is the withdrawal from Antarctica of that sense of humility and responsibility for something beyond men's own survival that constitutes the short-sightedness of the political decision to remove the dogs. Maybe the time would have come when there would have been no more huskies in the Antarctic, but it is hard to justify their permanent exclusion.

Kevin Walton has already done us a service in his multi-authored *Portrait of Antarctica* (George Philips, 1983). He and Rick Atkinson have done us a similar service by bringing together so many eyes and voices in telling the story of dogs and men in the Antarctic. No other means would have been as effective. (John A. Heap, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

CRITICAL ISSUES IN EDITING EXPLORATION TEXTS. Germaine Warkentin (Editor). 1995. Toronto, Buffalo, and London: University of Toronto Press. xi+150 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-8020-0694-9. £26.00.

The papers incorporated in this slight volume were presented at the 1992 Conference on Editorial Problems, the twenty-eighth in the series. The editor, in her introduction, prepared in December 1993, points out that each of the contributions relates 'to the translation of the study of exploration history and its writings from the genres of national epic and/or scientific reportage, to those of cultural analysis.' This process apparently 'came to a climax during that year' (the Columbus quincentenary), 'as almost all the assumptions behind the European expansion of the fifteenth and twentieth centuries were fiercely interrogated and in many cases repudiated.' These statements are imprecise and simplistic to say the least.

The papers, themselves, are very much a mixed bag,

more mixed than is usual in such volumes. Indeed, the editor must have worked hard to make them hang together to the limited extent that they do.

The first is by David Henige and is entitled 'Tractable texts: modern editing and the Columbian writings.' It is a detailed analysis of the textual history 'of the writings of Columbus himself,' according to the editor. It is, in fact, a great deal more wide-ranging than that, comprising accounts of the editorial history of the major sources for Columbus' life and activities. Henige points out the deficiencies of the editions currently available to scholars and concludes with what is, in effect, a plea for more and scrupulous work on them. This could ideally be undertaken not by single editors but by teams or by pairs grappling 'with the texts in a kind of tag-team match.'

Luciano Formisano's contribution is entitled 'Editing Italian sources for the history of exploration,' in which, at first glance, the polar enthusiast might hope to find some comment on the works of, for example, the Duke of the Abruzzi. If he does expect this, however, he will be disappointed, since the article is more or less confined to Amerigo Vespucci. The author's conclusion, after 17 pages, is that editing exploration texts does not demand 'the modification of our traditional editorial criteria' and that what is needed is a 'modest but honest' philology, which to this reviewer, at any rate, seems to be self-evident.

One turns with relief to the third paper. This, by D.B. and A. Quinn and entitled 'The editing of Richard Hakluyt's "Discourse of western planting,"' is by far the best in the collection. Written in precise yet graceful language, it is an account of the immense labour undertaken by the authors in preparing a facsimile edition of Hakluyt's 1584 work, which was published by the Hakluyt Society in 1993. This paper should be required reading for anyone who believes that editorial work is not as exacting as other forms of scholarly endeavour. The actual description of the one remaining copy of Hakluyt's text, given by the authors, is calculated to make any bibliophile wish to see it and to possess the facsimile edition.

The following paper, I.S. MacLaren's 'The metamorphosis of travellers into authors: the case of Paul Kane,' refers specifically to the transformation from field notes to book of his work *Wanderings of an artist among the Indians of North America*. MacLaren states that a parallel edition of this text is needed so that direct comparison between the former and the latter can be made. Starting with the fairly obvious point that pre-twentieth century narratives of Canadian exploration were published to 'reflect the taste of the readership of the day as much as they yield insights into the experience of wilderness,' MacLaren refers to the case of Thomas Simpson, whose 1836–1839 expedition mapped much of North America's Arctic coastline. This is cited because Edward Sabine, who was asked to prepare Simpson's manuscript for publication, found that it required 'unusually little' alteration, thereby implying that more was needed in other cases.

MacLaren, who states erroneously that Sabine was a naval officer (he was in the Royal Artillery), implies that this may have been partly due to the fact that Simpson was a graduate and so may have had more 'narrative prowess' than participants in other expeditions. He does not, however, mention the involvement of Simpson's brother Alexander in the production of the book. Be that as it may, MacLaren goes into his subject in exhaustive detail, relating Kane's writings to his artistry, of which reproductions are presented, in a most interesting way.

The penultimate article, Helen Wallis' 'The great publication societies,' does not even attempt to meet the central issue of the conference as set out by the editor, much less 'the institutionalization of the process of dissemination' as is claimed. It is a straightforward review of the history and workings of the Hakluyt Society, with brief mention of the Champlain Society, the Hudson's Bay Company Record Society, the Rupert's Land Record Society, and the T. van Riebeck Society.

The final article, by James Lockhart, is entitled 'A double tradition: editing book twelve of the Florentine Codex' and is concerned with the textual editing of Nahuatl versions of the conquest of meso-America.

Each of the papers in this collection has its interest for specialists, although there is little that is likely to detain readers of *Polar Record*. The more long-winded ones, and that is all except that of the Quinns, would have benefited from the sort of radical pruning to which they might have been subject had they been submitted for publication in relevant journals. To that extent, the editing of the collection, and this is a volume primarily concerned with editing, is lamentable. However, so slender is the total offering, that any attempt to make the articles more concise would have reduced the whole to insignificance.

The book is substantially bound and has an attractive dust jacket. The price will ensure that it is only purchased by libraries. (Ian R. Stone, The Registry, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.)

PEOPLE OF THE BAYS AND HEADLANDS. John C. Kennedy. 1995. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press. xxx + 296 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-8020-7600-9. £15.00; \$22.95.

This superbly crafted and fascinating book tells the story of what John Kennedy calls the 'unknown Labrador.' While the history and anthropology of many communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are well-documented, the southeastern part of Labrador has received less attention. This book fills a gap in the literature and deserves to be welcomed not only by scholars who specialise in Canadian maritime and rural history, but by those interested in the settlement, development, and contemporary conditions of so-called 'marginal' or 'peripheral' regions elsewhere.

Kennedy provides detailed descriptions of the early European settlement of southeastern Labrador, of the development of what became viable fisheries, of whaling, and of the vitality and resilience of local culture. But this is also a depressingly familiar tale of communities in

positions of subordination and dependency, experiencing change and decline as a result of fluctuations in local and world markets, out-migration, the intrusion of the state, the forced closure of settlements, and government-assisted resettlement. Although focusing on a specific geographical area within a larger region, Kennedy has not produced a parochial account of local history as some previous work has tended to do. He places his study firmly within a global context, exposing (as he calls it) and conceptualising linkages between the communities of southeastern Labrador and far-flung, but influential nonetheless, centres of capital, control, and domination.

Thus Kennedy places his discussion of the causes and processes of social change in Labrador within the framework of current sociological and anthropological debate about structure and agency, examining the extent to which change is the result of internally driven innovative processes or external structures, and questioning whether people are merely passive receptors of change that is imposed upon them, or whether they actively create their own history and constitute themselves as social persons through mutual involvement with others and with the environment. From my reading and understanding, Kennedy concludes that structures and socio-economic circumstances that are immediately and ultimately beyond the everyday local contexts of people in southeastern Labrador have shaped their lives and account for change in a way individual agency has not. In a sense, this flies in the face of recent anthropological approaches to the study of community, which emphasise the importance of agency and individual action.

Kennedy argues that his account of economic change and community development and decline can be generalised for much of rural and maritime eastern Canada, and also that scholars working in other Atlantic regions 'will see their "bay" or coastline in my work' (page 6). As someone specialising in the anthropology of small communities in Greenland and Scotland undergoing rapid social change and having experienced the development of underdevelopment, I would agree with him — this is indeed familiar ground in places, although the extent of structure or agency as determinants or contributors to social change will obviously vary from one context to the other. Kennedy ends on a pessimistic note. In 1992 the Canadian government announced a moratorium on fishing for northern cod. Effectively, this shut down the cod fishing industry of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Kennedy envisages the further undernourishment of social and economic life in the small communities he has come to know and to write about. The only future for the young is to leave their home communities and emigrate to other parts of Canada. Those left behind will have no future. With the fisheries of other parts of North America, and of Europe and elsewhere, under pressure from over-exploitation, and with communities dependent on fishing under threat, this is a poignant book to read. (Mark Nuttall, Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2TY.)