

Reviews

SHIPPING IN THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

TRANSIT MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE. Lamson, Cynthia and Vanderzwaag, David L. (editors). 1988. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. (Studies in Polar Research). 316 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISN 0-521-320065-8. £45.00, US\$65.

The operation of a commercial shipping route through the Northwest Passage has been a recurring dream of mariners since the late 15th century. The feasibility of carrying Alaska's north slope oil to the Atlantic was demonstrated by the voyage in 1969 of the tanker *Manhattan* from east to west, and then from west to east, within the same short summer season. Some 50 transits of the passage have been made since Amundsen's *Gjøa* got through in 1903-06, and although regular traffic still lacks a commercial incentive, there are indications that it may not be long in coming.

The Canadian Northern Waters Project, at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, initiated a four-year programme to consider the feasibility of expanded Arctic shipping and ocean development, and this book is the first result. In chapters by different authors, the work reviews the environmental, technological, political, economic, social, and legal issues associated with Arctic resource use, development, and management. Of the eight authors involved, only one is a government employee. Most are independent, scholarly, well-informed, and in several aspects critical of past government policies. Their stance is typified by the title of the editors' own chapter: 'Northern decision making: a drifting net in a restless sea'. Both the descriptive and the more political chapters are very well supported by footnotes and references; each author seems able to carry the reader along with his arguments.

No other single source contains such an authoritative and indeed exhaustive overview of the physical setting, the structure of the northern economy, polar shipping technology, Arctic navigation, and the complex issues facing those who must design a transit management system against a background of native land claims and an evolving constitution. Canadians have never thanked the Americans for sending *Manhattan* through the Northwest Passage in 1969 and *Polar Sea* in 1985. Now perhaps they should, because without Canadian umbrage, this book might not have been written. The book itself is excellent, the price outrageous. (Charles Swithinbank, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1ER UK.)

EVALUATING CONDITION IN RUMINANTS

REVIEW OF METHODS FOR EVALUATING THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF WILD UNGULATES IN NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTS. Huot, Jean. 1988. Québec, Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval

(Collection Nordicana 50). English text 33p, French text 32 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 2-920197-50-9. Can\$12.00, postage included.

This is one more of those Canadian books which turns out to be only half as long as you thought, as when you turn it upside down and back to front you have a repeat text in the other national language. Even the bibliography is printed twice. However, the Centre d'études nordiques has long been an important clearing house of northern research, and this volume is a useful addition. Its main focus is on fat indices, blood analyses and body growth data of ungulates in the wild, with particular emphasis on the caribou. The author concludes that the chemical analysis of rumen contents seems the most reliable form of assessment, whilst other forms of estimating the animal's condition seem to be questionable. (Ian Whitaker, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5A 1S6.)

PSYCHOLOGY AND SELECTION

ANTARCTIC PSYCHOLOGY. Taylor, A. J. W. 1987. Wellington NZ, Science Information Publishing Centre (NZDSIR Bulletin 244). 145 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-477-02508-0. Sales to New Zealand and Australia NZ\$38.00 retail, NZ\$41.00 including postage and packing; other sales US\$41.00.

This short book, by a respected and experienced New Zealand psychologist, constitutes an intelligent and practical handbook. The emphasis is on the criteria for selection of Antarctic team members and the relation of selection to subsequent performance. Against a background of theories of group dynamics, the author discusses such topics as the qualities which make for sure, steady leadership, and the question of women working in Antarctica. He shows too a very proper concern for the situation of families and girl friends left at home.

The author is keenly aware of the imponderable influences which these factors exert on mood and performance, so that, as in all social science, variables in a live situation can never be fully controlled nor prediction be made complete. External documentation given in appendices includes copies of questionnaires and selection forms, a glossary of named psychology texts and scales, and a good bibliography which includes, as well as empirical reports, a sprinkling of important theoretical works in other disciplines. The book is refreshingly free from mystifying jargon and can be seen to be directly discussing experience itself. Though the material relates largely to New Zealand Antarctic personnel, this book is essential for all those joining expeditions anywhere in the world where they will face isolation within a group. The only drawback is the price: they may be unable to afford it. (Piers Vitebsky, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 1ER UK.)