

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

which the most important are subsistence, transportation, and socio-cultural activity. Each sketch is accompanied by brief, and, in most cases, informative comments. The book has a useful introduction by Phebus.

The value of the book for anthropologists is obvious, but it should not be neglected by those with artistic interests. While most of the sketches are naive and obviously done by persons with little or no formal artistic training, some are very good. For example, in just a few pencil strokes, the artist of 'Approaching a ribbon seal' manages to sum up all the elements of a chance encounter between a hunter in a kayak and a seal on a floe. The landscapes of the named artist, Stephan Ivanoff, are of such quality that one would be fortunate indeed to possess an example.

The book is attractively presented, although it is a great pity that a few, at least, of the sketches have not been reproduced in colour. It is highly recommended for those who do not know it already.

WHALES, DOLPHINS, PORPOISES: MASTERS OF THE OCEAN REALM. John E. Heyning. 1995. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press in association with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. 112 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-295-97487-7. \$US17.95.

This beautifully illustrated guide book to whales, porpoises, and dolphins is aimed primarily at older children, but contains a wealth of well-presented information that means it is equally accessible to adults. It contains chapters that cover topics as diverse as the evolution of cetaceans and the interactions between humans and whales through the ages. Other chapters include the basic biology of cetaceans, new research techniques, and problems of conservation. One of the book's strongest points is its imaginative design, combining the main blocks of text with smaller, independent panels on specific topics — for example, 'Identity crisis: dolphin or porpoise' outlines the biological distinctions between the two groups, while 'Blowing bubbles at dinner' describes the process of bubble-netting employed by humpbacks. This is an informative book, and should delight any children or adults with a general interest in cetaceans.

YOU HAVE TO BE LUCKY: ANTARCTIC AND OTHER ADVENTURES. Phillip Law. 1995. Kenthurst, NSW: Kangaroo Press. 199 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86417-743-7. \$Aus19.95.

This book is a collection of short stories on Australian Antarctic-related adventures between the 1940s and 1960s. There are 26 chapters, each a personal account of particular events ranging from field trips to the Australian Alps, to early voyages to Head Island and Antarctica, and to

ANARE operations.

Most of the stories involve diary entries of one kind or another, and are written in an engaging style. Those who know the terrain of the Australian Alps and the difficulties of unassisted walks in this area in the 1940s will enjoy learning about ANARE's pioneering activities there, but the most important contribution is the added detail on particular events and characters. For example, the book adds to earlier works (for example, Law 1983; Ralston 1993) on Law's reconnaissance of the Antarctic coastline with Captain Hans Petersen (*Kista Dan* and *Magga Dan*), the limitations of HMAS *Labuan* in establishing and maintaining operations on Heard Island, the events leading to the establishment of Australia's Antarctic outposts, and the interactions of Law and his expedition members. There is also coverage of the 1949 Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition on which Law was an observer.

In early 1996, as a guest on a day tourist overflight of Antarctica from Melbourne, Phil Law looked down and saw Oates Land and many of the features described in his book. What a contrast.

References

- Law, P. 1983. *Antarctic odyssey*. Sydney: Heinemann Australia.
Ralston, K. 1993. *A man for Antarctica: the early life of Phillip Law*. Sydney: Hyland House.

Publications received

PALAEOENTOMOLOGY OF THE KAP KØBENHAVN FORMATION, A PLIO-PLEISTOCENE SEQUENCE IN PEARY LAND, NORTH GREENLAND. Jens Böcher. 1995. *Meddelelser om Grønland* (Geoscience 33). 82 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-601-5706-2. DKK 275.

HUNTING IN KANGERLUSSUAQ, EAST GREENLAND, 1951-1991: AN ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE. Christian Glahder. 1995. *Meddelelser om Grønland* (Man & Society 19). 86 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-601-5224-9. DKK 275.

DRIVING TO GREENLAND: ARCTIC TRAVEL, NORTHERN SPORT, AND OTHER VENTURES INTO THE HEART OF WINTER. Peter Stark. 1994. New York: Lyons & Burford. viii + 184 p, hard cover. ISBN 1-55821-320-1. \$US22.95.

THE UPLAND GOOSE: A STUDY OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN GEESE, SHEEP AND MAN IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. R.W. Summers and J.H. McAdam. 1993. Bluntisham: Bluntisham Books. xiii + 162 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-871999-05-7. £12.95.