

The Transantarctic Mountains literally span the entire continent, for about 3500 km, from the Pacific margin to the Atlantic. Peaks rise to more than 4000 m, not necessarily high by comparison to other major mountain systems on Earth, but imposing when viewed from sea level. They are the boundary between what is known as East and West Antarctica, East being mainly in east longitudes and West in west longitudes. Geologically, East Antarctica is composed mainly of a Precambrian shield area, with overlying sedimentary and other rocks. The vast East Antarctic ice sheet covers it to as much as nearly 4800 m thickness, and most of its bedrock lies above sea level. The Transantarctic Mountains also form the boundary between the East and West Antarctic ice sheets along much of their length, except for a section between the Horlick Mountains and the Patuxent Range, where the two ice sheets are joined. Elsewhere, the Transantarctic Mountains form a barrier, as it were, of the East Antarctic ice sheet, allowing drainage through glacial valleys that exit into the Ross Ice Shelf or the Ross Sea north of 78°. One of the more famous of these glaciers (or 'ice steams') is the Beardmore, discovered by Ernest Shackleton in his 1907–1909 expedition and found to be the route from the Ross Ice Shelf to the polar plateau and on to the geographic South Pole. Although Shackleton did not quite reach the South Pole, he showed the way for Robert Falcon Scott's successful attempt. Collection of geological specimens on Scott's expedition is also part of the background information given here.

These bits of exploration history provide the background for each of six chapters in the book, in which regional areas are discussed geologically. A short introductory chapter precedes them. They correspond to the four areas in which the author has conducted fieldwork (northern Victoria Land, southern Victoria Land, central Transantarctic Mountains, and Queen Maud and Horlick mountains), plus the only two areas that he has not visited — Thiel Mountains and Pensacola Mountains. Captain James Clark Ross was the first to see any part of the Transantarctic Mountains, in January 1840, when he sailed into the Ross Sea and made landfall on offshore islands. Ross sailed about as far south as a ship can go in the world, McMurdo Sound, and discovered Ross Island with its smoking volcano, Mount Erebus, and the Ross Ice Shelf and its barrier (a 'barrier' to further progress south). Rocks were collected and eventually described in publications. It is this kind of exploration history that adds greatly to the geologic descriptions that follow in each chapter. A review of the 26-page bibliography includes these historical references, plus the majority that signify the importance of the period beginning with the International Geophysical Year of 1957–1958 and the following decades. The final chapter is a synthesis of the Ross orogen itself. The book ends with a helpful index.

The Transantarctic Mountains can be best described as a rift shoulder whose boundary follows the front of the range along the Ross embayment. As indicated by fission-track analysis, the main phase of uplift of the range began around 50 Ma, but there are earlier indications at about 80

and 110 Ma. The present-day elongation of the range is parallel to structural features in its basement formed about half a billion years earlier. This basement is the Ross orogen. Its temporal and spatial boundary is a Mid-Paleozoic erosion surface, called by some authors the Kukri peneplain, that is overlain by the Beacon Supergroup. The latter contains rocks of Devonian to Triassic age, which include glacial deposits, coal beds with associated fossil plants, and fossil remains of reptiles. Discovery of these vertebrate bones in 1967, and large collections made in 1969, provided convincing evidence of the former land connections between Antarctica and other southern-hemisphere land masses in Gondwana time.

The book includes numerous maps and black-and-white photographs, aiding greatly in illustrating the geology and structure. The short 'Epilogue' consists of a parable about a monk and a traveller with a pebble that came from a place high up in the mountains where the ice never melts. It is worth reading and pondering about.

This book is of interest not only to geologists who have worked in Antarctica, but also has relevance to worldwide mountain systems by comparison. It would be valuable reading for graduate-level assignments, for example. I highly recommend the book, and commend the author for his efforts in providing a useful addition to the geology of Antarctica. (John Spletstoesser, 235 Camden Street #32, Rockland, Maine 04841, USA.)

A WEALTH OF THOUGHT: FRANZ BOAS ON NATIVE AMERICAN ART. Aldona Jonaitis (Editor). 1995. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press; Vancouver and Toronto: Douglas and McIntyre. xiv + 365 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-295-97384-6.

An intellectual revolutionary, Franz Boas challenged the legacy of social evolutionism that had come to dominate anthropological theory in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His many writings on race and culture, for example, argued against what he saw as an implicit racism promoted by the kind of evolutionary theory that placed human societies along a historic continuum from 'primitive' to 'modern,' from 'lower' to 'higher.' In this collection of Boas' writings on native American art, Aldona Jonaitis argues for a reassessment of his work in light of contemporary debates about cultural representation of the 'Other.' As Jonaitis makes clear in her preface and introduction, Boas, while dealing with 'primitive art,' nonetheless refused to see it as a less than perfect or inferior form of 'high art,' stressing instead its egalitarian nature (including pointing out the importance of female artistic creativity) and demonstrating how it was embedded in other aspects of cultural life.

Jonaitis provides an excellent introduction to Boas' theories of 'primitive' art, setting their development against prevalent evolutionist approaches, and concludes the collection with a succinct and considered essay on the Boasian legacy for the study of the art of the northwest coast of America, arguing that Boas laid the foundations for every subsequent study and analysis. The value of this volume

lies, of course, in the richness of Boas' writings. Boas refused to see art and material culture as something apart from social, economic, and political contexts, and here are some of his most important musings on style, meaning, and symbolism, inspired mainly by his research on the peoples of the northwest coast, including work on decorative art, the use of masks, tattooing, and the introduction and conclusion from his classic work *Primitive art*.

There is a sense in which Jonaitis reinvents Boas as someone who had refused to acknowledge the elitism and hegemony of western art long before art historians attempted to demolish distinctions between 'low art' and 'high art.' Yet, she does not fail to consider how Boas was less interested in the social and economic changes taking place than he was in the material culture of the Kwakiutl and other peoples. Almost inevitably, Jonaitis turns her attention to community empowerment and the expression of native cultural identity in a post-colonial world. And if there is a political agenda that Jonaitis sets for anthropology by a reevaluation of Boas, she advances claims for anthropology's contribution to debates on intellectual and cultural property rights. Boas, she argues, 'created the space that Native people could ultimately occupy to assert their own voice' (page xi). Above all, Jonaitis invites the reader to approach Boas' art history as an enduring classic that allows us to rethink and challenge critically the intellectual traditions that led to the invention of the category of the 'primitive.' (Mark Nuttall, Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2TY.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT. Magdalena A.K. Muir. 1994. Calgary: Canadian Institute of Resources Law. vi + 152 p, soft

cover. ISBN 0-919269-44-3. \$Can30.00.

The Government of Canada concluded comprehensive land-claim agreements with the Inuvialuit of the western Canadian Arctic in 1984, the Gwich'in of the Mackenzie Delta in 1992, and the Inuit of the central, eastern, and high Canadian Arctic in 1993. These agreements affect the riparian rights of the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, and Inuit in different ways, and provide for the establishment of land- and water-management boards that are far from uniform. As Muir points out, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement did not explicitly recognize the riparian rights of the Inuvialuit, and established land- and water-management boards that worked in conjunction with, rather than replaced, pre-existing regulatory bodies. On the other hand, the Gwich'in and Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) final agreements provided for the establishment of environmental, planning, and land and water boards that will replace existing administrative tribunals, such as the Northwest Territories Water Board, which previously have exercised regulatory jurisdiction in the geographic regions covered by these land-claim settlements.

Unfortunately, most of the boards anticipated in the Gwich'in and TFN land-claim agreements had not been established at the time of the study's writing. As a result, and as the author freely admits, her evaluation of how land and water boards, which were established pursuant to comprehensive land-claim agreements in the Northwest Territories, will actually operate is necessarily speculative. Despite this one drawback, this book provides a sound overview of the complex regulatory labyrinth that development proposals will have to navigate in the post-comprehensive land-claim settlement period. A revised and updated version, after the remaining aboriginal land claims are resolved and the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act is operative, would be helpful.