

The book is excellent in many ways: most of all, perhaps, in physical attributes such as materials used and quality of production. But, of course, it is not perfect. Details one would like to see corrected, if ever a second edition were contemplated, are: deletion of hyphens in odd places (nort-h, the-se); slightly over-colloquial English ('pretty good,' but this is exceptional — the quality of English is in general excellent); some duplication (the story of Nelson and the bear); some hard-to-recognise place-names (Chatany for Khatanga); the index is not analytical (that is, the searcher for some particular incident involving Nordenskiöld must sift through 94 page references); the printing of superscript numbers to indicate notes is often very faint; Prince Krapotkin may be pronounced that way, but it would be happier to use the normal form Kropotkin; and the English explorer Palliser's first name was John, not Elling.

These are very small points, and would not be worth mentioning at all if the general standard were not so high. There is no disputing that this is a very special book. If one had a rich uncle, one might even be persuaded that the price is acceptable. (Terence Armstrong, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**THE ANTARCTIC.** Janice Meadows, William Mills, and H.G.R. King (Compilers). 1994. Oxford, Santa Barbara, and Toronto: Clio Press (World Bibliographical Series volume 171). xxvi + 383 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85109-121-1. £57.95.

Literature dealing with the Antarctic is well documented in comprehensive, ongoing bibliographies, namely *Polar and Glaciological Abstracts* and *Antarctic Bibliography*. One might justly wonder, therefore, why there should be a need for another bibliographic volume on the subject. The answer becomes obvious as soon as one opens the book: while bibliographies striving for completeness overwhelm the reader with tens of thousands of citations annually, this selective bibliography cites a manageable amount (1195 items) of carefully chosen, representative literature. The benefit derives from the compilers' value judgments. All three compilers are specialists in Antarctic literature as well as in bibliographic practices, a fact reflected in the soundness of their selections and presentation.

While being selective in its choice of works to be cited, this bibliography is also comprehensive as far as subject coverage is concerned. The pattern of subject arrangement loosely follows that of other volumes of the World Bibliographical Series (of which this is volume 171), modified to accommodate the peculiar conditions of a continent without permanent inhabitants, and the surrounding ocean and islands.

The compilers' introduction serves to put the geography of the region, the history of its exploration, and related subjects into proper perspective. It also traces the development of Antarctic bibliography and explains the methodology followed in compiling this volume. This excel-

lent introduction could almost serve as an 'executive summary,' containing the essence of the material set forth in the body of the bibliography. By reading this introduction alone, the proverbial 'tired businessman' would be able to form a fair idea of the region.

The material in the bibliography itself is grouped under the following main headings: the Antarctic region in general; geography; flora and fauna; the Southern Ocean; development of Antarctic science; history; biographies; international relations and geopolitics; conservation and environmental management; economic resources and development; science and policy; logistics, expeditions, planning, and survival; medicine and psychology; living in the Antarctic; the arts; libraries, museums, archives, and research institutions; periodicals and series; and bibliographies. Several sections are further sub-divided. For example, the one on geography is divided into sub-sections on geology and geophysics; glaciology; meteorology and climatology; upper atmospheric sciences and astrophysics; maps, charts, and atlases; and gazetteers; and the section on history is divided into sub-sections on general accounts; sealing and whaling; voyages and expeditions; historic huts and monuments; and so forth.

Scientific literature (physical, biological, and earth sciences) is well represented in the bibliography: more so than is usual in the series. Still, considering the wealth of such literature in the last few decades, one could have wished for even more thorough coverage. This was made difficult by the fact that much of the best scientific writing is in the form of journal articles. To cite scores of such articles would have thrown the listings into undesirable imbalance. Thus the reader is left without a realization of how large the amount of literature published in periodicals really is. A way around this was found by including a section on periodicals and series. This section is exhaustive in respect of publications devoted entirely or predominantly to the Antarctic. Some of these are rather trivial or of local interest only. It might have been more useful to omit a number of these titles and instead include several major scientific journals that do not specialize in Antarctic literature but include a wealth of literature both in quantity and quality. Listing of such major titles as *Nature*, *Science*, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *New Zealand Journal of Geography and Geophysics*, *Marine Geology*, *Deep-Sea Research*, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, and perhaps others could (with the proper annotations) have alerted the technically inclined user to the existence of these less obvious sources of information.

The section on libraries, museums, archives, and research institutions, with only eight entries, appears to be somewhat too selective. The compilers were aware of this: they state (in the Introduction) that 'the small sample noted here complements the material found in the sections on science programmes and periodicals.' It might have been helpful to offer cross-references to the appropriate items in those two sections. In addition, reports on the International Antarctic Meteorological Research Centre (Melbourne),

the Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center (Washington, DC), the Antarctic Marine Geological Research Facility and Core Library (Tallahassee), and others could have been considered.

The last 200 items in the volume deal with the sub-Antarctic and other islands between the Antarctic continent with its off-lying islands and 40° S latitude. These are, appropriately, treated separately (rather than being incorporated into the rest of the bibliography), given their different environments. References are listed individually for each island, with sections on geography and flora and fauna, and on history for the more significant ones. For the Falkland Islands, additional sections on the 1982 Falklands war, sovereignty, and periodicals are featured.

The volume concludes with more than 65 pages of index references, with authors, titles, and subjects in a single alphabetical arrangement. Title entries and names of vessels are in italics to differentiate them from authors and subject terms. This typographical device, however, may prove not to provide sufficient contrast, so the reader who would typically look for an author, a subject, or a title will have to work his way through a larger number of entries than if the index were divided into three parts (author, title, and subject), as was done in the volume on the Arctic (World Bibliographical Series volume 99). This is especially true of the subject listing, which would be easier to scan for synonyms or related subjects or for just browsing, if it were separated from the other listings. In any case, the possible inconvenience is slight and does not impair the index, which is professionally crafted, thorough, and well presented.

The stated purpose of the World Bibliographical Series is to serve primarily the general reader or the specialist wishing an introduction to other areas of interest. The compilers have sought to satisfy 'the prospective traveller, the armchair geographer, the Antarctic bibliophile, and the librarian developing an Antarctic collection.' It would be interesting to know (if such statistics were kept) which of these categories of clients will turn out to be the best customers. All types of libraries (whether or not planning an Antarctic collection) should certainly acquire it, and there is sufficient material here for a broad variety of readers. It is to be hoped that the book will receive adequate publicity.

This is more than a bibliography. It does not merely lead the reader to the pertinent literature, but, through its concise but informative, well-formulated annotations, offers a wealth of substantive and fascinating information. By perusing this volume alone the user would be able to acquire considerable knowledge of the subject.

Inevitably, adherence to the general policy laid down for the series to limit coverage mostly to English-language works leads to a certain imbalance in presenting some of the topics. Fortunately, thanks to their knowledge of non-English writings, the compilers were able to convey, directly or indirectly, an idea of the total scope of the world literature. On a challenging task splendidly performed,

they should be heartily congratulated. (Geza T. Thuronyi, 9834 Cherry Tree Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20901, USA.)

**POLAR POLITICS: CREATING INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGIMES.** Oran R. Young and Gail Osherenko (Editors). 1993. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. xi + 276 p, tables, soft cover. ISBN 0-8014-8069-8. US\$16.95.

During the past two decades, the study of regimes — defined in this book as social institutions composed of agreed-upon principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures that govern the interactions of actors in specific issue areas — has dominated the literature of international relations. The central question facing international relations specialists interested in the regime theory is how it can be used to explain international cooperative behaviour. In the initial stages of its development, regime theory was principally applied to the international monetary system and the GATT. Since that time, however, regime theory has increasingly been applied to a range of diverse areas. These include marine pollution, international human rights, the politics of food aid, cooperative arrangements dealing with international prohibition and non-proliferation, international telecommunications, the deep seabed, east–west politics, multilateral security arrangements, and, more recently, the environment and resource management. Its proponents do not claim that it provides all the answers, but they hold that by viewing international cooperative mechanisms through regime theory it is possible to gain a much better understanding of what it would take for states to forge cooperative agreements to deal with pressing problems that cannot be solved otherwise, to agree to restrict their sovereign authority, and to abide by new international rules that constrain and channel their subsequent actions.

Oran Young's pioneering contributions in applying regime theory to the Arctic are well known. *Polar politics* is yet another pioneering attempt to use the Arctic as an important arena for applying existing knowledge of regime formation as well as an attractive testing ground for new ideas about the politics of regime formation. The book is the end product of a multinational research project, in which scholars from the United States, Canada, Russia, and Norway are said to have collaborated in composing a template of hypotheses based on the literature relating to international cooperation and in conducting five comparative case studies of the formation of regimes dealing with Arctic issues to test those hypotheses. The first case study examines the international regime articulated in the North Pacific Sealing Convention of 1911, which remained in place until the 1980s. The next two case studies examine existing Arctic regimes established through the 1920 Spitsbergen Treaty and the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears, respectively. A fourth case study examines the regime for regulation of stratospheric ozone, which evolved from the framework provisions of the 1985 Vienna Convention to the substantive arrangements set