

Geophysics of Sea Ice, for there is no alternative and it is an excellent and comprehensive publication. I have little doubt that it will sell well to libraries (and rich academics), but sadly I suspect that it will not sell to the students for which it was intended. (Vernon Squire, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.)

HELP IN LEARNING INUKTITUT

TUNUMIIT ORAASIAT: THE EAST GREENLANDIC INUIT LANGUAGE. Robbé, P. and Dorais, L.-J. 1986. Québec, Université Laval. Collection Nordicana 49. 265p, soft cover. ISBN 2-920197-49-5.

The purpose of this book, as stated in the introduction, is 'to put into the hands of all those wishing to learn the language of East Greenland, or are interested in the dialectology of Inuktitut, a linguistic tool which is easy to use'. It is intended to give 'a general description of grammatical forms and a basic list of affixes and words, as they are now in use on the East Coast of Greenland'. The book is divided into four sections: a series of tables outlining the main forms of East Greenlandic grammar; a list of about 300 frequently used postbases, with examples; a thematic dictionary of over 3,000 words; and an alphabetical index of East Greenlandic words. Translations are given in West Greenlandic (the official language of Greenland), Danish, English and French.

Herein lay the attraction for this reviewer, as perhaps for anyone else who 'collects' languages, but beware! The nuances conveyed by the translations can be tantalisingly different. Something that is 'not good enough' in Danish and French becomes 'despicable' in English (p 174). 'Er ved bevidsthed' surely means 'is conscious' (in a medical sense) in Danish, and hardly corresponds to 'knows all about it' (p 176). Which are right? The English is often very clumsy ('summer is more and more here' on p 32; 'one can hear it looks like people' on p 67), and even more misleading. A monoglot English-speaker may well be disconcerted by, for example, 'It is blown up' (p 126) where the context is wind, or 'is inclined' to describe something out of true. Surely Université Laval can do better than this. There are many typographical errors, particularly in the Danish. We may be justified in wondering whether such carelessness extends also to the East and West Greenlandic. The authors of a reference work of this kind, whatever disclaimers they make in the introduction ('Our book most probably contains many errors'), have a duty of care to their readership. The errors and inconsistencies in the translations would have been avoided by checking and correlating the information provided by the people acknowledged in the introduction. A corrected edition of the book would be welcome, for there is much to enjoy in this work for the insight it gives into the Inuit culture and way of life. (Rosemary Graham, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER)

ANTARCTIC POLITICS

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF ANTARCTICA. Beck, Peter J. 1986. Beckenham, Croom Helm. 332p, maps and diagrams, hard cover. ISBN 0-7099-3239-1. £27.95.

Peter Beck, a Reader in International History at Kingston Polytechnic, is a student and critic of the Antarctic Treaty System. For several years has kept readers of *Polar Record* and other journals informed on the Treaty and its manifestations; an article in this issue is an example. Long may he continue, for Treaty affair seldom make headlines, at least in the UK, and public relations is not a strong point with those who negotiate this