

Treaty nations feel about the future of Antarctica and the Southern Oceans—the seeming inevitability of exploitation and the spread of pollution, the secrecy of Treaty meetings and the blandness of statements coming from them, the assumption that only the Treaty powers have rights there, and the doubts (serious doubts indeed) as to whether the Treaty will be able to cope with the politics of ownership once economic exploitation begins. Like many others I share the author's concern, though I am far from convinced that the World Park remedy, first put forward in the US in 1972, is the right one. It might satisfy Third World nations and others outside the charmed circle of Treaty powers, but what evidence have we that the United Nations would run Antarctica more fittingly? James Barnes misses a point by not telling us more of the practicalities—who would organize it and how—a surprising omission in an otherwise practical book. Nevertheless I shall recommend *Let's save Antarctica* to all my students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, and expect to get a few good arguments going from it. I recommend it too for every university, college and school library that caters for polar, environmental, geographical, political and sociological teaching, and to every reader who cares for the future of Antarctica and needs a briefing—a cheerfully biased one—on what is happening there. Published in Australia, the book is currently hard to find in Britain; I hope it may soon become more readily available.

PORTRAIT OF ANTARCTICA

[Review by H. G. R. King* of Kevin Walton's *Portrait of Antarctica*. London, George Philip, 1983, 168p, illus. Hard cover £9.95.]

Portrait of Antarctica is a slightly misleading title as this book is largely to do with the Antarctic Peninsula, in particular the region between Adelaide Island and Alexander Island. This is the territory closely associated with the surveys carried out by John Rymill's British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) of 1934–37, the post-war establishment of permanent stations by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) and the subsequent detailed scientific work pursued by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). The underlying idea of this book is to illustrate in words and pictures changing methods of field exploration over the past 50 years. It starts when huskies were still the mainstay of land transport and wireless communication was in its infancy, and ends with dogs evolved into skidoos, regular radio communication between field parties taken for granted, and powerful icebreakers and turbo-prop aircraft ensuring the regular supply and relief of bases.

The photography is the work of five men whose experience in the field covers the half century. Launcelot Fleming (subsequently Bishop of Norwich and Dean of Windsor) was geologist and chaplain on the BGLE. Kevin Walton, a civil engineer, was with FIDS between 1945–48 and is author of the classic *Two years in the Antarctic*. Jonathan Walton, Kevin's son, served with BAS in 1973–76 and again in 1978; his brother-in-law Jim Bishop, tragically killed in the Karakoram in 1980, also served with BAS in 1972–75. Paul Goodall-Copestake, who contributes a final chapter on wildlife, is Kevin Walton's nephew, currently working with BAS on Bird Island, South Georgia. Such expertise ensures that what might have turned out to be merely another glossy coffee table book is in fact rather more. The magnificent photographs have been carefully selected to illustrate contrasts in land, sea and air travel over the years. But readers who can avert their eyes from them will discover that the chapter summaries and picture captions contain a mine of detailed information on aspects of living and travelling in this difficult and daunting terrain.

Two aspects of the book (which is to be published on 27 October) slightly bother this reviewer. The first is an assumption, probably unconscious, that the reader is already acquainted with the history of the region; some readers may well be puzzled by occasional references to past events outside their ken, as well as by the constant to-ing and fro-ing in time demanded by the book's structure. The second relates to the final chapter *Wildlife*, which seems like an afterthought and does not fit happily into the general scheme of things. It could perhaps have been omitted and the space devoted to some conclusions and perhaps a look into the future.

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