Thus the past year or so has witnessed a certain fluidity in respect to both British policy priorities towards Antarctica and the organizational nature of Britain's Antarctic presence. The accompanying chart (Figure 1) summarizes the current position; it may be of interest to compare it with an organization chart produced by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC 1971) which is now outdated.

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MONTHLY TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY STATIONS

[Information supplied by David Limbert, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.]

Air temperature (°C)

	Signy Island (88925)			Faraday (88952)			Rothera (89062)			Halley (89022)		
	Mean[1]	Extreme		Mean[2]	Extreme		Mean[1]	Extreme		Mean[2]	Extreme	
		Max	Min		Max	Min		Max	Min		Max	Min
1983												
May	−6.5	+6.3	−22.5	−2.6	+5.7	−8.9	−2.5	+3.8	−12.2	−21.6	−3.0	−39.5
June	−7.9	+4.7	−26.0	−2.9	+4.3	−8.6	−4.6	+5.2	−12.2	−27.8	−11.7	−46.5
July	−4.6	+8.0	−18.8	−3.1	+2.5	−11.0	−5.0	+1.8	−14.8	−29.8	−19.3	−46.5
August	−3.7	+4.0	−16.3	−5.1	+2.8	−13.0	−7.1	+2.9	−23.0	−24.8	−10.5	−44.6
September	−8.2	+4.4	−24.3	−6.3	+2.3	−18.3	−8.5	+3.2	−22.1	−26.7	−9.2	−43.6
October	−3.8	+5.4	−14.2	−4.6	+3.2	−15.2	−6.0	+2.1	−19.6	−20.3	−9.4	−39.5
November	+0.1	+11.0	−4.0	−1.3	+5.1	−14.2	−1.3	+3.7	−7.0	−13.1	−5.0	−30.4

[1] Mean of reports at 00, 06, 12 and 18 hours GMT.
[2] Mean of reports at 00, 03, 06, 12, 15, 18 and 21 hours GMT.

Reviews

EXPLORATION IN NORTHWESTERN CANADA

FUR TRADE AND EXPLORATION, OPENING THE FAR NORTHWEST 1821–1852. Karamanski, T. J. 1983. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press. 330 p, illustrated, hard cover. Can$27.95.

This is a readable, straightforward account of Hudson's Bay Company exploration, mainly in what is now northern British Columbia and the Yukon. The book grew out of a doctoral thesis for Loyola University in Chicago where Theodore Karamanski is currently an assistant professor. Rather than dealing with the minutiae of economics or diplomacy, the author focuses on the 'attitudes, actions and adventures' of the explorers. We follow such diverse characters as Black on the Finlay River and Bell on the Porcupine, but John M. McLeod and Robert Campbell, who laboured principally on the notoriously difficult Liard River, dominate respectively the first and last halves of the book. Indeed

in a sense the Liard is one of the book's main characters. Some of the adventures have been told before by R. M. Patterson, C. Wilson and A. A. Wright, but Professor Karamanski makes more systematic use of the Hudson's Bay Company archives. He also explains and integrates, over a wide area, explorations which have usually been treated cursorily in studies of the fur trade, clarifying for example such matters as the maritime and interior approaches to exploration of the Stikine River, the twin probes to the upper and middle Yukon, and the distracting effect of searches for the Franklin expedition to the northeast. One emerges from the book with a clear overview of northwest exploration and geography.

A distinct merit of this book is that the author, a canoeist, is familiar with several of the rivers he writes about. He does not intrude personal experiences, but his knowledge of the mechanics of whitewater, poling, tracking and portaging is very evident. He could perhaps have said more about James Green Stewart and James Anderson; however, he introduces many Hudson's Bay Company officers fully, adding to human interest. The sketch maps are an essential feature. One minor omission is Lake Simpson, which marked McLeod's turning point along the Frances River. There are 24-black-and-white illustrations from the late 19th century, and Karamanski further illustrates his book with vivid quotations both from original expedition accounts and from later geological survey reports. A strong advocate of the hardworking explorer, he decries the penny-pinching restraints of Governor Simpson and Chief Factor McPherson. He takes Robert Campbell very much at his own evaluation, a view which may have to be modified shortly in the light of new research and economic analysis by K. Coates, a young Yukoner. In conclusion, this book is a reasonable blend of scholarship and popularization, something rarer in North America than in Britain.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ATLAS FOR LANCASTER SOUND

THE LANCASTER SOUND REGION; DATA ATLAS. Dirschl, H. J. (project manager). 1982. Ottawa, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Pages various, semi-hard cover. QS-8297-030-HB-A1. Can$100.

In 1979 a proposal to drill for hydrocarbons in Lancaster Sound was put before an Environmental Assessment and Review Process panel in Ottawa. The proposal led the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to set up the Lancaster Sound Regional Study, with the objective of reviewing the issues widely. This fine atlas arises out of the Study's work. It sets a new standard of presenting base-line information about a part of the world that is likely to be the site of development. The area covered embraces Lancaster Sound and adjoining land masses and marine channels, a total of 260000 km^2. The information is presented as a series of distribution maps at a scale of 1:2 million, with brief explanatory text giving such essential information as the sources and reliability of the data presented. The maps are mostly in two colours, with distributions shown by hatching of various kinds. The only exception is a vegetation map, which uses at least a dozen colours. In fact hatching, though sometimes harder to interpret, is the best solution for overlapping distributions. All the text is given in three languages – English, French, and Inuktitut (syllabics).