

himself. He was an Inuit named Allakariallak, who was far removed from the cheerful *persona* presented in the film. He was ill with tuberculosis and a sad and weary figure. As the author observes: 'The Nanook of the film made this figure of Allakariallak invisible, but he was real nonetheless, and this diary allows us to reflect on what efforts he must have made to realize his vision of himself as the heroic figure whom Flaherty was so desirous of giving to the world' (page 380). In the event, Allakariallak died on 26 May 1923, not long after the completion of the filming.

The book is, at one and the same time, a primary and a secondary source for the study of the lives of the Flahertys up to 1922, and is to be welcomed as filling a lacuna in the literature. The author's comments are always well considered and his judgements impeccable. There is a full critical apparatus and the notes alone cover 48 pages. Buried away in them are some interesting vignettes. For example, it seems that the Flahertys had attended a lecture in Toronto delivered by Douglas Mawson, who showed Frank Hurley's film of his expedition as part of it. Unfortunately there is no record of what Flaherty thought about Hurley's effort, although Frances was very impressed with the photography (pages 232, 418). And, on page 425, we are informed that Flaherty actually owned a Guarneri, which indicates a considerable level of interest in the violin, an instrument on which he was a good performer.

The illustrations are wonderful. Most are from Flaherty's own camera and his expertise is evident in all of them. There are three maps and each refers to an expedition or expeditions that took place in the area presented. It would have helped the reader if they had had Flaherty's routes inserted on them but, unfortunately, this is not the case. There is a full bibliography and the lists of publications by Flaherty and Frances are informative in their own right. For Flaherty there are more than 30, and the shift from travel as a main focus of interest to film is evident. For Frances, her most interestingly entitled publication appeared in 1952 and is the trenchant 'Bob Flaherty Was an explorer.' Reading this book is not to be undertaken lightly, as it is a dense and long work of historical scholarship, but anyone who reads it in its entirety will be in no doubt about the truth of that contention. The reader will have been in the company of an attractive and interesting person who deserves rather more than simply being known as the creator of *Nanook of the north*. (Ian R. Stone, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**HEARD ISLAND: SOUTHERN OCEAN SENTINEL.** Ken Green and Eric Woehler (Editors). 2006. Chipping Norton, New South Wales: Surrey Beatty & Sons. viii + 270 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-949324-98-1. Aus\$77.00.  
doi:10.1017/S0032247407266343

Heard Island is certainly remote and even today is probably one of the least visited islands in the world. Dominated by the volcanic cone of Big Ben, it is a small island largely covered with permanent snow and ice. Despite its distance from Australia (4000 km), it is formally administered by the federal government as a sub-Antarctic reserve and is now a World Heritage Site. Discovered in 1853 by Captain John Heard and claimed for Britain, it was quickly exploited by sealers. Aside from isolated visits by scientists en route to elsewhere (for example, on HMS *Challenger*, *Gauss*, and *Discovery*), there was little serious investigation until ANARE established a station at Atlas Cove in 1947.

There have been periodic efforts since then to document the flora and fauna of the island, describe the geology and the marine biology of the water around it, and most recently to develop science-based management plans for this remarkable place. The editors of this book have both been closely associated with research on the island and in 15 chapters have tried to bring together a synthesis of everything that is currently known, using virtually all the experts available. Many chapters also deal with the nearby McDonald Islands.

The chapters are gathered together in three groups — 'Origin geology and physical setting,' 'Life on the island,' and 'Human occupation' — with seven appendices listing marine algae, marine invertebrates, terrestrial invertebrates and plants, birds, and marine mammals, as well as a map and an index.

There is no consolidated bibliography, as each chapter has its own references, but I could find no publication known to me about the island that did not appear in at least one of the chapters. Adding to its overall bibliographic value, the various authors have also listed a wide variety of unpublished reports that will be unknown to many readers, although, sadly, they do not always say where a copy can be consulted.

The regional geology is described by P.G. Quilty, whose broad-brush approach at the level of the Kerguelen Plateau is complemented by a more detailed account of the volcanic geology (complete with colour plates) by J. Stephenson and others. There have been reports of some localised fumarole activity during the past 100 years, and a new lava flow broke out only 20 years ago. Despite the small size of the island, the geologists consider it to be poorly known, not least because geologising is such a dangerous affair there! A. Ruddell's chapter on glaciers indicates the rate of recession has been measured, showing that almost 10% of the island has become ice-free in the last 50 years, apparently all attributable to global change, a pattern seen on all the other glaciated sub-Antarctic islands. The limited meteorological data reviewed by D. Thost and I. Allison supports this, suggesting an overall warming of about 1°C in the last 50 years.

The chapter dealing with vegetation, by J. Scott and D. Bergstrom, has two pages of colour pictures but at such a small scale that you need to be a botanist to appreciate them at all. Four large pictures would have made a much

greater impact on the reader. The following chapter by Chown and others on invertebrates concludes that it will be hard to keep the island free of introduced species without much greater efforts than hitherto, a point also made with respect to the flora in the previous chapter. H. Dartnall provides a data synthesis of the freshwater fauna of the island, which is significantly depauperate but otherwise little different to Iles Kerguelen. The same appears to be true of the nearshore fish fauna reviewed by R. Williams. Birds, as might be expected, have attracted rather greater scientific interest over the years, and E. Woehler's major account puts into print a great deal of detailed data on each of the species reported from the island and its surrounding sea. The maps showing distribution at sea will appear very confusing until the reader finally locates the outline of the island, which would have been much easier to identify if it had been solid.

The chapter by K. Green on marine mammals provides accounts for seven species of seals and one paragraph on whales, and is followed by an interesting historical account by M. and E. Downes of nineteenth-century sealing. Indeed, the following chapters on sealing, and the various ANARE expeditions by G.D. Munro and K. Green, will be of particular interest to many general readers who will know little of the history of the island. In the light of this, it seems curious that only two pages are devoted to the last three expeditions from 1999 onwards, when the greatest number of people and activities have taken place and there have been international participants in the expeditions. There is clearly much more to be told about the most recent visits. I know that a considerable effort has been made by one of the editors to locate all the known photographs for Heard, and I can only hope that these will be properly printed at some point, as the postage-size pictures used here as historical illustrations simply do not do justice to an amazingly dramatic island. The final short chapter by N. Gales and others describes how the island and its waters are providing a focus for a new approach to conservation at an ecosystem scale.

This volume is very much a scientific and historical compilation, presented in a scientific format with few concessions to the general reader. For a small, uninhabited island with a limited history, perhaps this is the only way that the existing data can be sensibly treated. But it would have been an improvement to have had a more general introductory chapter by the two editors melding the key facts into an easily read narrative and illustrated by some of the spectacular colour pictures that exist for the island.

The simplicity of its ecosystems, its sensitivity to climate change, and its freedom from most human impacts does indeed make the island a sentinel for the Southern Ocean. The provisions invoked by the Australian government to manage it recognise its unique features. This volume provides an important benchmark against which change can be measured, as well as underpinning the scientific basis for management in the future. Despite the limited illustrations and, for some at least, the rather

forbidding nature of the text, this is a most welcome addition to the limited literature on Heard Island. (David W.H. Walton, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET).

**TANANA AND CHANDALAR: THE ALASKA FIELD JOURNALS OF ROBERT A. MCKENNAN.**

Craig Mishler and William E. Simeon (Editors). 2006. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. xxx + 266 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-889963-77-1. \$US45.00. doi:10.1017/S003224740727634X

Robert A. McKennan is certainly not the best-known anthropologist to have written about northern Athabaskans. Indeed, his two ethnographies, *The Upper Tanana Indians* (1959) and *The Chandalar Kutchin* (1965), have both been long out of print despite their relevance to the study of Alaska's aboriginal peoples. In editing McKennan's field journals, Craig Mishler and Bill Simeon have done a great service by providing insight into field experiences resulting in work that should be better known. I first encountered McKennan's work after reading that of another anthropologist who perhaps should be better known, Richard Slobodin's ethnography on the Teetl'it Gwich'in, in which he referred to 'McKennan's long awaited monograph on the Tanana' (1962: 3). These were tantalising words to a new student of northern Athabaskan peoples, and they encouraged me to find and read McKennan's writings, for which I was thankful. Mishler and Simeon's work in exposing more anthropologists and historians of the discipline to McKennan's contribution to Athabaskan studies is well warranted. Furthermore, the book is engaging in its analysis of McKennan's contribution to Alaskan studies, and the journals are a pleasure to read.

The body of the book is organized into four parts. First there is a 'biographical sketch' written by Mishler, which contains much about McKennan's academic life, including his long history with sociology and anthropology at Dartmouth. This history started with his first undergraduate anthropology course taught by Malcolm Willey (a student of Franz Boas) and ending with his retirement and appointment to professor emeritus in 1969 after almost 40 years as an active faculty member. His time at Dartmouth was interrupted twice, first by his doctoral work at Harvard where he worked for, and was influenced by, A.L. Kroeber, and then by three years of military service during World War II, which he spent in Alaska.

The biography is followed by an introduction to the field journals, authored by both Mishler and Simeon. In the introduction, we learn that McKennan was a prolific writer of letters and was religious in his keeping a record of daily events while he was in the field during the winter of 1929–30 (for the Tanana material) and the summer of 1933 (for the Chandalar material). The authors explain their choice of entries to publish in this book, keeping those of anthropological interest and editing out those with 'no or little ethnographic content' — the authors