

Evenkis approach the present promise (or threat) of reform (chapter 7). Evenkis today reflect fondly upon the past. However, Evenkis (and other Siberian intellectuals) often choose only certain moments from the past with which to imagine a better future. These moments are not necessarily taken exclusively from the days of nomadic Soviets and roaming literacy brigades (as indicated here), but can often be a *mélange* of late-Soviet welfare socialism and pre-Soviet frontier-style anarchy.

To give an example, in chapter 4, Fondahl applies the term 'socialist land enclosure' to examine critically the peculiar idea of individual land-holding that was encouraged in the late 1960s in state farms all over Siberia. This type of *de facto* 'property ownership' (in a state that loathed private property) is contrasted here to an idyllic type of collective land-holding practised by Evenkis in the pre-Soviet and early Soviet period. This reader finds the idea of a socialist form of land enclosure to be evocative but inappropriately applied exclusively to the Lake Baikal region of the 1970s. In other parts of the book the reader learns of different types of rural administrations (*soveti*) and autonomous territories in the 1930s (as well as interesting autonomous enclaves in the nineteenth century) that form the basis of a collage of Evenki proposals for territorial autonomy in the 1990s. It would seem that the idea of enclosing land with imaginary lines is a fairly constant strategy in Transbaikalia (as in other parts of Siberia), and most importantly has not been solely a tool of Russian colonisation but has for a long time been a tool for Evenki self-determination. Instead of relying too heavily on historically constituted contrasts, it might have been more interesting to examine how the importance of constructing boundaries waxes and wanes in both Russian and Evenki society in this contested region of Siberia.

There are some miscellaneous oversights in the book. In the opening chapters, some short paragraphs and tables are devoted to situate Evenkis among other Siberian groups. Through the description of Evenkis in this region (*orochen*) there is no mention of neighbouring groups such as the Evenki cattle pastoralists (*khamniganil*) or the related Evenki populations in Mongolia and China. Perhaps more importantly, there is little reflection on the political influence of Buriats in the region on both Evenki society and access to land. Fondahl supplies a table and a map of the populations and locations of the major indigenous groups of Siberia. The map has some inaccuracies. The table oddly gives the Russian language name for every group except Evenkis — who throughout this book are evoked with the help of a common vernacular appellation. It would seem to be more consistent to use the official Russian version of this nation's name 'Evenk' or the local vernacular term 'Orochen.' These small oversights are more than supplemented by the fine maps and archival research, as well as the up-to-date discussion of policy options in chapter 7.

This book is a welcome addition to the libraries of Siberian specialists and to those active in struggles for land

rights throughout the circumpolar north and worldwide. Although this series is aimed at undergraduate students, the book may prove to be a bit too heavily historical for the novice reader of ethnography and social geography. However, it provides a very reliable introduction to land-tenure politics, equally among Evenkis of southeastern Siberia as to all Siberian aboriginal peoples. This reader shall eagerly await a second, perhaps more comprehensive, account of Fondahl's ongoing research. (David G. Anderson, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada.)

#### Reference

Grant, B. 1995. *In the Soviet house of culture: a century of perestroikas*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

**SAFE PASSAGE QUESTIONED: MEDICAL CARE & SAFETY FOR THE POLAR TOURIST.** John M. Levinson and Errol Ger (Editors). 1998. Centreville, MD: Cornell Maritime Press. xiv + 178 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-87033-504-9. \$US24.95.

*Safe passage questioned* is primarily the report of a conference called by the two editors to bring to the attention of the world the potential medical problems of polar tourism. Delegates at the conference, convened in Cambridge in October 1995, discussed who might be potential patients, what might be their illnesses, and what would be appropriate treatments. They also gave consideration to operational safety, to the responsibilities of medical personnel, to the facilities aboard polar vessels, and to the network of advice and support that is currently available to those doctors.

However, when considering publication as a book, the conference proceedings on their own were not deemed enough by the editors, who obtained additional authorship, in their words, 'to enable us to compile a coherent presentation on these special problems in the high latitudes of our world.' Have the authors succeeded? The book is an interesting amalgam of both professional and amateur views. It contains a wealth of information on medicine and on safety in the polar regions, and it indicates suitable further reading; but in the end, it may suffer from not clearly defining its target audience. I do hope not.

The book begins with a description of the Arctic and Antarctic regions with useful chronological tables of the discovery and other important events in the history of the polar regions. Some reference is made to the modern adventurers looking for a first in polar exploration and the excitements of Deception Island as a tourist destination.

The second chapter is an account of the growth of tourism to the polar regions. It is indicated that tourism to the Arctic started in 1856, with visits of ships to Spitsbergen and Greenland, carrying the first paying tourists. It is estimated that 100,000 currently visit the Arctic each year. Antarctic tourism is less developed, although 10,000 visit each year, mostly by sea, but some by air. The maintenance of a base in the Patriot Hills by one company enables

tourists to fly from Punta Arenas at the tip of South America to the South Pole.

Mention is made of the important and responsible role of Lars Lindblad, who took his ship *Lindblad Explorer* through the Northwest Passage in 1984 and was instrumental in developing Antarctic tourism in the late 1960s and 1970s. Since 1991, many Russian icebreakers have been commissioned for the tourist trade, greatly expanding the areas open to tourism, but operating under regulations that are not the same as those of western nations.

Chapter 3 puts polar medicine into a historical perspective, starting with mention of Sir Hugh Willoughby in 1519 and proceeding to James Cook, whose efforts to contain scurvy are well known but unfortunately overstated. Nineteenth-century medicine is well covered with the history of scurvy and theories about lead poisoning resulting from the tinned food carried by Sir John Franklin. The wisdom of the antiscorbutic effect of limes was put in doubt following the return of the British Arctic Expedition, on which four men died from scurvy despite taking lime juice. It turned out that the juice had been passed through copper pipes, which has a destructive effect on vitamin C. The chapter finishes with an account of the medical facilities currently available in the Arctic, which are most developed in the Northwest Territories of Canada at Yellowknife and farther east on Baffin Island. Inevitably however, for a patient to receive sophisticated medical care, he must be transferred to the major medical cities in Alaska, Russia, or Canada.

Chapter 4 gives details of the current facilities available on Antarctic bases and goes into considerable detail about the training and preparation that doctors undergo before being sent to provide care to research scientists. Desmond Lugg, Alan Milne, Claude Bachelard, and Harry Mahar, four doctors with extensive polar experience, give insight into the differing priorities of the Australian, British, French, and American Antarctic medical programmes, respectively. All rely to some extent on telemedicine and, not surprisingly, the Americans are best staffed and equipped.

Chapter 5 makes clear the concerns of the physicians who have been responsible for passenger safety on tourist ships. The International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) was founded in 1991 'to advocate, promote, and practice safe and environmentally responsible private sector travel to Antarctica.' Until recently, however, they have shown little interest in establishing standards for the medical welfare of tourists. The impetus, such as it is, has come from the group of physicians at the conference from which this book came and from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), which has a subsection called 'Cruise Ship and Maritime Medicine.' ACEP published guidelines for the facilities that should be expected on cruise ships. Although risk managers within the industry have voiced concerns about their effect on malpractice lawsuits, these guidelines have now been discussed by the International Council of Cruise

Lines. Despite these guidelines, an assessment of current facilities makes for worrying reading. In the 1996/97 season, 13 ships made 104 voyages to the Antarctic. Nine of these ships were Russian, and descriptions of the facilities on board leave much wanting. Problems of old and inadequate supplies are complicated by language difficulties. The large Russian nuclear icebreakers are better equipped and carry helicopters, which can be useful in emergencies, but distances are great and thus their usefulness is limited.

In chapter 6, safety on ship, in Zodiacs, and in helicopters is discussed. Most of it is common sense, but basic safety issues, such as not operating one helicopter and the fitting of flotation devices, are addressed. Refuelling of helicopters is also considered and can be a major hazard.

The chapter on communications is well illustrated with tales of medical problems and how they were sorted out. Communication is better organised in the Antarctic, as the Antarctic Treaty binds nations together and there is much common intent. Both poles suffer from lack of satellite cover, and in the Arctic north of 70° it becomes a problem, particularly in Greenland.

A short chapter, which is a bit repetitive, gives details of the qualifications required by the doctor, the accommodation that should be made available, and the type and standard of equipment that will be required.

Two chapters are assigned to more detailed medical treatment. Peter Sullivan has written an excellent review of the treatment and prevention of hypothermia and frostbite, and the editors discuss the treatment of medical emergencies on board. A further chapter gives details of the types of cases experienced by a retired general practitioner during the last 10 years as a doctor on polar cruise ships.

Carolyn Langer, dually qualified in medicine and law, introduces the concept of tort law and negligence, the duties of the carrier, and the fact that medical screening is not one of them. She addresses professional liability and medical malpractice and the need for good record keeping.

The penultimate chapter is written by tourists and gives details of their experiences both as patients and observers of medical emergencies. Finally, the editors write of what tourists should expect and how they should prepare themselves for a trip to the polar regions.

The majority of the book is very easy to read, well written and informative, and will be well received by the medical community. However it is not clear who else will read this book. Much of the text would be of interest to the polar tourist, more to the recently recruited polar doctor, and a great deal to those with real or potential responsibilities for the safety of polar tourists. The editors hope it will be read by tourists, for whom I suspect much of the text is too detailed. Doctors going to the polar regions will gain insight but will seek more medical detail than is contained within it. Despite this lack of a clear target-audience, it should certainly enhance the debate on the safety of polar tourism and should be enforced reading for those who

organise it. There is some duplication, particularly in the brief polar histories that introduce many chapters, and some unnecessary, out-of-date information, for example Appendix C, 'Lives lost in polar explorations to 1909.' Notwithstanding these minor criticisms, I believe the editors have succeeded in their aim and have compiled a cohesive presentation.

Appendices give further details of a number of areas: the Antarctic Treaty and the responsibilities of visitors contained within it; IAATO documents and addresses of the tour operators; detailed agendas of the Cambridge conference; the ACEP guidelines; the IAATO medical-evacuation plan provided by Adventure International for the Antarctic; sources of worldwide assistance; and the transport of controlled substances. The book is well referenced, and biographical details are given of all the contributors. (C.J.H. Andrews, Medical Director, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth PL6 8DH.)

**THE OCEANITES SITE GUIDE TO THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA.** Ron Naveen. 1997. Chevy Chase, MD: Oceanites. 129 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-9661011-0-3. \$25.00.

This guide contains a wealth of information about landing sites in the Antarctica Peninsula region, most of which has not been published before. It provides cautionary notes that will help visitors to avoid adversely impacting the environment and the species that live there. It includes some useful maps, a lot of historical details, and many superb photographs.

*The Oceanites site guide* will be particularly useful to the leaders and staff of tourist expeditions, including yachtsmen, and to members of national Antarctic programmes who may have the opportunity to travel beyond the immediate areas of their own research. It will also be of interest to the tourists themselves, although much of the information should be provided by their tour leaders anyway. On the down side, from the cruise-management perspective, the book contains details of far more places than can be visited in the course of a single tourist cruise, and one can imagine leaders often having to explain why they will not or cannot visit certain sites.

For example, visitors may have heard from their friends about the wonders to be seen at, say, Hannah Point on Livingston Island, and may well pester the ship's staff to find out why their particular cruise will not be going there (if that should be the case). As one who has been in that position, I know that there are a variety of possible answers, perhaps including some of the following: 'The approaches to Hannah Point have not been properly charted, and our captain does not want to risk it (or, our draft is too great even to consider it)'; 'parts of the site can get very crowded, and I don't trust you guys to stay clear of the nesting giant petrels'; 'last week we managed to disturb the two pairs of macaroni penguins that are breeding here this year, and I want to give them a break'; 'we've landed here on the last four cruises and the staff and I just decided we'd

like to go somewhere different'; 'the forecast for the Drake Passage is very bad, and if we don't leave right now for the continent, it's likely that you'll all miss your flight out of Ushuaia.'

Ron Naveen deserves congratulation for assembling a great deal of useful and interesting information in book form, but it is nevertheless not quite clear whom he is really addressing. Undoubtedly the prime reader is likely to be an expedition leader on a cruise vessel, but there aren't many of them, and they are probably quite familiar with the majority of sites already.

There are several pages of introductory information, including two pages of dedications, thanks, acknowledgements, and copyright details; three contents pages; introductions by R. Tucker Scully of the US State Department and Mike Richardson of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office; a seven-page foreword by the author; and a five-page essay on 'Visiting the Antarctic Peninsula' by expedition leader Matt Drennan. The latter is pleasant reading but is clearly aimed at tourists who have never been to Antarctica, rather than professionals who have.

The core of the book consists of detailed accounts of some 39 'prime' visitor sites, plus brief mentions of 21 others that are visited less often. In some cases these accounts are accompanied by a sketch map, and sometimes by an aerial photograph as well. These illustrations are of variable usefulness. Sometimes the map's orientation on the page has the reader landing at the top, sometimes at the bottom (bottom is best, as that's how one would approach in a Zodiac). And the map orientations themselves sometimes have north at the top, sometimes at the bottom. In a few cases, the maps have been reduced to a size that taxes the eyesight. The value of the aerial photos would have been increased if arrows or other information had been overprinted, indicating, for example, landing places. These comments may sound like small quibbles, but I had to concentrate hard in some cases to interpret maps and photos, and to link these images with my own mental picture of the site. Someone who had not been there before would have found the process more difficult. In one case, Yankee Harbor, both map and photo are perfectly aligned, side by side. But unfortunately, the photo shows the melt lake twice the size that is indicated on the map — while the preferred landing site indicated on the map just happens to appear unreachable, as shown in the photo, because of the presence of a huge patch of brash ice right along it!

The writing is informative, untechnical, and easy to read, although with an occasional tendency to patronise or state the obvious, as in: 'Take the *Site Guide* ashore. It easily stuffs into parka or backpack, so you can readily flip to the orientation map or aerial view of the site you're visiting. All sites are indexed in the table of contents. Sit down and relish the wildlife and scenery. Keep notes.' Incidentally, in a future edition it would be useful to include a proper alphabetical place-name index at the back, since the table of contents only gives page numbers