

Littrow H. von. 1881. *Carl Weyprecht, der österreichische Nordpolfahrer. Erinnerungen und Briefe*. Wien: Harleben.

100 Jahre. 1973. *100 Jahre Franz Josefs-Land. Zur Erinnerung an d. Entdeckungsreise d. Österreichisch-Ungarischen Nordpol-Espedition 1872–1874 unter Julius von Payer und Carl Weyprecht. Ausstellung im Prunksaal der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek. Katalog*. Wien: Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Biblos-Schriften 75).

LANDS THAT HOLD ONE SPELLBOUND. Spencer Apollonio. 2008. Calgary: University of Calgary Press. xx + 332 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 978-1-55238-240-0. C\$ 34.95.

doi:10.1017/S003224740900850X

This is a smallish format softback production; the only English language account specifically dealing with the history (story might be a better word, as the author suggests) of east Greenland. It is an account of this huge and sparsely populated area written for the general reader, but could also be useful as a starting point for more serious study, since it is indexed and has a short bibliography.

The author makes it clear from the outset that he has not attempted an exhaustive study of his subject and that he has little personal first hand knowledge of east Greenland. Nevertheless, he has achieved a useful and interesting account of some of the published material on the region.

The introduction is a hugely over-simplified geographical summary of such a large area and does not follow the conventional subdivisions. Very early settlement is described briefly and the summary of early European activities is useful, in which published information is scanty and hard to come by.

Nineteenth century European exploration from Scoresby onwards is given much more detailed treatment, together with Danish exploratory ventures. Pioneering expeditions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are well covered, with many passages of quotation from a range of published sources. Expeditions such as Amtrup's pioneering voyages down the difficult and dangerous Blossville Kyst and Mylius-Erichsen's ill-fated explorations are recounted at some length, together with some of the early over-wintering experiences and problems. Perhaps surprisingly for a north American book, Peary's and, later, Louise Boyd's ventures are not given prominence.

The completion of the 'ring' of exploration around northern Greenland is covered, followed by the early attempts at social engineering by Einar Mikkelsen and others, based, one might say, on the results of the early exploratory expeditions. Although there is relatively little study in the book about Inuit matters of this era after World War I, expeditions at that time became more numerous and more intensively scientific, and these are covered at some length. The sovereignty issue is also covered but not discussed in any depth.

World War II in East Greenland is summarised, with some of its strange events, but the post war period is only scantily touched on, with emphasis mainly on Egil Knuth and the British north Greenland expedition. The development of aviation and its importance to east Greenland, the formation of the national park, the Sirius Patrol and most recently the development of arctic tourism are given scant or non-existent coverage.

The main strength of this book thus seems to lie in its quite detailed descriptive summary of expedition activity in east Greenland from the early nineteenth to the mid twentieth century, loosely set in a geographical and historical context but without much in the way of analysis.

Being a north American production, the sterling price is not cheap and the standard of production is, in this reviewer's opinion, not altogether commensurate with the price. The illustrations are in black and white and are poorly printed on the same weight and quality of paper as the text. Even modern images are poorly reproduced and text shows through them from the reverse side of the page. (D.W. Matthews, Drummore of Cantray, Cawdor, Nairn IV12 5XY).

MEN OF ICE: THE LIVES OF ALISTAIR FORBES MACKAY (1878–1914) AND CECIL HENRY MEARES (1877–1937). Leif Mills. 2008. Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby. ISBN 978-0-905355-69-6. £20.00
doi:10.1017/S0032247409008584

With biographies of most Antarctic expedition leaders now largely available (although there is still a gap for an English biography of Otto Nordenskjöld), the time of the Men appears to have arrived. Books by Thomson (1977) and Quartermain (1981) have covered at least briefly many of the participants in both the Scott and Shackleton expeditions, but more extended accounts are now appearing. Leif Mills (1999) produced a biography of Frank Wild some years ago, and he has now returned to examine some less well-known men of the Heroic Age. Here he has chosen Alistair Forbes Mackay – who went south with Ernest Shackleton on the *Nimrod* expedition in 1907 and later north with Stefansson on the ill-fated Canadian Arctic Expedition aboard *Karluk* – and Cecil Meares, chosen to go south with Robert Falcon Scott on *Terra Nova*. He does not explain why he chose these two rather than others on the Scott and Shackleton expeditions.

The two were very different men, but both had interesting lives outside the polar expeditions. There is only a limited amount of original material in the form of letters or diaries (which have been used by other polar authors previously), so Mills has had to work mainly from secondary sources.

Mackay was a doctor who originally interrupted his medical studies at Edinburgh to fight in the Boer War. It was on his return he signed up for the Antarctic. Using Mackay's sledging diaries, Mills tells about the epic