

detail for features in the same area or discovered by the same expedition, some repetition could have been avoided by cross-references, as for example in presenting biographical details of individuals with more than one feature named after them. But these are minor points in a work displaying formidable industry and scholarship by its compiler and editor, who was also secretary of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic names from 1949 to 1980.

After an interval of 25 years Antarctic specialists and others are once again greatly indebted to USBGN and ACAN for updating the only gazetteer to cover the whole Antarctic. It can be assured of a long and useful life.

SOCIAL LIFE IN SITKA, 1870

[Review by Dorothy Middleton* of *Lady Franklin visits Sitka, Alaska 1870; the journal of Sophia Cracroft, Sir John Franklin's niece*, edited by R. N. DeArmond, Anchorage, Alaska, Alaska Historical Society, 1981, xxviii, 134 p, illus. Hardcover.]

Lady Franklin was the first of only five women to receive a Gold Medal from the Royal Geographical Society. In 1860 she was presented with the Founder's Medal for her 'self-sacrificing perseverance in sending out expeditions to ascertain the fate of her husband.' The Patron's Medal for the same year went to Leopold McClintock who had commanded her ship the *Fox*, pursuing the Franklin Search in 1855.

Jane Griffin was Sir John's second wife, an energetic and ambitious woman, who went everywhere with her husband, encouraged him in his profession and was enthusiastically behind his appointment to command the ill-fated Arctic expedition of 1845. She was a great traveller, and during her long widowhood visited India and Japan, Singapore and Hawaii, and was more than once in America. Sophia Cracroft, Sir John's niece, was her constant companion and it is her journal which has now been published by the Alaska Historical Society. Lady Franklin and Sophia went to Sitka in 1870 to follow up a rumour that some of Franklin's papers might have found their way to Alaska. Miss Cracroft, however, barely mentions this quest; her diary is more concerned with social life in Sitka soon after the purchase of Alaska by the Americans from Russia. The result is a very slight, but nevertheless amusing account of an 'expatriate' society bent on maintaining social distinctions and the customs of the homeland. In this sometimes losing battle the locals were backed up by the visitors, doubtful whether their landlady should be allowed to 'visit', and whether indeed she was a 'lady'. Lady Franklin and Sophia also made a distinction between themselves and their hosts, being highly critical of American ways and forms of speech. Overheated rooms and the American 'twang' come in for much censure.

The journal, the original manuscript of which is part of the Jessie Lefroy bequest in the Scott Polar Research Institute, is edited by R. N. DeArmond whose wide knowledge of Alaskan history gives Sophia's jottings a dimension they would otherwise lack. The text is embellished by the author's own sketches and a map of Sitka in 1867. Two appendices are included, an inventory of buildings in the town in 1867 and the Sitka census of 1870. *Lady Franklin visits Sitka* . . . will appeal more, perhaps, to those interested in Alaska's past than to Polar historians, but it provides a homely footnote to the sometimes heroic life of Jane Franklin.

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SLEDGING INTO HISTORY

[Review by Bernard Stonehouse* of D. L. Harrowfield's *Sledging into history*. Auckland, Macmillan Company of New Zealand, 1981, 119 p, illus. Hardcover NZ\$29.50.]

The author is the curator of New Zealand's National Antarctic Centre in Christchurch. He writes lovingly and with first-hand knowledge of the historic polar huts in McMurdo Sound—those put up by the *Discovery*, *Nimrod* and *Terra Nova* expeditions, and since cherished by the New Zealand Antarctic Society, with strong backing from New Zealand's Antarctic Division. The author's aim is 'to present a

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