

collection of papers is limited to those published in *Hydrological Processes*. It is therefore the case that any significant advance in the subject that has not been published previously in the journal cannot be included in this book.

As a reading list for undergraduates, this volume is very good. However, I cannot believe that a new book is really necessary, given that it is essentially a compilation of previous papers. As a resource for those involved in the field, surely they will have *Hydrological Processes* at hand anyway? I cannot, therefore, imagine at whom the book is aimed and who will read it. Students will find it too costly, and all the papers are available elsewhere. Researchers will have all these papers at hand from the original journal. (Martin J. Siegert, Bristol Glaciology Centre, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1SS.)

SEARCHING FOR THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION: THE ARCTIC JOURNAL OF ROBERT RANDOLPH CARTER. Harold B. Gill Jr and Joanne Young (Editors). 1998. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press. 201p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-55750-321-4. \$US28.95.

New primary sources for the study of the Franklin search seem to surface with great regularity, nearly 150 years after its high point in the 1850s. Such is the continuing interest in the search that they find ready publication. This book is a welcome addition to these. It presents the journal of Robert Randolph Carter, who served as first officer of the brig *Rescue*, which was one of the two vessels of the US Grinnell expedition of 1850–1851. It is particularly valuable as no other day-to-day journal of that expedition has ever appeared. Carter's writing was only intended for his family and was in no sense official. Therefore, he was able to be totally candid in it, and he records, for example, his disagreements, of which there were several, with the decisions of higher ranking officers, and the general lack of organisation and planning that seems to have pervaded the expedition as a whole. In this respect, the journal is a valuable contrast to the main source for the expedition, Elisha Kent Kane's *The US Grinnell expedition in search of Sir John Franklin*, which presents a highly sanitised account.

The text as a whole is of interest, and, for the specialist, there are some real nuggets in it. The present reviewer has a particular interest in the two *Prince Albert* expeditions, which were roughly contemporary with the US expedition save for the fact that the vessel returned to Britain for the winter of 1850–1851, while the US expedition overwintered in the Arctic. An example of one of these nuggets is on page 66, where there is a statement to the effect that Captain H.T. Austin, commander of the main British official expedition then in the north, was 'trying' to induce Sir John Ross, commander of one of the smaller expeditions, to return to England so that news could be carried thither. This is a clear confirmation that Charles Forsyth, commander of *Prince Albert*, which had already sailed for home, had not informed the Americans of his intention.

This confirms the general impression, derived from study of the first *Prince Albert* expedition, of a certain deviousness in Forsyth's character. A further example is the note on page 145 to the effect that the account of the *Prince Albert* expedition by W.P. Snow, who had served on it, spoke 'so highly of our expedition as to turn every thing into ridicule we hear of with great indignation.' This is interesting as supporting the view of Snow's book held by some contemporary critics, but obviously Carter and his colleagues were not aware that Lady Franklin had been heavily involved in the preparation of Snow's account and might well have enhanced the praise of the Americans as a means of further ingratiating herself with Grinnell.

With regard to the search itself, the US Grinnell expedition contributed relatively little to it or to the exploration of the Canadian Arctic archipelago that was incidental to it. Indeed, considering the diminutive size of the vessels — *Rescue* was only 90 tons — and of their small crews, together with the absolute lack of equipment for, and experience in, land search techniques, it is unlikely that it could. However, the expedition contributed to the discovery of Franklin's wintering site on Beechey Island.

The journal is required reading for those with interests in the Franklin search. Such persons would, however, be well advised to skip the introduction altogether, refreshing their knowledge before starting on the text with a rereading of, for example, selections from Cyriax's classic account, which does not, surprisingly, appear in the references. The only parts of the introduction that merit attention are those relating to Carter's personal and family background. These are, however, incomplete. The account jumps from 1770 to the War of 1812, with no mention of the American Revolution. The section of the introduction relating to the background of the Franklin search is littered with errors and solecisms. For example, the theory of the open polar sea is certainly much older than William Scoresby the younger; to describe John Ross' vessel *Victory* as an 'appropriate ship for the North' flies in the face of informed opinion and indeed of sheer common sense, since of all vessels for the Arctic, a paddle steamer is surely the least appropriate, even if it were the first steam vessel used on a polar expedition; the use of the word 'above' for 'to the north of' is irritating; Forsyth's name is misspelt, and he was a commander, not a captain; the maiden name of Lady Franklin (not Lady Jane Franklin, nor for that matter was Lord Nelson, Lord Horatio Nelson) was not Griffith but Griffin; to describe Franklin's courage as 'pit bull' is insulting to both explorer and dog; and Franklin, himself, was not present, as is implied, at the Battle of New Orleans itself, which was, as the editors tell us, a significant British defeat, but at the preliminary action on Lac Borgne, which was a modest British victory.

There is also an epilogue, which is better than the introduction, but only because more of it relates to Carter's subsequent career. When the editors drift away from this and into other matters, they fall into error in the same depressing way. With regard to the search itself there are

fairly random and disconnected paragraphs relating to Sir John Ross, Joseph-René Bellot, and John Rae, and an account of the *Fox* expedition, together with comments about recent work on the topic. But Sherard Osborn was not a lieutenant in 1855, all the ships of the Royal Navy were not 'diverted' to the Black Sea in the Crimean War, and so on.

The notes within the text are, on the whole, accurate and informative, but there are some irritating omissions. We are not told, for example, what the *London Charivari* is (page 64), although the well-informed reader will know that it is usually referred to as *Punch*.

The nadir of the book is the maps. These are copies of the original charts prepared after the expedition and are on so reduced a scale that a reader would need a magnifying glass to be able to follow the tracks of the vessels. There should have been specially drawn maps, which would greatly have enhanced the value of the book and the ease of its use. The other illustrations are of Carter, of persons connected with him, and of scenes from the expedition.

The book is well presented, in a handsome blue binding. There is a full index and a useful glossary.

To sum up: an unfortunate book. Carter's journal merits an edition much better than this. It is clear that the editors have devoted most of their attention to Carter's own background and relatively little to the Franklin search itself. Yet Carter's account is important precisely because it illustrates the search and not because of any intrinsic interest relating to his family. Therefore the whole critical apparatus is ill-balanced, and the sections relating to the search, and its background, are incomplete and inaccurate. This, coupled with the inadequacy of the maps, makes the book difficult to use for the purpose for which it was intended, namely to provide additional illustration of the events surrounding an interesting expedition. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

TWO YEARS IN THE KLONDIKE AND ALASKAN GOLD-FIELDS 1896–1898. William B. Haskell. 1997. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. 578 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-889963-01-1. \$US34.95.

'Gold! We leapt from our benches. Gold! We sprang from our stools. Gold! We wheeled in the furrow, fired with the faith of fools' (Service 1917: 107). Gold rushes have always cast a powerful spell over the popular imagination. Just as the Klondike gold rush bridged the end of the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, so it is safe to assume that publications commemorating its centenary will take us from this century and into the next millennium.

At the end of the nineteenth century, America was suffering the effects of a depressed economy and mass unemployment. Not surprisingly the discovery of gold in the Klondike captivated the American populace, infecting it with a gold fever to rival the California strikes of 1849. Newspapers like *The Bulletin* of San Francisco (15 July 1897: 3), although initially diffident in lending credence to

'exaggerated' miners' tales of 'enormously wealthy mines,' quickly threw caution to the wind. *The Bulletin* suddenly woke up to the newsworthiness of 'stories...too incredible,' of 'riches...too fabulous for belief,' as the newspaper's scepticism rapidly gave way to a new-found enthusiasm in the veracity of miners' tales (*The Bulletin* 17 July 1897: 1).

The very next day it brought to its readers 'authentic news of some of the most wonderful gold strikes in the world's history' with its own confirmation that 'The richest gold strike the world has ever known was made in the Klondyke [sic] region' (*The Bulletin* 16 July 1897: 12). The 'News Was So Startling,' reported a *Bulletin* headline, 'That Even the Miners' — portrayed only the day before as suspect, unreliable witnesses to Klondike events — were made to feature in headlines where they 'Could Not Believe in its Truth at First' (*The Bulletin* 16 July 1897: 12). Soon stories of heaps of 'gold dust...look[ing] almost as cheap as sawdust' (*The Bulletin* 21 July 1897: 4) were to become the hyperbolic norm.

This was not to say that the Klondike did not receive its fair share of descriptions emphasising its hardships or its horrifying potential for tragedy even in the newspapers. It was just that such descriptions somehow became lost in a vast unnavigable ocean of Klondike myths and half-truths concerning the abundance and availability of gold. It was as though those who dashed northwards had read the wild exaggerations of the newspapers, but also ignored the more sober cautions of the press.

The gold rush and its aftermath witnessed a great outpouring of related literature. There were innumerable novels, short stories, poems, and autobiographies. Jack London contributed his novels *The call of the wild* (1903) and *White Fang* (1906), as well as numerous Klondike short stories. Robert Service wrote Klondike poetry collections the contents of which had such titles as 'The trail of ninety-eight' and 'The man from Eldorado.' Into the vanguard of this great flurry of literary activity, William Haskell's book (a combination of autobiography, reminiscence, social history, guidebook, Klondike survival guide, and much, much more) came and was then just as quickly and undeservedly forgotten.

William Haskell and his partner Joseph (Joe) Meeker travelled to Forty Mile and Circle City in the spring of 1896. They staked and worked claims on Bonanza Creek and in the Indian River District and found 'rich [pay] dirt — enough to provide [them] with a comfortable amount of gold dust' (pages 505–506). However, the gold fever of 1897 brought a great influx of new prospectors, and the consequent scarcity of supplies finally prompted Haskell and Meeker to head for home. On their homeward journey a freak accident swept Joe under the ice, forcing Haskell to return alone in 1898.

The timescale of Haskell's Klondike reminiscence (1896–1898) is quite unusual and makes the book valuable because it encompasses an account of the Klondike both before and after the discovery of gold introduced thousands of new prospectors to the north, irrevocably chang-