

unstable institutional arrangements), firms found it extremely difficult to cross the cultural divide. Nordic and Russian frames of reference have diverged to such a degree during the separation imposed by the 70-year Soviet interregnum, that communication between Nordic and Russian business partners is poor, misunderstandings common, and mutual distrust the result. A century ago, the Pomor traders communicated through a common trading language called *Russenorsk*. Today, there is just as clear a need to learn a common 'language' of business norms and expectations.

The role for inter-regional political cooperation in facilitating such a learning process seems obvious. Improving conditions for business activities became one of the key tasks of the BEAR's Regional Council. This help came partly in promoting individual business initiatives, but mostly through efforts to improve the legislative and institutional features of the business environment in north-west Russia. Svensson sets forth strong arguments that cooperation at the regional-level missed its calling by focusing on framework conditions over which the Russian regions had little power to change at their level, rather than adopting measures to speed up the 'socialisation process' between Nordic and Russian business operators and thus help them close the cultural gap.

The politics and business of regional development are invariably about money, and it is through analysing how governments spend their money that their regional development priorities and philosophies are brought into clearest focus. Svensson shows, through changes in national contributions to the annual Barents Programme and other regional development programmes, how promoting transnational business activities grew to become a high priority. At the same time as the priority increased, so did the *scale*, as initiatives grew into large-scale investment projects. This had the effect of shifting control away from the provincial level, first to central governments and subsequently to extra-regional sources, such as the EU and international financial institutions. This leads Svensson to conclude that regionalisation in the European Arctic remains subject to externalisation. EU policies have helped by returning a measure of control to the provinces in programming resources provided through the EU's Interreg programme, but the fact remains that the high northern regions remain dependent upon external resources doled out by the power centres to the south.

The product of Svensson's doctoral research, *Politics and business in the Barents region* is a thoughtful and insightful analysis of the interdependencies between business actors and different tiers of government in promoting economic development in peripheral regions. It is also refreshingly readable. His liberal use of quotes from business operators interviewed during his research not only help to make his case, they also keep the reader engaged and interested. In an apparent desire to maintain the anonymity of his interviewees and to generalise from his observations, however, the author scarcely mentions a

single business concern by name and shies away from providing the contextual details surrounding his subjects' experiences. This is unfortunate, since there are many excellent stories behind his data; a number of well-placed vignettes would have further enriched the book. Also, I found myself wishing the author had adopted a base currency to help make sense out of regional development budgets denominated in Norwegian and Swedish kroner, Finnish markka, US dollars, and the European currency unit. Listing average exchange rates in the book's preliminaries provides the reader with little help in making comparisons. Since this is a study of the *Euro-Arctic*, the euro would seem a natural choice.

*Politics and business in the Barents region* is a valuable and scholarly contribution to the growing literature on regional economic development and transregional cooperation. It succeeds in bringing into focus the fine details of economic development challenges in the European Arctic, as well as providing well-grounded insights into using inter-regional cooperation as a device for developing east-west relations. The book is distributed by CE Fritzes, SE-106 47 Stockholm, Sweden. (Steven G. Sawhill, The Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Box 326, N-1326 Lysaker, Norway.)

**THROUGH THE FIRST ANTARCTIC NIGHT 1898–1899.** Frederick A. Cook. 1998 (Centennial Edition). Pittsburgh: Polar Publishing Company; Hurleyville, NY: Frederick A. Cook Society. xxiv + 464, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-9665613-0-9; soft cover ISBN 0-9665613-1-7.

The Frederick A. Cook Society is an active body and has recently been connected with a number of ventures in publishing works on polar history. There could be no more appropriate area for the Society's involvement than the present work, a reprinting of Cook's famous book about the *Belgica* expedition of 1898–99, during which the ship became entrapped in the ice and accomplished the first Antarctic wintering. Cook's work will need little introduction to readers of *Polar Record*. Written in a clear and economical style, it recounts the voyage of *Belgica* in admirable detail and constitutes a major source for the study of the expedition, one of the main features of which was its multinational character. Cook, who was appointed as surgeon and anthropologist, reflecting the South American element of the expedition, was merely one among a cast of foreigners on board, prominent among whom were Roald Amundsen and Henryk Arctowski. It is well known that the expedition experienced considerable difficulties due to health problems and in leadership. There is no doubt that Cook was instrumental in overcoming the former and did nothing to exacerbate the latter. The book was, and is, a major contribution and should be on the bookshelf of all with interests in Antarctic history. This reprint makes that objective more feasible, since earlier editions have long been very expensive. A further point in its favour is the wonderful illustrations, photographs, and engravings therefrom.

Among the festivities commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the *Belgica* expedition was a symposium held at the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University in 1997, and the opportunity has been taken to present two of the papers given on that occasion. These are printed as appendices, following the original appendix by Amundsen, entitled 'The navigation of the Antarctic ice-pack.' According to Russell Gibbons, the editor of the volume, they 'give a unique perspective of the historical events surrounding Cook, Amundsen and the *Belgica* expedition.' This inclusion begs all sorts of questions, specifically why only two and why these two? The first, by Susan Barr, is entitled 'Amundsen and Cook: prelude to the tactical assault on the poles, 1908–1911.' The second, by T.H. Baughman, is entitled "'Helpless in a hopeless sea of ice": the course of the *Belgica* expedition and its impact on the heroic era.'

In the first paper, the writer seeks to draw out similarities between Cook and Amundsen and points out that they had much more polar experience than anyone else on board. She then analyses the contributions made by the two towards the expedition and stresses the part played by the former in reforming the diet of the crew when de Gerlache and several others were prostrate with scurvy. She analyses the information they gained from the expedition, notably in terms of travel and camping techniques, and, especially in the case of Amundsen, of the demonstrable, and fairly obvious, need for firm leadership, which he adopted in his own later expeditions.

Barr's paper is somewhat peripheral to the study of the expedition as a whole, centring as it does on the two most prominent persons involved in it. Baughman's paper on the other hand seeks to assess the significance of the expedition and its influence with regard to subsequent ventures in the Antarctic. The paper starts with a brief history of Antarctic exploration prior to *Belgica*. The writer stresses that de Gerlache himself raised the funding, which was much more modest than that envisaged by some of his contemporaries who were also planning expeditions. He also comments on the multinational make-up of the crew and scientific staff — 'a fugue in seven voices' — but he does not make a suggestion about which voice started the fugue! Baughman then recounts the story of the expedition and states baldly that 'Cook saved the lives of the men' by his insistence on an appropriate diet. Assessing the place of the *Belgica* expedition, he enunciates his theory of two models: on the one hand the 'huge national expeditions sent out by Sweden, Germany, and Great Britain' from 1901 to 1904, and on the other hand the 'small privately funded expeditions' on the pattern of *Belgica*, which became the 'norm' for 'the rest of the heroic era and into the mechanical era.' The writer praises de Gerlache for his enterprise and for the scientific results achieved by the expedition, and points out the influence it had on the young Amundsen. His paper is very much the type of presentation one might expect at what was in fact a celebration of the anniversary of an event. It contains a

large number of points on which comment or disagreement are possible, and one wonders if there was such discussion when the paper was presented.

While both these papers are interesting and informative, they do not together constitute what is the most obvious deficiency of the volume, namely a balanced editorial introduction of, for example, the type always included in William Barr's editions. To that extent, an excellent opportunity has been missed. Nevertheless, the book is warmly to be welcomed and the Frederick A. Cook Society deserves our thanks for its initiative. (Ian R. Stone, Laggan Juys, Larivane Close, Andreas, Isle of Man IM7 4HD.)

**FIFTY YEARS OF ARCTIC RESEARCH: ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES FROM GREENLAND TO SIBERIA.** R. Gilberg and H.C. Gulløv (Editors). 1997. Copenhagen: National Museum of Denmark (National Museum Ethnographical Series 18). 344 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-89385-60-1.

This volume is a festschrift honoring the retirement of Jürgen Meldgaard from the ethnographic department of the National Museum of Denmark after five decades of service, and its contents reflect the diverse interests and contributions of a long scholarly career in northern research. The 36 articles were written by an amazing range of Arctic scientists and northern residents, ranging from senior scholars on either side of Meldgaard's generation (Elmer Harp, Frederica de Laguna, Hans-Georg Bandi, Moreau Maxwell, Robert Petersen, Hansjürgen Müller-Beck, Inge Kleivan, J.P. Hart-Hansen, Keld Hansen, Bill Fitzhugh, Bob McGhee) to the now established workers who first met Meldgaard as graduate students (Claus Andreasen, Jette Arneborg, Bjarne Gronnow, Susan Kaplan, Tinna Mxbjerg, H.C. Gulløv, Hans Kapel), and including his son Morten (now director of the Danish Polar Center). Many of the notes and articles are personal tributes, and many anecdotes and photos that would have been a shame to leave entirely in the oral tradition have been preserved (the photo on page 15 of Meldgaard in the dress of a Mongolian gurtum is worth the price of the volume alone). In addition to these intensely personal tributes and reminiscences, there are a series of pieces that represent significant works of scholarship in their own right (particularly Patricia Sutherland on Dorset art and Kaplan's summary of Labrador archaeology). While this is not a tightly structured volume, themes connected to Meldgaard's long and diverse career (paleo-Eskimo studies, artifact studies, Norse–Inuit contact, Inuit art, repatriation, and cultural heritage) provide pathways through an impressive range of Arctic research topics in both archaeology and ethnography.

Besides showcasing Meldgaard's diverse contributions, the volume also provides a concise overview of 'hot topics' in eastern Arctic archaeology and a bit of post-processual fusion of hard-data articles written by western scientists and more loosely structured but equally stimulating views of northern topics (and northern scholars) by northern native observers. While individual offerings