

It will be interesting to hear readers' reactions to the absence of favourite words or expressions. If you have a reaction, I would be interested to hear it, with the reasoning behind it.

It is clear that there is an Antarctic vocabulary and that it should be recorded. Hince has made a valuable, learned start. In 50 years, there will have been much evolution, and many of these entries will have lost currency and new ones will have been generated. (Patrick G. Quilty, School of Earth Sciences, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252-79, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

QAYAQ: KAYAKS OF ALASKA AND SIBERIA. David W. Zimmerly. 2000. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. 103 + x p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-889963-10-0. US\$16.95.

In 1986, an exhibition dedicated to Siberian and Alaskan kayaks was mounted in Juneau, Alaska. David W. Zimmerly, an anthropologist with an interest in these traditional craft, wrote a slim volume originally intended to be a catalogue to accompany the exhibition. Because little has been written on kayaks since then, a second edition was published by the University of Alaska Press in August 2000. This later edition contains additional material, including information about the Mackenzie Eskimo kayak.

Although only just over a hundred pages in length, this book contains everything a reader might want to know about kayaks. Intricate diagrams accompany the entries, which are organised geographically. There are chapters for Siberia (Koryak, Chukchi, and Siberian Eskimo), the Aleut, the Pacific Eskimo (Kodiak and Chugach), the Bering Sea (divided into Nunivak/Hooper Bay and Norton Sound), Bering Strait (divided into Cape Espenberg and King Island), north Alaska (Kotzebue Sound/Point Barrow, north Alaska retrieval kayak, and Nunamiut), and the Mackenzie Eskimo. In addition, there are chapters on kayak design and paddles, along with a comprehensive index, a glossary, and a helpful list of references for further reading on the subject.

The book is a good deal more than a listing of the technical specifics of different kayak designs, however. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the people, including their geographical distribution, and the use that each group made of the craft — whether for hunting whales and seals, for fishing, or for transport. References to historical texts that mention kayaks are also included,

along with relevant extracts from the peoples' oral history. In addition, there are sections on where readers might see examples of specific kayak types in museum collections, along with descriptions of kayak 'accessories' — such as harpoons, paddles, and deck loops for the securing of lances — that accompanied the traveller.

This short book will be an essential reference tool for anyone interested in the construction, design, and use of traditional hunting craft. The blocks of text are divided by a wealth of black-and-white photographs, diagrams, and figures. My only criticism is that the cover makes it look like a children's book — which it certainly is not.

FLOWERING PLANTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. Robin W. Woods. 2000. London: Falklands Conservation. 108 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-9538371-0-6.

Lovers of the polar regions know that there are exciting things to be seen in the relatively depauperate biotic zones of the high latitudes, and books such as *Flowering plants of the Falkland Islands* certainly make it all the easier for people to enjoy them. This handsomely illustrated volume is sized to slip easily into a rucksack (or parka pocket) and provides concise information on the identification of 46 species of Falklands plants. The book is geared toward the non-specialist, and the author has wisely included a glossary of botanical terms and a metric ruler to make the experience of plant-hunting as easy as possible. Indeed, a botanical novice was turned loose with this book in the Falklands and had no trouble putting it to good use on a walk in the camp. The excellent colour photographs and black-and-white drawings allow for easy identification, and the accompanying text provides helpful habitat clues. The text also lists the non-Falklands range of these species, which is good for placing these plants in a 'bigger picture.'

As part of a 'project in progress' this book is a useful waypoint, but it does make one long for more information about the species included (for example, wouldn't most visitors want to know if bead plant berries are edible?) and wish that more of them were described in this volume. As it is, many of the species most likely to be encountered are not in this book, having been included in the previously published booklet *Wild flowers of the Falkland Islands* by Tom Davies and Jim McAdam. That said, the author acknowledges the limited scope of this volume, and we can only hope that progress continues on a guide to the remaining 200 or so species of Falklands plants.