

MacLaren, who states erroneously that Sabine was a naval officer (he was in the Royal Artillery), implies that this may have been partly due to the fact that Simpson was a graduate and so may have had more 'narrative prowess' than participants in other expeditions. He does not, however, mention the involvement of Simpson's brother Alexander in the production of the book. Be that as it may, MacLaren goes into his subject in exhaustive detail, relating Kane's writings to his artistry, of which reproductions are presented, in a most interesting way.

The penultimate article, Helen Wallis' 'The great publication societies,' does not even attempt to meet the central issue of the conference as set out by the editor, much less 'the institutionalization of the process of dissemination' as is claimed. It is a straightforward review of the history and workings of the Hakluyt Society, with brief mention of the Champlain Society, the Hudson's Bay Company Record Society, the Rupert's Land Record Society, and the T. van Riebeck Society.

The final article, by James Lockhart, is entitled 'A double tradition: editing book twelve of the Florentine Codex' and is concerned with the textual editing of Nahuatl versions of the conquest of meso-America.

Each of the papers in this collection has its interest for specialists, although there is little that is likely to detain readers of *Polar Record*. The more long-winded ones, and that is all except that of the Quinns, would have benefited from the sort of radical pruning to which they might have been subject had they been submitted for publication in relevant journals. To that extent, the editing of the collection, and this is a volume primarily concerned with editing, is lamentable. However, so slender is the total offering, that any attempt to make the articles more concise would have reduced the whole to insignificance.

The book is substantially bound and has an attractive dust jacket. The price will ensure that it is only purchased by libraries. (Ian R. Stone, The Registry, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.)

**PEOPLE OF THE BAYS AND HEADLANDS.** John C. Kennedy. 1995. Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press. xxx + 296 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-8020-7600-9. £15.00; \$22.95.

This superbly crafted and fascinating book tells the story of what John Kennedy calls the 'unknown Labrador.' While the history and anthropology of many communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are well-documented, the southeastern part of Labrador has received less attention. This book fills a gap in the literature and deserves to be welcomed not only by scholars who specialise in Canadian maritime and rural history, but by those interested in the settlement, development, and contemporary conditions of so-called 'marginal' or 'peripheral' regions elsewhere.

Kennedy provides detailed descriptions of the early European settlement of southeastern Labrador, of the development of what became viable fisheries, of whaling, and of the vitality and resilience of local culture. But this is also a depressingly familiar tale of communities in

positions of subordination and dependency, experiencing change and decline as a result of fluctuations in local and world markets, out-migration, the intrusion of the state, the forced closure of settlements, and government-assisted resettlement. Although focusing on a specific geographical area within a larger region, Kennedy has not produced a parochial account of local history as some previous work has tended to do. He places his study firmly within a global context, exposing (as he calls it) and conceptualising linkages between the communities of southeastern Labrador and far-flung, but influential nonetheless, centres of capital, control, and domination.

Thus Kennedy places his discussion of the causes and processes of social change in Labrador within the framework of current sociological and anthropological debate about structure and agency, examining the extent to which change is the result of internally driven innovative processes or external structures, and questioning whether people are merely passive receptors of change that is imposed upon them, or whether they actively create their own history and constitute themselves as social persons through mutual involvement with others and with the environment. From my reading and understanding, Kennedy concludes that structures and socio-economic circumstances that are immediately and ultimately beyond the everyday local contexts of people in southeastern Labrador have shaped their lives and account for change in a way individual agency has not. In a sense, this flies in the face of recent anthropological approaches to the study of community, which emphasise the importance of agency and individual action.

Kennedy argues that his account of economic change and community development and decline can be generalised for much of rural and maritime eastern Canada, and also that scholars working in other Atlantic regions 'will see their "bay" or coastline in my work' (page 6). As someone specialising in the anthropology of small communities in Greenland and Scotland undergoing rapid social change and having experienced the development of underdevelopment, I would agree with him — this is indeed familiar ground in places, although the extent of structure or agency as determinants or contributors to social change will obviously vary from one context to the other. Kennedy ends on a pessimistic note. In 1992 the Canadian government announced a moratorium on fishing for northern cod. Effectively, this shut down the cod fishing industry of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Kennedy envisages the further undernourishment of social and economic life in the small communities he has come to know and to write about. The only future for the young is to leave their home communities and emigrate to other parts of Canada. Those left behind will have no future. With the fisheries of other parts of North America, and of Europe and elsewhere, under pressure from over-exploitation, and with communities dependent on fishing under threat, this is a poignant book to read. (Mark Nuttall, Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 2TY.)