

essentially all-male preserve is a subject of consuming interest to the author, who traces their story from the wives of the early sealers to an all-woman expedition of recent years, which found that the answer to the problem to the icing up of zip fasteners on trouser legs was an 'ice resistant Antarctic miniskirt.'

In the six chapters that follow, the author traces the course of Antarctic exploration from the legendary voyage of the Polynesian *Ui-te-Rangiora* in the seventh century AD to the Antarctic Treaty, and beyond to our day. The lineaments of Antarctic chronology have been traced on many occasions since Hugh Robert Mill wrote his classic *Siege of the South Pole* at the turn of the century. Martin's retelling of the earlier history has gained considerably not only by the use of much new material but also from the enlivening effect of numerous quotes from the journals and logbooks of the explorers themselves. Thereby he succeeds in recreating period atmosphere and the immediacy of human reactions. The technique is used with good effect in an account of sealing activities on the sub-Antarctic islands in which Captain Robert Fildes' log of *Cora*, while sealing off the Antarctic Peninsula in 1820, is quoted in some detail. Exploration history is concerned not just with individual explorers but also with the diverse factors that motivated their voyages, whether political, commercial, scientific, or plain adventure. All these threads are taken up and discussed by the author. With science, one feels that he is not always at home, and whereas the significance of the work carried out by Halley and Cook is given due attention, his assessment of the scientific results of some later expeditions, Captain Scott's being one example, seems very incomplete, and J.-B. Charcot's work in the Antarctic Peninsula region scarcely gets a mention. A further theme seemingly of special concern to the author is that of territorial claims, before World War I of only token interest, but subsequently, under the pressures of commercial whaling and rampant nationalism, a potent *casus belli*. Although frozen by the Antarctic Treaty, claimant nations still reserve their rights, as indeed does Australia, which, as the author makes clear, has recently reasserted its sovereignty over the Australian Antarctic Territory. This is not to suggest that Martin has consciously biased this history, although it is natural that he should give some pre-eminence to the exploits of such Australian heroes as Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Hubert Wilkins, Frank Hurley, and the pioneer work of ANARE itself.

In his concluding chapters, 'The evolution of the Antarctic Treaty 1940–60' and 'After the Treaty 1960–96,' the author is dealing with events many of which are still too close to be seen in perspective. It is in this last chapter in particular, where spasmodic expeditions have finally given way to permanent scientific stations, that Martin appears to lose direction and gets himself bogged down in the vital statistics of Soviet Kharkovchanka tracked vehicles and other such minutiae. Finally, various issues are discussed somewhat at random under such headings as 'Southern

whale sanctuary declared,' 'Historical conservation in Antarctica,' 'India enters Antarctica,' 'Tourism,' and, yet once more, 'Women in the south.'

In a work of this scope and detail it is all too easy for the reviewer to pick on errors of fact and omission. But as a matter of fact, it was not Samuel Enderby Sr who deposited his captains' logs with the Royal Geographical Society (page 58), but his grandson Charles, promoter of the ill-fated Auckland Islands whaling station in 1849. SCAR (page 217) has for long stood for the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, not the Special Committee. 'R. Panaziri' (page 233) should surely read R. Panzarini, a former vice-president of SCAR. And finally, an important omission is surely the name of Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who gets no mention under the heading 'Private expeditions' (pages 257–258). Hero of the 1979–1982 Transglobe Expedition, his meridional traverse included a trans-Antarctic crossing of 2200 miles, and he is described in the *Guinness book of records* as 'the world's greatest living explorer.' Maybe he should have taken Lady Fiennes along with him on the crossing! (H.G.R. King, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GREENLAND AND IN OTHER SMALL NORDIC JURISDICTIONS.** Lise Lyck (Editor). 1997. Copenhagen: Copenhagen Business School. 273 p, soft cover. ISBN 8770342970. Dkr185.

Edited by Lise Lyck, this volume contains articles presented at the fifth meeting of the Nordic Arctic Research Forum, which has as one of its goals the promotion of interdisciplinary research on the Arctic. It is no surprise, therefore, that the book is somewhat eclectic. This notwithstanding, it does seem rather disjointed. Indeed, it could be described as a book of two halves.

The first half of the book focuses on socio-economic development in Greenland. As such, the material presented is a welcome addition to what is a sparsely populated field. The first chapter provides a general overview of Greenland's history since World War II — interesting, but nothing startling. Chapter two is more challenging. It is co-authored by two academics — Adolphsen and Greiffenberg, who specialize in writing short, provocative pieces — and examines why development in Greenland proceeded as it did. The conclusion arrived at is that Greenland's economy was not strong enough to support a modern, social democratic, and 'normal' — that is, capitalist — country. The strength of the chapter is that it provides non-Danes with an understanding of the Danish mind-set, something that is vital if one is to interpret Greenland's history accurately. The tone of the book then changes. In chapter three, Meibom presents a statistical model of the Greenlandic economy. As far as this reviewer is aware, this is the first such model that has been published. Its value is heightened by the way Meibom relates the overall model to individual municipalities, thus dem-

onstrating how vulnerable the latter are to external shocks wrought, for example, by collapses in fish stocks. Rasmussen, Friis, and Poppel continue the statistical line of analysis by examining various issues relating to income transfers and the distribution of income in Greenland. In doing this, the respective authors highlight a number of important findings. Rasmussen, for instance, shows that income transfers per capita are remarkably similar when one compares the largest towns to the smallest settlements. He also goes some way to pinpointing how important the informal economy is in Greenland. Friis, meanwhile, shows that there are substantial inequalities in the transfers of income made to different regions. In revealing that already poor East Greenland is the overall loser, Friis raises disturbing questions about public policy. Specifically, it seems that the regional dimension to policy has been forgotten. Poppel pursues a different line of inquiry, showing how the distribution of income in Greenland has become significantly more equal since the introduction of Home Rule in 1979. He also presents figures that show the purchasing power of skilled workers and professionals halving during the period 1979–1994. Given Greenland's continued dependence on skilled labour from overseas (chiefly Denmark), this raises serious questions concerning the ability of this country to attract the workers it urgently needs. Focusing on tourism projects in Greenland, the final chapter in this section of the book is informative and provides an important foundation for research. One is left to wonder, however, why researchers continue to ignore the likes of Jacky Simoud in Qeqertarsuaq and Kelly Nicolajsen in Tasiilaq? Both have enjoyed considerable success in promoting tourism in different parts of Greenland. Surely lessons can be learned from their experiences?

The second half of the book is less focused. It is also not clear why particular chapters were included in a book relating solely to Nordic countries. Jussila, Huusko, and Segerståhl, for instance, provide an excellent discussion of how the information superhighway may change the meaning of location — and not necessarily in a benign manner for peripheral regions. The discussion remains abstract, but its relevance to regions of the north is obvious. Hallin, meanwhile, presents a fascinating discussion of the potential impact of deregulation and privatization in different regions of Nordic countries. The ideas are not new, but economists outside the north would no doubt find the material interesting. It is also high time that more attention is paid to competition policy in countries such as Greenland. Lindström and Árnason then change tack again, focusing on autonomy in Aaland and Iceland, respectively. The issues tackled by the former are as relevant to Scotland, Wales, the Basque country, Nunavut, and Denendeh as any place Nordic — even if one believes that a Europe more dominated by Brussels will lead simply to the Europeanisation rather than Finlandisation of the Aalands. And the chapters by Pavlenko and Bærenholdt? The former was disappointing; the latter almost incomprehensible.

In short, the two halves are very different. The scholar of Greenland will find the first invaluable. Others may find particular chapters in the second half intriguing. What the book clearly lacks, however, is a concluding chapter drawing together themes relevant to socio-economic development in the north and elsewhere. (Graham Poole, Micronomics, 400 South Hope Street, Suite 2500, Los Angeles, CA 90071, USA.)

**AMERICAN BEGINNINGS: THE PREHISTORY AND PALAEOECOLOGY OF BERINGIA.** Frederick Hadleigh West (Editor). 1996. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. xxi + 576 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-226-89399-5. £59.95; \$US75.00.

Not often is such an important book published with such an inappropriate title. Even the much more appropriate subtitle would be better if it were 'The archaeology and palaeoecology of Beringia' because West's synthesis of the prehistory of this important region now straddling the Bering and Chukchi seas already requires major revision.

The contentious question of human origins in the Americas is assumed to have been resolved by West's limited interpretation of what is now known about Beringian archaeology. This assumption is based on another assumption that all reported sites located south of glaciated North America are no earlier than what is now known in Alaska — less than 12,000 years old. The recent verification by a group of sceptical archaeologists of the Monte Verde settlement in southern Chile as having been occupied at least 12,500 years ago has disproved these assumptions (Meltzer and others 1997). West's one valid premise is that the earliest sites in the Americas must exist somewhere in eastern Beringia. Unfortunately, they have not been found, largely because archaeologists have looked for the wrong level of technology, and they have not always looked in the right places.

Alaskan archaeologists work with the assumption that the earliest occupants of sub-Arctic Beringia must have had an Upper Palaeolithic level of technology in order to survive the cold winters. Evidence excavated by Yuri Mochanov and Svetlana Fedoseeva (major contributors to this volume) that early people lived along the Lena River using a Lower Palaeolithic level of technology is mentioned but dismissed by West as being irrelevant. The pebble and flake tool technology recovered at the Diring Yuriakh site near Yakutsk (Mochanov 1993) and the similar technology from Middle Pleistocene sites in north China should not be summarily dismissed. It should also be noted that the early occupation of Honshu, Japan, has now been pushed back to 500,000 years (Imamura 1996: 28). Even if the early occupation along the Lena River near the coldest part of the northern hemisphere was during interglacial times (Waters and others 1997), the people must have been adapted to the extremely cold winters. Even if these particular people did not move eastward into what is now Alaska, others with a similar simple level of technology could have been the original occupants of eastern Beringia. But Alaskan archaeologists search for