

- (soluble and insoluble) along deep ice cores. In: Oeschger, H., and C.C. Langway, Jr (editors). *The environmental record in glaciers and ice sheets*. New York and Chichester: John Wiley & Sons: 319–41.
- Grandjean, P. 1989. Bone analysis: silent testimony of lead exposures in the past. *Meddelelser om Grønland, Man & Society* 12: 156–60.
- Lee, S.H., K.T. Kim, and S.H. Kim. 1990. Trace metals in the surface water of Maxwell Bay, King George Island, Antarctica. *Korean Journal of Polar Research* 1 (2): 11–15.

**NORTH POLE, SOUTH POLE: JOURNEYS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.** Bertrand Imbert. 1992. London: Thames and Hudson. 192 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-500-30010-0. £6.95.

The recently released 'New Horizons' series of books is claimed by its publisher to provide 'the perfect introduction to a topic: instructive, stimulating, intriguing.' By emphasizing photography and illustration, mostly reproduced in full-colour, the books attempt to attain the 'universal range of an encyclopaedia, the captivating beauty of an artbook, with in-depth coverage of each subject.'

*North Pole, South Pole* is the series' laudable attempt to capture in one pocket-sized (18 x 12.5 cm) paperback the entirety of the history of polar exploration. Written by Bertrand Imbert, the former director of the French Antarctic expeditions in the International Geophysical Year (all of the titles in the series have French authors), the book has two major sections. The first, covering two-thirds of the pages, is an overview of polar exploration from the sixteenth to the twentieth century, with special emphasis on the science of the past 50 years. The second part, entitled 'Documents,' notes interesting aspects of polar history and science, including Scott's message to the public, some of Hurley's photographs from Shackleton's expedition in *Endurance*, a review of the Northern Sea Route, an introduction to the study of Antarctic ice, and information about the Antarctic Treaty. There are also a chronology of polar exploration and science, a brief glossary of terms, suggestions for further reading, and an index.

This is a popular, non-academic account directed at a large non-specialist audience. It is not referenced, although it gives an extensive list of its illustrations and their credits. The artwork is indeed what makes the book special. There is a large variety of photographs, portraits, landscape paintings and drawings, and excerpts from books, newspapers, and magazines. Many of them are the standard pictures — including that of Scott's party at the South Pole — but others are more uncommon, such as a drawing of a feuding Cook and Peary from a 1909 edition of *Petit Journal*.

Polar exploration is certainly made interesting to the uninitiated, but the book suffers from several flaws in presentation. There are not nearly enough detailed maps, so that it would be difficult for someone with no background in the field to follow exactly what happened during, for example, the Franklin searches or the *Jeannette* expedition. Place-names are generally given in English,

rather than in the form officially used within the country concerned, making it difficult to locate on other modern maps places such as 'Northeast Land' (Nordaustlandet). That the crossheads in the text are in the present tense, while the rest of the book is in the past tense, is also confusing.

There are also significant factual errors. For example, it is stated that HMS *Investigator* was trapped in the ice for three years and did not return to England until 1853; in fact, McClure abandoned his ship in 1854 and the crew returned home on other naval vessels. There is occasional confusion in the use of names, which suggests a lack of familiarity with the topic: Nansen's companion Johansen, referred to in the book as 'Frederick,' did not go by that, his first name, but rather by Hjalmar; similarly, Nordenskiöld did not normally use his first name, 'Nils,' by which he is referred to in this account, but was known universally as Adolf Erik. In addition, the most avid sponsor of Frederick Cook in 1909 was *The New York Herald*, not the *Herald Tribune* (which it became in 1926).

There also could be questions about the book's emphases on specific expeditions or individuals. For example, three pages are devoted to Nobile's *Italia* expedition, whereas only two paragraphs are given to Amundsen's completion of the Northwest Passage in *Gjøa*, and no mention in the body copy is made of Greely's expedition to Lady Franklin Bay during the International Polar Year, Sverdrup's 1898–1902 expedition, or Bruce's Scottish National Antarctic Expedition. Likewise, John Rae is not mentioned by name in the section on the Franklin search, and Alfred Harmsworth is mentioned as one of a number of contributors to Scott's *Discovery* expedition rather than as the sponsor of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition.

Despite its weaknesses, this volume is the only introductory and inexpensive history of polar exploration that emphasizes photography and illustration more than words. As a historical account, it is no match for L.P. Kirwan's near-classic *The white road*, or for Pierre Berton's more recent (and more popular) *The Arctic grail*, but it could well interest a new set of young polar enthusiasts. (Beau Riffenburgh, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**OUT OF THE CHANNEL: THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND.** John Keeble. 1991. New York: HarperCollins. 290 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-06-016334-8. \$22.95 (US).

The tragedy and ballyhoo of 1989, when a silent spring came to Alaska's Prince William Sound and irate consumers were destroying their Exxon credit cards, will remain fresh in many minds. And if those images of oil-soiled otters chewing off their paws are in danger of fading, we now have the investigative journalism of novelist John Keeble, who flew north two weeks after the human and environmental calamity to cover the story for *Village Voice*.

The tale begins in Valdez, with a pinch of Alaskan history and the hazards of the local weather and topogra-