meteorological station on Marion Island, Prince Edward Islands, in 1948. He visited Bouvet Øya, possibly the world's most isolated island, in 1955 and 1964, and travelled with the South African party that took over the Norwegian International Geophysical Year Antarctic Station in 1960.

This book is packed with information. Unlike several recent accounts of Tristan which verge on romantic fiction, it does not try to tell a 'human story'. It sets down facts—about the islands, their geography, their history, the customs and relationships of their people, and their changing social and economic circumstances through the periods of pre-war isolation, wartime garrison, post-war fishery development, volcanic eruption, evacuation and re-settlement. The histories of Gough, Marion and Bouvet are also described in some detail.

Allan Crawford's writing is terse, factual, clear and without 'purple passages'. At times the wealth of minor detail about personalities or the little happenings of a small community makes for heavy reading. But the value of this book is as a chronicle of human events. It is well indexed and well illustrated and all in all a valuable addition to the bibliography of a fascinating part of the world and of a kind of community now fast vanishing from the earth.

DRIFTING GREENLAND

[Review by E. R. Oxburgh* of Nares Strait and the drift of Greenland: a conflict in plate tectonics, edited by W. M. Kerr. *Meddellelser om Grønland*, (3): 1–392, illus. Hard cover.]

This is an excellent volume and one that I hope receives wider publicity than is common for works appearing in this series. It represents the outcome of a symposium organized jointly by the Geological Survey of Greenland and the Geological Survey of Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1980. The meeting was planned as a discussion of the detailed evidence concerning one of the most long-standing controversies in the history of continental drift—that concerning the Nares Strait, an elongate physiographic lineament running for several hundred kilometres in a northeast-southwest direction and separating Greenland from Ellesmere Island. The problem is that the gross morphology of the land masses and the features of the ocean floor suggest a sinistral strike-slip offset along the strait of between 200 and 400 km, while a geological comparison of the two sides of the strait shows a reasonable match with little or no displacement.

It is not for the reviewer to take sides in this fierce debate, but simply to record that the editors have gone to extreme lengths to ensure that every voice is heard. In addition to the 18 papers presented at the original symposium they have added 12 others, so that all the relevant data would be available in one volume.

Two early chapters set the scene with reviews of the history of exploration of the area and the history of the debate about the Nares Strait—Taylor, Wegener, Carey, Koch and many others all had their say. These are followed by two chapters that deal with the geomorphology of the area and its interpretation in terms of recent movements, both vertical and horizontal.

The next 80 pages are devoted to a detailed review of the stratigraphy in seven chapters. The bedrock geology comprises a pre-Cambrian basement overlain by a Proterozoic to lower Palaeozoic sedimentary sequence of platform carbonates, clastics and evaporites. One of the difficulties is that the present day strike of the sedimentary sequences on either side of the strait is almost parallel to its trend, and is not therefore a very sensitive indicator of displacement.

The following 80 pages are devoted to a comparison of structural features across the strait, and reviews of the regional tectonics of the area. The eight chapters are wide-ranging in their scope from brecciated lineaments to metamorphic zonation. Some of the photographs in this section emphasize the breathtakingly superb 100 per cent exposure over many hundreds of square kilometres.

The next 80 chapters—on a further 80 pages—cover geophysical observation, bathymetry, crustal seismicity, fault plane solutions, aeromagnetics and a certain amount of crustal structure. To some extent the most compelling arguments for large scale motions along the strait arise from the need to resolve geometrical difficulties that have arisen from plate tectonic interpretations elsewhere, for

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example in the Arctic Ocean, the Labrador Sea or the North Atlantic. The book concludes with three chapters one of which discusses the economic geology of the region, while the other two summarize the cases for and against a major displacement along the 'Wegener Fault' along the Nares Strait.

As with any volume of this kind containing papers by a variety of authors, some are better than others. The editors have, however, done an admirable job and in this volume I would rate the average quality to be very high. There are numerous maps and diagrams and halftone photographs which are well reproduced.

As a scientific enterprise I judge this to have been well conceived and well executed. It is a fascinating volume that should hold much interest both for Arctic specialists and those with wider interests in regional geology or even in scientific controversy.

ANTARCTICA A WORLD PARK?

[Review by Bernard Stonehouse* of James N. Barnes's *Let's save Antarctica!*, Victoria, Australia, Richmond Publications, 1982, 96 p, illus. Soft cover $7.95.]

James N. Barnes, a lawyer who specializes in international and environmental law at the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, DC, is a member of the US State Department's Advisory Committee on Antarctica. As a co-founder of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), he is one of a group strongly in favour of protecting Antarctica from mineral and oil exploration and exploitation, and urging governments to implement the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; he and ASOC want to see Antarctica designated a World Park. This brief, well-illustrated book (with a foreword by Sir Peter Scott) he describes as 'a handbook to help concerned people save Antarctica'. Its aims in his own words are to present facts and environmental issues, to give practical information about the present political situation, treaty status and countries involved in Antarctica, to educate and inform the general public and decision makers, to alert people to the consequences of environmental devastation of Antarctica, and to enable people everywhere to help protect this unique, rich region from such devastation.

Layout is businesslike and to the point. A short introduction tackles the questions of why Antarctica is under threat, why it should be protected, what conservationists and environmentalists who take the ASOC viewpoint are trying to accomplish, and how the reader can help—ending with a brief statement on the Antarctic Treaty and some of its strengths and limitations as political background information. Four longer sections deal with these points in more detail, under the headings 'Why do we care about Antarctica?', 'Who controls Antarctica?', 'What is going on in Antarctica?' and 'What can you do to save Antarctica?' There is a single page of conclusions, followed by 20 appendices which together occupy over half the book. These include the texts of the Antarctic Treaty, the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, and comments on other legislation and decisions of conservation bodies that in one way or another affect the Antarctic and Southern Ocean regions. There are also lists of acronyms and of organizations interested in Antarctica, statements of ASOC policy in letters to the US president and other heads of state, a bibliography and—for the convinced reader—forms for subscribing to ASOC, joining the Antarctic Project, and petitioning the Antarctic Treaty powers and the UN General Assembly to take immediate steps to declare Antarctica a World Park.

Altogether this is an attractive book, refreshingly free from waffle and down-to-earth in its approach. Though frankly polemical, it is better informed and more informative than the average run of books that aim to present conservation issues to the public. Specialist scientists may be able to fault it in detail (my copy from the author contains several hand-written corrections which one hopes will be put right when the book—deservedly—is reprinted). It remains, however, a useful handbook on some issues of Antarctic conservation. It voices misgiving that, clearly, many both outside and inside the 'club' of

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