

and 1937 *Discovery Reports*. Sir George 'retired' in 1971, but kept working at an undiminished pace. Two years ago, he undertook to write a book on the Antarctic Ocean for the new Cambridge monograph series 'Studies in Polar Research'. This was his last book, and also, amazingly, it was his first. It is pleasant to record that he was able to handle a copy of the published work a few days before his sudden death (see obituary, this issue).

The scope of the book is best described in Deacon's own words. 'The first part deals with the early ideas and evidence of a great southern continent, the pioneering observations of the early explorers and of the sealers who profited from the new discoveries, the observations made by polar explorers on their way to the continent, and the systematic studies of oceanographic expeditions. The second part summarizes present knowledge of the water movements and their probable effects on temperature and salinity distributions, biological productivity, distributions of marine plants and animals, climate and ice cover.' To this we can only add that he carries out this schedule through an inspiring narrative, aimed at the non-specialist who is interested in polar studies or in oceanography and who wants to get an overall picture of the Antarctic Ocean.

In the first half of the book Deacon works systematically through the history of discovery and exploration in the far south, enlivening the story with his own penetrating insights. He is generous in praise of the early German expeditions in the *Valdivia*, *Gauss*, *Deutschland* and *Meteor*, with their equipment and professional approach unmatched at the time. As usual he is modest in describing his own role in the Discovery investigations, but he firmly believes in the value of such systematic long-term studies and laments the fact that they are no longer carried out. It is a pity, he says, that 'covering the ocean as a whole at the critical times of the year to solve long-term distributional problems has become too expensive.'

The second half of the book is an excellent coherent summary of our present knowledge of winds, currents, water masses, deep circulation, ice and waves. He goes on to deal with sea bed topography, primary productivity and the distribution of plankton, especially the vitally important krill. Finally there are short sections on climate, tides and conservation, where once again he expresses his regret that current co-operative research projects such as BIOMASS include 'perhaps too little effort on more widespread or long-term projects'. He avoids references in the text, allowing the story to flow naturally, but provides a guide to further reading at the end. The illustrations include a superb collection of historic photographs taken mainly from the *Discovery II* cruises of the 1930s.

'It's all computers now', he once said to me in a rueful way, but with his eyes twinkling. We must be deeply grateful that by this book Deacon connects us once again with the heroic pre-computer age of oceanic exploration, and shows us how the knowledge so elegantly presented in the second half of the book was so painfully but romantically won. (Peter Wadhams, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

A NORTH CANADIAN INDIAN CULTURE

EXTENDING THE RAFTERS: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO IROQUOIS STUDIES. Foster, M. K., Campisi, J. and Mithun, M. (editors). 1984. Albany, State University of New York Press. 422p, illustrated, hard cover. US\$48.50 (Soft cover US\$16.95).

Until a few years ago, scholars held the Iroquoians to be relatively recent migrants to the eastern Great Lakes region from the American South, where their relatives the Cherokees remain today. How else to explain their presence as islands in a hostile Northern sea of Algonkian speakers? Nowadays, however, most authorities believe that

Iroquoian cultures developed in situ. But when? That is the question debated by Dean Snow, James Wright and others in a section on 'Origins'. James Wright, for example, maintains that Iroquoians have been present in the Northeast for at least 6 000 years.

There is much here as well to interest the general reader. Bruce Trigger casts a sceptic's eye over figures from Canada's 'heroic age', the XVII century, speculating on how they might have been read by the Indians they visited. We learn, for example, that Etienne Brule's death was a political assassination, and that Father Brebeuf had been forced to retire from active mission work years before he was killed by the Iroquois. More controversial still is a chapter on 'Women in Iroquois Society'. This is a subject which has tempted previous writers to hyperbole. 'Of all the peoples of the earth,' claimed an early textbook, 'the Iroquois approach most closely to... the 'matriarchate'.' Elizabeth Tooker, however, argues here that the seeming prominence of women in Iroquois political life rests on a misreading of the evidence. This is a provocative contribution, one certain to stimulate debate for years to come.

The book is a *festschrift* for William Fenton, a pioneer Iroquoian scholar. Editors and publishers are to be congratulated on it, as is the Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian, which provided sponsorship. (Bruce Cox, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada K1S 5B6.)

AUSTRALIA IN ANTARCTICA

AUSTRALIA'S ANTARCTIC POLICY OPTIONS. Harris, S. (editor). 1984. Canberra, Australian National University. (Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Monograph 11). 412p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86740-119-2. AUS\$15.95.

Starting in November 1979, Australia's Antarctic operations increased in international visibility with the first in a series of published reviews by the Antarctic Research Policy Advisory Committee (ARPAC). *Australia's Antarctic Policy Options*, a collection of 11 papers with accompanying review comments given at a symposium held in March 1984, will add to this currently high profile.

For those practiced in Antarctic affairs, for whom the book is mainly intended, it is a highly informative look at Australia's Antarctic policy; past, present and, especially, into the future. Excluding appendices, there are 352 pages, 43 figures and 14 tables. The contributors are Antarctic specialists drawn from government, universities and environmental conservation groups active in forming policy. Generally, authors are to be congratulated for their brevity and concise presentation of facts. For each paper there are up to two reviews and these are particularly good not only as critiques, but for their selective expansion of discussion.

Fundamental policy tenets are separately covered; sovereignty, the Antarctic Treaty, mineral and living resources, protection of the environment, scientific effort, international law and relations. Papers by Trigg on *Australian Sovereignty in Antarctica* with comments by Greig, and by Spencer on *The Evolution of Antarctic Interests* with comments by Dibb, are particularly valuable for their interpretation of events, international legal principles, and likely changes to the Antarctic Treaty system. Continuing support for the Treaty is concluded, but Trigg foresees widening of its provisions towards 'common heritage' ideals.

The vital contribution of science to Antarctic development is highlighted, notably by Budd and Chittleborough. Both point to long-term considerations, especially the relationship between scientific understanding and resource management. Budd raises the possibility of a moratorium on further economic development of Antarctica. Notionally,