

The foreword by the Director of the Twentieth Century Fund (which supported the study) is dated March 1982, just before the conflict on the Falkland Islands and South Georgia began; however, the conflict is discussed briefly on two pages. The Antarctic Treaty meeting of 1983 which saw the admission of India and Brazil to consultative status, and the signing of the treaty by China, are recent developments which the author, when he was writing, considered unlikely to occur. However, he has a clear-sighted view of the achievements of the treaty and of the way ahead. An appreciation in his final paragraph warrants quotation:

‘Antarctica has been a pole apart not merely in its physical isolation but in its apparent immunity from the divisive issues that elsewhere make angry adversaries of the treaty members... Just as the Antarctic’s unique environment must be protected from exploiters, so must its political and economic future be protected from political ideologues. The Antarctic Treaty system is a continuing experiment that has served the world well. It deserves the opportunity to prove again its adaptability and the capacity of its members for adjustment and compromise, not only among themselves but with the rest of the world. If the consultative parties are realistic and avoid seeking narrow advantage in the continued exercise of their trusteeship, an era of expanding benefits is possible. If they are heedless or inflexible, then the good so far accomplished by the Antarctic Treaty may be lost for ever.’

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TRANSGLOBE EXPEDITION – MAD AND SPLENDIDLY BRITISH

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. Ranulph Fiennes. 1983. London, Hodder and Stoughton. 320 p, illustrated, maps, hard cover. ISBN 0-340-25277-4. £12.95.

Described by its patron Prince Charles as ‘a mad and splendidly British enterprise’, the Transglobe Expedition 1979–83 must surely go down in the history of travel as the most ambitious and the most successful private adventure of all time. The idea, conceived as far back as 1972 in the mind of the leader’s wife Ginnie Fiennes, was essentially to travel from Greenwich back to Greenwich along the zero meridian, taking in four continents, three oceans, ten seas and the South and North Poles to boot. *To the ends of the earth* is the official narrative of what the author, Sir Ranulph Fiennes describes as ‘not so much an expedition as a lifelong career’.

It makes for compulsive reading from start to finish. Fund raising for the undertaking, which was not primarily concerned with science, turned out to be as hard a slog as the journey itself. In the event some 1800 organizations, firms and individuals subscribed services and goods, including items as substantial as an ice-strengthened ship and one million dollars’ worth of fuel. After initial limbering up in Greenland and the Arctic Ocean the expedition at last set sail for Antarctica and the South Pole in September 1979. The Antarctic winter of 1980 was spent in a base hut of compressed cardboard, not far from the South African station SANAE, preparing for the continental crossing. In October Fiennes and his companions Oliver Shepard and Charles Burton, on open skidoos refuelled by a Twin Otter, traversed the continent from Dronning Maud Land to Scott Base via the South Pole in three months, covering some 2,200 miles of largely uncharted country. Twelve months on, in February 1982, Sir Ranulph and Charles Burton were

at Alert in Ellesmere Island after a record-breaking voyage through the Northwest Passage, poised with their skidoos to attempt the North Pole. Pressure ridges and melt pools were very nearly their undoing but somehow the Pole was achieved on 10th April 1982. Subsequently they were rescued from a drifting ice floe by their ship and eventually returned to London in the following August. They had covered a total distance of 38,500 miles from start to finish. Despite their constant preoccupation with logistics some routine scientific data were collected, and these are summarized at the back of the book. But this is not what it was all about.

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RECENTLY RECEIVED BOOKS AND REPORTS

AVALANCHE SAFETY FOR SKIERS AND CLIMBERS. Daffern, Tony. 1983. London, Diadem Books. 172 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-9690038-4-6. £7.95.

A guidebook on how to avoid avalanches, with sections on rescue and first aid.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ETHNOGRAPHY AMONG MACKENZIE BASIN DENE. Janes, R. R. 1983. Calgary, Arctic Institute of North America. (AINA Technical paper 28). 124 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-919034-57-8.

A description of the subsistence activities and technology of the Dene people at Willow Lake hunting camp in the Northwest Territories, based on a three-month study in 1974–75.

ASCIDIEN ANTARCTIQUES ET SUBANTARCTIQUES: MORPHOLOGIE ET BIOGEOGRAPHIE. Monniot, C. and Monniot, F. 1983. Paris, Editions du Muséum. (Mémoires du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Nouvelle Série. Série A, Zoologie, Tome 125). 168 p, illustrated, soft cover. 240 fr.

A description of a collection made between 1969–1975 by U.S. oceanographic vessels in the Antarctic and Subantarctic. A total of 108 species are described, 19 of which are new.

ARKHITEKTURNO-KHUDOZHESTVENNY ANSAMBL'SOLOVETSKOGO MONASTYRYA. [The architectural-artistic ensemble of the Solovetskiy monastery.] Skopin, V. V. and Shchennikova, L. A. 1982. Moscow, 'Iskusstvo'. 183 p, illustrated, hard cover.

A lavishly illustrated description and history of the monastery of the Solovetskiye Ostrova, in the White Sea. Russian text with English summary gives history, and many photographs (mostly in colour) showing buildings and icons.

ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY. Report of the Dahlen Workshop on Atmospheric Chemistry, Berlin 1982, May 2–7. Goldberg, E. D. (editor). 1982. Berlin, Springer-Verlag. (Dahlen Workshop Reports, Physical and Chemical Sciences Research Report 4: Atmospheric Chemistry). 385 p, hard cover. ISBN 3-540-11651-6. \$19.90.

Reports on aqueous chemistry in the atmosphere, historical records of atmospheric composition (as recorded in ice sheets), microbiological sources and sinks of non-conservative atmospheric gases and aerosols and photochemical reactions in the troposphere.