

Cape Town, St Helena, Ascension Island, and the Azores, *Scotia* reached Kingstown in Northern Ireland on 15 July 1904.

From 1907 to 1919 Bruce edited and published the scientific results of the expedition in six volumes; these were mainly zoological papers, written by an impressive range of experts. A popular general account of the expedition (*Three of the Staff* 1906) was published soon after its return, but in addition to this Bruce edited his log from the voyage, which he intended to appear as Volume I of the scientific results. By 1921 it had reached page-proof stage, but due to financial difficulties it was not published in Bruce's lifetime. In due course these page proofs (and many more of Bruce's papers) found a safe resting place in the archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, and, fortunately, Peter Speak took it upon himself to add the necessary introductory chapters and a postscript to place the journal in its context. Speak's contributions include an excellent introduction to Bruce the scientist and to the preparations for the voyage, as well as a postscript that deals, among other things, with the political implications of Argentina taking over operation of the Omond House base station.

The log itself is a fascinating document that all polar scientists should read. The dogged determination displayed by Bruce and his colleagues in pursuing an ambitious programme of survey work, ornithology, meteorology, and oceanography, despite the execrable climate of the South Orkneys with its wild fluctuations in temperature, gale-force winds, and drifting snow, has rarely been matched by any polar expedition. A small, but well-chosen selection of photos from the expedition's collection greatly enhances the text.

There are few faults to be found in this long-lost edition of Volume I of the papers of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition. One of them can be laid at Bruce's door: for some reason he decided to begin the published version of his journal only on 2 February 1903 when *Scotia* first encountered the edge of the pack in the Weddell Sea, thus excluding, for example, details of the first visit to the South Orkneys; and (apart from the details of the visits to St Helena and Ascension) the journal ends when *Scotia* sailed from Gough Island. Thus we have no details of the entire outward and much of the homeward voyage.

Peter Speak has clearly made a deliberate decision not to annotate the journal, but to leave it in the unadulterated format of Bruce's page-proofs (and in the original type-face). Instead Speak has added a glossary of specialized terms, but this is quite selective. For example, Bruce uses names such as 'black-throated penguin' and 'ringed penguin,' but these are not included in the glossary.

There is a further minor area of possible confusion that might have been clarified by entries in the glossary. Bruce, an ardent Scottish nationalist, uses the occasional Scotticism that, while completely familiar to any Scot, will probably be quite opaque to readers from south of the border or overseas. Examples include references to a sledge 'couping' (capsizing); to Bruce having a 'good crack' with the

captain (a convivial conversation); to the pilot at Port Stanley 'havering' about some topic (talking nonsense); and to a damaged piece of equipment being 'sorted' (repaired). One wonders, given Bruce's excellent command of English, whether these Scottish usages were not included deliberately, just to emphasize (as he did at every opportunity) that this was *not* an English expedition.

In summation, we (and the memory of William Speirs Bruce) are enormously indebted to Peter Speak. Ninety years after the departure of the expedition, he has made available the leader's own narrative of one of the most impressive scientific expeditions ever to head for the Antarctic. By retaining the original format and type-face of the long-lost page proofs he has strengthened the bond that links the reader to one of the most talented, yet most neglected, polar scientists of all time. (William Barr, Department of Geography, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 0W0.)

References

Three of the Staff. 1906. *The voyage of the Scotia*. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons.

MESSAGES FROM EARTH: NATURE AND THE HUMAN PROSPECT IN ALASKA. Robert Weeden. 1992. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. 189 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-56-0. \$16.95 (US).

Throughout the circumpolar north, as indeed in many other regions of the globe, the economic exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources has been underpinned morally by the ethics of social and economic development and by the authority of rational scientific knowledge. In short, western belief in the inexorability of human progress, the transcendence of nature by culture, the desire for wealth and power, and a frontier ideology have shaped both the course of economic development in the Arctic and the post-contact history of its indigenous peoples. In this book, Robert Weeden focuses on Alaska, argues that deep and pervasive changes are needed in human understanding, and offers guidelines for sustainable living now and in the future at the close of 250 years of Alaskan frontier history.

The large-scale commercial exploitation of Alaska's natural resources began with the Russian trade in sea-otter furs, which developed following Vitus Bering's voyage in 1741. Alaska remained important for the Russian and later the British fur trades, and, over a period of 140 years, sea otters, fur seals, and several species of fur-bearing land mammals were hunted nearly to extinction. From 1847 New England whalers hunted the Bowhead in Bering Strait; gold mining was the foundation for the expanding Alaskan economy from the 1880s; and in 1968 Alaska's future economic development was determined by the discovery of oil and gas on the Arctic North Slope.

Thus the contact history of Alaska, as in other parts of the circumpolar north, has been one of boom and bust. In a wider global sense, the whole of human history has been a history of exploitative societies, and Weeden argues that we need a revolution in our way of thinking and behaving

if a durable northern society is to be created. But Alaska must not be seen in isolation; its history, ecology, and problems have parallels elsewhere, and the ideological conflicts Alaskans now experience are ideological conflicts that people worldwide share. To illustrate this, Weeden writes elegantly about Alaska's oceans, climate, and landscape, with an emphasis on movement, biodiversity, and interconnectedness, so that 'Alaska loses its illusory isolation and becomes what it truly is, a hub in the living traffic of the whole Earth' (page 66).

Above all, Weeden's concern is with establishing and sustaining enduring relationships between people and nature. He sketches guidelines for individual and communal behaviour based on the profitable, socially acceptable, and ecologically supportable resource practices identified by Walter Firey. Weeden advocates principles of least disturbance, using less than most, adapting to local conditions, simplicity, and flexibility. He looks upon wage-work and creative unemployment as types of foraging, ways of living comfortably and sustainably in the north. He considers bioregionalism, if it balances both nature and culture-centeredness, as serving the spiritual, emotional, economic, and social needs of people within the bioregion. In creating an ethic for development, Weeden points to the significance and importance of a sense of place, to the wide variety of ways of knowing a place, and to how this can be used in creating regional development strategies. In Alaska, Weeden argues, the transient subculture is a problem, and I take this to include urban residents and state and federal policy makers as well as the 'suitcase set' (page 160): he suggests a place can only be known, a sense of place nurtured, through time and the commitment of residency. Only in this way can there be an exchange of gifts between people and the land.

To know a place, to nurture a new way of knowing, Weeden calls for a blending of science and northern tradition, a holistic way forward for northern development. Weeden's idealism is one that many will relate to, and his writing is often poetic and forceful, addressing issues that extend beyond Alaska. However, will developers and policy-makers regard such idealism important for informing northern public policy? Weeden's call for life and development in Alaska to be guided by an ethic towards nature may be easier for individuals to take up, and I suspect that the book will become a standard text for the Alaskan environmental movement. However, it deserves to be read by representatives of other institutional cultures, besides environmentalists and academics, in Alaska and throughout the north. (Mark Nuttall, Department of Human Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH.)

THE LAND OF FEAST AND FAMINE. Helge Ingstad. 1992. Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press. 332 p, illustrated. ISBN 0-7735-0912-7. £29.95 hard cover, £14.95 soft cover.

This work is a reprint of the 1933 translation of the author's classic book, originally entitled *Pelsjegerliv blant Nord-Canadas indianere*. The original book was translated into

several languages, but it was never published in Canada; this rectifies that omission. The author is, of course, noted for his discovery in 1960 of a Viking village at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, and, in a new preface, he states that the experience gained during the years living 'at one with the Canadian wilderness and the Indians,' which are described in the present work, stood him in good stead during the search.

Ingstad spent four years (1926–1930) living as a trapper in the area to the northeast of Great Slave Lake. This work is a straight-forward, chronological account of his adventures during that time. It contains valuable insights into such subjects as dog handling, techniques of trapping, and the hunting of caribou, as well as detailed descriptions of the way of life of the Indians who depended for their livelihood on that animal. In this context, it is worth noting that the work is a strict reprint and that the publishers have not attempted to sanitise it in the light of concepts of 'political correctness' that are currently prevalent. As a result, even though it is transparently obvious that the author had the highest regard, respect, and affection for the 'caribou eaters,' we are still informed that 'an Indian is an Indian. Many of his inborn traits are enough to set a white man's teeth on edge.'

The book serves two purposes. For the specialist, it is a valuable contemporary description of a mode of life now virtually extinct and one of which few of its practitioners were able to record. For the generalist, it is one of those very rare works that appear to inform and to entertain in equal measure. Ingstad's style is plain and simple and well-adapted to the narrative form, but this does not prevent him from introducing, at appropriate points, sections that one might feel could almost be expressed as blank verse: 'Then it is my turn to tell about the land of the white man. They want to know all about the great canoes on the water which no one can drink.'

This simplicity greatly aids translation, which should always be as transparent as possible, and enables the reader to feel that, by the time he has finished the work, he knows the writer well. In format, the book is attractively presented with a helpful map and a selection of interesting contemporary photographs. It contains no index, which is reasonable in the context. The publishers append to the text a full note on the typeface in which the book is set.

To sum up, this reprint is valuable and timely and is to be welcomed. It is an excellent read and one that is very difficult to put down. This reviewer believes that there would be few readers of *Polar Record* who would not both enjoy it and benefit from it. (Ian R. Stone, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.)

MARINE MANAGEMENT IN DISPUTED AREAS: THE CASE OF THE BARENTS SEA. Robin Churchill and Geir Ulfstein. 1992. London and New York: Routledge. 182p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-415-03811-1. £37.50.

The focus of this book, which is part of a series concerned with the management of disputed marine areas, centres around two legal questions that remain unresolved in the Barents Sea. The first relates strictly to the riparian states