

gestures. Given the extremely handsome production of the book overall, this particular shortcoming is undoubtedly a reflection of the quality of the originals. Tables and equations are well presented. At US\$120 the book is undoubtedly good value for the money, but it is likely to remain a library item except for individuals with strongly vested interests.

So far so good, but I have saved the best for last! I approached 600 pages of translated Russian geocryology with a fair degree of trepidation born of past experience. While I would not recommend *General geocryology* as a 'light read' to accompany the beverage of your choice, I would congratulate technical editor Peter Williams, and the many helpers he acknowledges, on a splendidly comprehensible text — and simultaneously tip my hat to Cambridge University Press for the institutional commitment behind it. The determined, thorough, and carefully explained effort to wrestle with the terminological and definitional problems inherent to the translation are matched only by clean prose in which it is presented. Some heavy linguistic overtones occasionally lurk in the background, but I emerged on page 573 feeling that I had been subjected to a well-founded, well-written, and comprehensible survey of modern geocryology. The obvious strength is that the view, as claimed, is uniquely Russian, doubtless containing shortcomings in some areas of research, but equally assuredly shedding new light in others. The less obvious strength, but an equally important one upon reflection, is that both strengths and weaknesses come through clearly — science has been well served by the producers of this translation. In short, the rather lofty goal of opening the door on the working core of modern Russian geocryology has been, in very large part, realized. It is a task long overdue, and one that merits attention in many other tongues and corners of earth science. (Colin E. Thorn, Department of Geography, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 220 Davenport Hall, MC-150, 607 South Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801, USA.)

SINEWS OF SURVIVAL: THE LIVING LEGACY OF INUIT CLOTHING. Betty Kobayashi Issenman. 1997. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, in association with Etudes/Inuit/Studies. xiv+274 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7748-0596-x. \$49.95.

Sinews of survival provides a survey of prehistoric, historic, and contemporary Canadian Inuit clothing, which includes examples drawn from Aboriginal peoples in Alaska, Russia, and Greenland. The first chapter focuses on tools, accessories, and garments found in archaeological sites in Canada, Alaska, and Greenland. The second chapter provides a good introduction to the main skins used in Inuit clothing, including seal, caribou, and bird skins. It also introduces each type of clothing and describes how the clothing is layered to provide insulation. Skin preparation procedures and excellent drawings of the stitches used for different garments, including intestine parkas, are presented in chapter three.

The main portion of the book presents a survey of

Canadian Inuit clothing, which is well organized with maps clearly identifying the region, photographs illustrating regional styles being used in a variety of activities, examples of garments from museum collections, and drawings of garment patterns by Dorothy K. Burnham. The end of this chapter includes information on the evolution of styles and the impact that trade goods had on Inuit clothing styles. Chapter five, 'Spiritual, artistic and social traditions,' provides a fascinating summary of the spiritual and socio-cultural meaning of symbols used by seamstresses in clothing, with examples drawn from throughout the circumpolar region and as far south as the Lower Amur River (Russia–China border). The final chapter explores the relationships between Inuit communities, elders, styles and symbols used in different regions, and museum collections.

An appendix includes an inventory of museums with clothing collections from specific areas of the circumpolar region. The inventory, footnotes, glossary of terms, acknowledgements, references, illustration credits, and sponsors provide valuable material for future reference. The index makes it easy to locate information on similar topics located in different chapters. The archival and contemporary photographs, museum artifacts, illustrations, and maps contribute to the growing body of published information in the field of Inuit clothing and culture; however, a pair of Khanty or Nenets boots from Siberia are mislabelled as Copper Inuit boots on page 53. The material on these boot soles that is identified as polar-bear skin is actually the small pieces of skin located between the reindeer toes.

Quotes from Inuit are included throughout *Sinews of survival*, providing enriched explanations, perspectives, and stories. This combination of Inuit voices, illustrations, records, and museum artifacts creates a holistic view of the meaning and importance of clothing used in the Arctic. (Jill Oakes, Department of Native Studies, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 5V5.)

ALBATROSS BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION. Graham Robertson and Rosemary Gales (editors). 1998. Chipping Norton, Australia: Surrey Beatty and Sons. xii + 300 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-949324-82-5. £40.00.

A world without albatrosses is as disheartening a prospect as Wallace without Grommit or the 1812 Overture without the cannon. But the first is a serious prospect if the declines of certain albatross species continue. These declines, particularly among wandering albatrosses, were first noticed in the late 1980s on the French and British sub-Antarctic islands. Only when Nigel Brothers (1991) published his estimate that the Japanese longline fishery in the Southern Ocean was responsible for 44,000 albatross deaths per year did the likely cause of the declines become more widely appreciated.

Since that time there has been no lessening in concern for the damage wrought by long lines on many albatross species, on other seabirds, and indeed on other large vertebrates of the high seas such as sharks and turtles. Now BirdLife International has appointed a seabird coordinator