

of the Russian Revolution on the development of the Siberian Arctic and the Northern Sea Route; the hopes of Fridtjof Nansen that his accomplishments in the field of exploration could help gain international recognition for the newly established Norway; the dispute between Norway and Denmark over sovereignty in East Greenland; and the settlement of the Svalbard problem by the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920 are all issues of major importance to both the Arctic and international relations. However, the title and jacket copy lead the reader to expect rather more than the book ultimately offers. In what is basically a parochial effort limited to exploration originating in the United States and Canada, these and many other of the main issues relating the Arctic to international relations are never seriously considered.

What the book turns out to be is an overview of early twentieth-century North American exploration with a heavy emphasis on the development of aviation. Indeed, other than the development of aircraft, and a particular emphasis on Aeroarctic, the book rarely makes inroads into major topics of either exploration or, as it claims, 'how flags followed the footsteps of the explorers.' There is neither a serious discussion of the role of exploration in early-century imperialist or expansionist policy, nor in-depth explanations of the implications of polar exploration to other issues relating to international relations, such as geopolitics, science, or popular culture.

The book also contains a large number of factual errors of a very basic nature. One example will suffice: 'In 1879, the *Jeannette*...was crushed in the ice off the shore of Herald Island as he [De Long] attempted to duplicate Fridtjof Nansen's historic drift through the polar ice pack in the *Fram* in 1878' (page 17). In fact, *Jeannette* was crushed in the ice in 1881 near Ostrov Bennetta, more than 1000 km from Ostrov Gerd. Nansen had not yet gone to the far north, his crossing of Greenland being seven years in the future, and the drift of *Fram* was not to begin until 1893. And the mission of *Jeannette*, an expedition financed by James Gordon Bennett of *The New York Herald*, was not a polar drift but rather, first, to give help to Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (who didn't need it), and, second, to attempt to reach the North Pole.

Finally, the contributions this book does make—such as its emphasis on aircraft in the Arctic—would have been

greatly enhanced if it had received a title representative of the issues it actually addresses.

**SNOW, ICE AND COLD.** Bernard Stonehouse. 1992. London: Cloverleaf (Evans Brothers Limited). 45 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-237-512122. £8.50.

This is one six childrens' books in the series *Repairing the Damage* that looks at natural and man-made disasters such as famine, earthquakes, and pollution. The book is well-illustrated with colour photographs, diagrams, and maps, and the text is informative and divided into short sections that may be consulted independently as a reference work for school projects. The book gives concise descriptions of a number of polar accidents and disasters, ranging in time from the decline of the Greenland Viking settlements due to deteriorating climatic conditions, to the collision of *Maksim Gor'kiy* with ice floes in 1989. Other events that are covered include an examination of the factors that contributed to the deaths of Scott and his party, and the sinking of *Titanic* in 1912. But the book is not merely anecdotal. Also included is information on avalanches, hailstorms, blizzards, and other polar conditions, as well as the basics of cold adaptation in humans and the technical advances that have been made by indigenous peoples, scientists, and explorers to exploit the resources of the polar regions. The book is appropriate for children aged 10 and older.

#### Publications Received

**AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED LIST OF THE TYPES OF MOLLUSCA DESCRIBED BY H.P.C. MØLLER FROM WEST GREENLAND.** Tom Schiøtte and Anders Warén. 1992. *Meddelelser om Grønland Bioscience* 35. 34 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 87-503-9971-3.

**EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE QUARTÄRGEOLOGIE.** Albert Schreiner. 1992. Stuttgart: E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung. xii + 257 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 3-510-65152-9.

**SAMISK BOSÄTTNING I GÄLLIVARE 1550–1750.** Peter Sköld. 1992. Umeå: Center för Arktisk Kulturforskning, Umeå Universitet (Rapport 22). v + 187 p, soft cover.