

# Reviews

## ANTARCTIC FISH AND FISHERIES

FISHES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN. O. Gon and Heemstra, P. C. (editors). Grahamstown, J. L. B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology. 462 p., illustrates, hard cover. ISBN 0-86810-211-3. \$120

This large volume, primarily concerned with ichthyology, begins with chapters on aspects of fish ecology, depicting the environment in which the fish live and describing how many have adapted to a cold stenothermal life. The 69 pages of these early chapters concentrate on readability and are not comprehensive, but they give a valuable introduction with key references to the literature on distribution, physiology, ecology and fisheries. The remaining five-sixths of the volume cover taxonomy.

Before this volume appeared the Southern Ocean fish biologist trying to identify even the commonest species was faced with a large number of publications, many in journals that are not widely available, and species that seemed to suffer regular changes of name. The experts contributing to 'Fishes of the Southern Ocean' bring this information together in a single standard reference work. The style adopted is similar to that of J. R. Norman (Coastal Fishes. Part III. The Antarctic Zone. *Discovery Reports* 18: 1-104 (1938), the previous standard work. Sections on each family begin with good introductions and, where appropriate, keys to the genera. Species are illustrated with clear line drawings, lists of diagnostic characters, notes on distribution and other topics. I could easily recognize the species that I know, and assume that those I have yet to see are as well described. The remarks, both from museum workers and those who have seen the fish alive, made interesting, relevant reading, contributing much to the volume. There are 12 colour plates at the end, the best being drawings from colour photographs and note books. The colour photographs are recognizable but are of little further help.

The volume is well produced and should be available to anyone interested in Southern Ocean fish because it is a valuable, and I hope, a long-lasting, addition to the literature. It is expensive but considering the out-datedness of the previous standard work, it is a worth-while scientific investment. (Inigo Everson, British Antarctic Survey, Natural Environment Research Council, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, UK.)

## ARCTIC ETHNOLOGIST

ARCTIC ODYSSEY. Jenness, S. E. (editor). 1991. Ottawa, Canadian Museum of Civilization. 859 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-662-12905 1.

Diamond Jenness, a New Zealander by birth, graduated in classics and took a diploma in anthropology at Oxford. Following his return to New Zealand in 1913, after a year's field work in New Guinea, he received a telegram that

shaped the rest of his life. Although he had no previous Arctic experience, he eagerly accepted the telegram's invitation to join the Canadian Arctic Expedition. It appears that his name had been put forward by an Oxford associate, the Canadian ethnologist Dr Marius Barbeau, on the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC).

The expedition was financed by the Canadian government under overall command of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who led not only men of his own choice but also a group of GSC staff under Dr R. M. Anderson, to which Jenness was assigned. While Stefansson's party ranged far among the northwestern Arctic islands, discovering new land, the GSC party operated independently on the Arctic mainland coast from Point Barrow to Coronation Gulf, and on Victoria Island. This diary records the day to day experience on which Jenness's scholarly publications and semi-popular books (eg *The people of the twilight*, 1928) are based. Of the 14 volumes of *Scientific Results of the Canadian Arctic Expedition*, Jenness contributed five, covering linguistics, folklore, ethno-musicology, physical anthropology, material culture and ethnography. While biologists and geologists have subsequently been able to re-examine the field area of the expedition, and refine and build upon its pioneer work, the material of Jenness's study has gone away for ever, for the harsh life of the traditional Inuit is now but a memory even in this remote and desolate region.

Stuart Jenness, a former geologist and scientific editor with the GSC, has edited and annotated his father's diary with exceptional skill and as a labour of love. Dr W. E. Taylor, the archaeologist, has contributed a perceptive foreword, and appendices list people encountered in the field, Eskimo words, trading items, and Jenness's hitherto uncatalogued collections of biological specimens, Eskimo songs and expedition photographs. Many of the latter, of historic interest, are used to illustrate this book. The Canadian Museum of Civilization has produced a unique memorial to a great Canadian scholar whose spare frame and modest bearing concealed the stamina and tenacity of purpose revealed in his diary. (G. Hattersley-Smith, *The Crossways*, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AG.)

## ANTARCTIC GEOLOGY

GEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION OF ANTARCTICA. Thomson, M. R. A., Crame, J. A. and Thomson, J. W. (editors). 1991. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. 722 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-521-37266-6. £50.00, \$89.50.

This handsome volume contains papers given at the 5th International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences, held at Robinson College, Cambridge University, 23-28 August 1987. Not long ago a purely descriptive geological account of a previously unexplored region of Antarctica