

BRIEF REVIEWS

JOURNEYS OF THE GREAT EXPLORERS. Rosemary Burton, Richard Cavendish, and Bernard Stonehouse. 1993. Basingstoke: Automobile Association. 224 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7495-0501-X. £16.99.

As British readers will be aware, the Automobile Association (AA) has long excelled in the production of handsomely illustrated, non-technical publications written to foster interest among motorists on matters that they are likely to encounter on their travels. Uniquely among AA publications, this volume is concerned not with the sights likely to be encountered whilst travelling, but with the history and process of travel itself and, again uniquely, with areas of the world that the majority of AA members will be unlikely ever to encounter.

Following a short introduction, including a helpful time chart, 30 brief chapters are devoted to individual explorers, arranged in chronological order, and nine to specific areas and topics, examples of the latter being 'Naturalists and plant hunters' and 'Pioneer women travellers.' As one might expect, given that one of the authors has extensive polar expertise, the polar content is high, with 10 of the individually treated explorers possessing polar associations — Pytheas, Erik the Red, James Cook, John Franklin, Fridtjof Nansen, Robert E. Peary, Ernest Shackleton, Roald Amundsen, Richard E. Byrd, and Edmund Hillary. (Scott is a notable omission from this list. Is his story presumed to be already sufficiently well-known?) There is also a chapter devoted to polar exploration in general. All chapters are imaginatively illustrated with photographs, pictures, maps, and cartoons.

Although clearly not intended for an academic or specialist readership, this is an attractive publication that should certainly draw the attention of the wider public to the exploits and motivations of those 'who were not content with the horizons of the known world but determined to discover what lay just beyond.'

THE DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF ANT-ARCTIC AND SUBANTARCTIC PENGUINS. Eric J. Woehler (Compiler). 1993. Cambridge: Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. 76 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-948277-14-9. £10.00; US\$16.00.

This work, sponsored by SCAR, is a revised and expanded edition of Wilson's 1983 survey published in the BIOMASS Scientific Series. It catalogues and provides basic information on more than 650 breeding sites of the eight species of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic penguin (emperor, king, adélie, chinstrap, gentoo, macaroni, royal, and rockhopper). The volume is illustrated by maps showing all the breeding localities recorded in the text, and by black-and-white photographs of the species described; there is also a colour cover showing an emperor penguin colony. Types of counts, estimates of size, and limits of accuracy are given for each entry with a reference to the sources of information. The most reliable and precise entries will provide good baseline data for monitoring impending changes. Four pages of conclusions include two tables, one giving breeding population statistics and the biomass of each species, and the second identifying breeding sites where current population census data are required. The reference list contains 132 numbered references cited in the text and a further 19 papers. Two appendices give the geographical coordinates of sub-Antarctic islands mentioned in the text and the current status of seabird monitoring studies.

The book is a valuable compilation of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic penguin data and statistics. It will be useful to all those concerned with penguin conservation and ecology studies and will be essential to tour operators for ensuring that their clients see penguins.

Publications Received

TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ARCTIC POLICY (ARCTIC LEADERS' SUMMIT). Mads Fægteborg. 1993. Copenhagen: Arctic Information's Forlag. 91 p, soft cover. ISBN 87-89977-02-05.