

command in the *Hebe* in 1844 to his final voyage in the celebrated *Truelove* in 1867. This booklet is one of an enterprising series edited and published by A. G. Bell. Inexpensively produced and illustrated with line drawings, they make available material which would otherwise lie unknown and inaccessible. Books in the series can be ordered directly from the school, or from the Town Docks Museum, Hull.

A. G. Credland
Town Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square
Kingston upon Hull

AFRICAN IN GREENLAND

AN AFRICAN IN GREENLAND. Kpomassie, Tété-Michel. 1983. Translated by James Kirkup from the original French. London, Secker and Warburg, Flammarion, Paris. 298 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-436-23680-X. £8.95.

Here is an oddity—a native of a mud hut in Togo pursuing a youthful dream of visiting the Eskimo in Greenland. It is not quite as simple as that, of course. Tété-Michel Kpomassie was an educated boy with great persistence; he set out in 1958 at the age of 16 and it took him eight years' travelling to reach his destination. He was obviously a likeable lad and he writes with some fluency and perception. However, I am not quite sure for what kind of reader the book is intended, except perhaps as a traveller's tale for his own people. He has been reported as saying that he would like a Greenlander to come to Togo and write about *his* experiences.

The author spent a year in west Greenland, travelling from settlement to settlement and taking part in some of the every-day pursuits of his hosts, who seem to have been remarkably hospitable. However, because of his lack of background knowledge, 'official' standing, and, presumably, common language, one gets a somewhat one-sided picture with inevitable misunderstandings and contradictions and rather naive statements of the obvious. There is plenty of graphic evidence of the seedier sides of Greenland life, especially in the larger, southern communities; although they have the ring of truth, one feels there must be another side to the story which is left out of this very personal and limited account. It seems the author intends to return to Greenland for a more extended stay. Perhaps he will then be able to give us a more balanced and comprehensive report.

Sylva Gethin
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER

RECENTLY RECEIVED BOOKS AND REPORTS

SIBERIANA 1983. Recueil d'études publiées en Union Soviétique sur la Sibérie du Nord, etc. Malaurie, J. (editor). 1983. Paris, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. 250 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 2-222-03357-8. 112 fr.

A wide-ranging selection of French translations of Russian published papers, covering areas of the polar regions well beyond Siberia; one, surprisingly, is on Antarctic geology. Four papers on earth science, four on anthropology, six on natural resources; originals appeared mostly in 1958-64, but three are earlier, one later.