Sherman's *Whaling logbooks and journals 1613–1927* gives the locations of several thousand manuscripts in public collections as the basis for yet more research.

A major blank is the lack of information on the trading of whale products and the methods of processing and manufacture, but I am sure when fragments can be brought together from a huge miscellany of sources in England and Scotland this can be rectified. Most recently, Alex Buchan has been delving deep into Peterhead's maritime history, and Tony Barrow, with a series of papers derived from an unpublished doctoral thesis on Newcastle whaling, is revealing many of the cross-connections of vessels and manpower between whaling ports.

Jones is to be congratulated on his tenacious work at the 'coal-face,' which, although seldom exciting in itself, is rewarding in the end for the very reason that the results are so useful. The author scanned literally millions of entries over a period of many years and has already done an invaluable service with similar efforts to record the South Sea whaling fleets operating 1775–1861 — now totalling no less than three volumes. He freely admits that there are errors and omissions, both in the original sources and inevitably in the transcription, but, used with other primary and printed sources, these can be identified and often eliminated.

Can I as the reviewer make a personal plea and ask that if anyone has ever seen documents relating to the Eggintons (Samuel and Gardiner Egginton, who were twin brothers) or paintings of any of their vessels, could they contact me? All of the family material seems to have been taken from Hull to the Home Counties in the 1920s and has totally vanished! (Arthur Credland, Hull Maritime Museum, Queen Victoria Square, Hull HU1 3DX.)

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THE BRITISH MUSEUM ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF UNDERWATER AND MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY. James P. Delgado (Editor). 1997. London: British Museum Press. 493 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7141-2129-0. £29.95.

It seems odd at first: an encyclopaedia on a small subfield of a sprawling general discipline that is more than 100 pages longer than a recent illustrated history that chronicles the entire field. Yet the conglomerate *British Museum encyclopaedia of underwater and maritime archaeology*, at 493 pages, is just that. It eclipses the *Cambridge illustrated history of archaeology* by 107 pages, and rivals even the massive *Oxford companion to archaeology*, at 864 pages. This is especially remarkable given that underwater and maritime archaeology have existed as recognized subfields of archaeology for little more than three decades.

Yet the length and coverage of this new attempt to wrestle underwater archaeology into some manageable framework is not undeserved. Underwater archaeology is the great leveller amongst all the fields and arcane theory of archaeology. No subfield cuts across so many time periods, so many techno-cultural expressions, so many geographies. Someone calling himself an underwater or maritime archaeologist can as easily be found studying a sphinx of the sunken city of Alexandria from two millenia in the past, or artifacts of the Sacred Cenote of the Maya Post-Classic in the Yucatan from a single millenium ago, or naval vessels sunk by nuclear explosion at Bikini atoll in the Pacific a mere 50 years ago.

In the major Oxford and Cambridge histories, underwater archaeology receives the usual few obligatory footnotes. In this new British Museum publication, a real attempt has been made to cover the major sites and theories currently and historically involved — not only in establishing archaeological research in maritime contexts as a legitimate sub-field among sceptical land-based archaeologists — but as a scientific bulwark against the combined cultural predations of treasure hunters, commercial salvors, and sport divers. And, as is almost inevitable in such an undertaking, what emerges is a kind of alphabetically arranged hodge-podge, a fascinating stew filled with pieces of theory and chunks of history, seasoned with the odd bits of positional geography, high and low technology, and cultural resource legislation.

The authors of these bits are stars in the field, and include the theoretical titan Richard A. Gould, the methodological pioneer George F. Bass, and the organizational wizard William N. Still, Jr. Indeed, reading through their contributions one longs for a subject index arranged by author. In a sub-field dominated by the contributions of highly individual and idiosyncratic investigators, it would have been extremely valuable to know exactly where to find all the essays by, say, Carl Olof Cederland, or Mensun Bound, or Jeremy Green, or Colin Martin.

More to the point for polar archaeologists, topics include regional essays on the 'Arctic' and the 'Aleutians,' as well as more specific topical essays on the Franklin graves, and the recent (and intensely interesting) archaeological survey of the wreck of Amundsen's *Maud* lying in Cambridge Bay off Victoria Island, surveyed by the editor himself in 1995 and 1996. Yet it is clear that the full potential of underwater and maritime archaeological research in the Arctic is still unrecognized, both in fact and in these limited discussions.

The weakness of the Arctic sections are in their typically Franklin-centric approach. It is clear that the nine-

teenth-century popular obsession with Sir John Franklin and his fate has become a scholarly obsession amongst twentieth-century forensic and underwater archaeologists operating in the Arctic. None of us who do archaeological research in the Arctic are immune from this obsession. Barry Lopez voiced this sentiment when he wrote in *Arctic dreams* (1986): 'The desire to write a final epitaph to this story...is still very much alive in the North.' And Pierre Berton echoed this in *The Arctic grail* (1988): 'In the tangled chronicle of Arctic exploration, the Franklin saga stands as the centrepiece.'

The wrecks of *Erebus* and *Terror* lay under the ice just beyond the northwest coast of King William Island like Holy Grails, promising eternal fame and a National Geographic television special for their discoverer. Darks hints are given in the encyclopaedia that a US Navy nuclear submarine has sonar-imaged the intact wrecks, but is hiding this discovery from the world. Given the historic rectitude of the 'silent service,' to say nothing of its strategic importance, this would not seem out of the question. Reading this, I personally inquired of two US Navy Arctic experts, including a retired nuclear-submarine captain with extensive polar experience, whether or not there was any truth to this 'rumour'; both said it was so preposterous a claim that they were stunned that anyone could take such nonsense seriously.

There is no mention of Antarctica nor of Borchgrevinck's and Scott's huts, which could conceivably be catagorized as maritime sites, and polar exploration in general is largely confined to Franklin and his tardy rescuers. Several wrecks associated with the search for the Northwest Passage and Franklin are mentioned, except for the most important one: that of Robert McClure's *Investigator*, sunk in Mercy Bay off Banks Island. McClure could with justice claim to have discovered the elusive passage, and, in fact, he and his crew received a £10,000 reward upon returning to England, but it was not enough to buy them lasting fame against the more interesting incompetence of Franklin.

A marginally informative photograph in the 'Arctic' essay is remarkably titled 'The Arctic coast in winter.' Remarkable because the photograph shows melting ice and green tufts of grass in broad daylight. The image was supplied by the Northwest Territories Department of Development and Tourism, which apparently has gone to the incredible length of bringing the Sun from the southern hemisphere to bolster winter tourism in the north.

More startling is the virtual invisibility of whaling. Arctic whaling receives all of a paragraph, and then only beginning in the Canadian Arctic, and only in the nineteenth century. No mention is made of all of the recent work by the Norwegians Naevestad and Basberg and others in documenting twentieth-century whaling in the Antarctic and the Arctic at stations as far afield as South Georgia and Bjørnøya. More troubling is the lack of any mention of Louwrens Hacquebord's pioneering archaeological research at the seventeenth-century Dutch whaling station at Smeerenburg in Svalbard. This comprehensive study in the early 1980s set the standard for all shore-based interdisciplinary archaeological research in the Arctic that would follow. And, in all the talk of recreated maritime technology, from *Kon Tiki* and *Brendan* (which are given unaccountably short shrift) to the Kyrenia ship (which is not) there is no mention of John Bockstoce's incredible Northwest Passage voyage in a native umiak.

Hacquebord's recent survey of Willem Barentsz' hut on Novaya Zemlya in the Russian Arctic goes unmentioned, forgotten along with the maritime attempts on the North Pole from Constantine Phipps to Umberto Nobile that were launched from Svalbard and Franz Josef Land, which left behind potentially important undersea wrecks (Walter Wellman's *Ragnvald Jarl* at Waldenøya; Anthony Fiala's *America* at Teplitz Bay; Nobile's *Italia* northeast of Foynøya), all more than 10° farther north than the celebrated *Breadalbane*.

This encyclopaedia makes clear that further work in the Arctic will require the use of methods pioneered by the incomparable Robert D. Ballard. Coordinated sonar surveys for shipwrecks in the Arctic will redound to the credit of the first investigator who can convince the US or British navies to probe these waters for historic vessels the same way the US Navy is combing the Mediterranean with the nuclear research submarine NR-1 as part of Ballard's Roman trade route research.

What this encyclopaedic effort also shows — as much by what it leaves out as by what it puts in — is that research has reached the point where a comprehensive history of human exploration and exploitation of the polar regions based on underwater and maritime archaeological research can now be undertaken. (P.J. Capelotti, Social Science Division, Penn State Abington College, Abington, PA 19001, USA.)

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S0032247400015412 Published online by Cambridge University Press