

14 MONTHS ON FRANZ JOSEF LAND. By MYKHAILO IVANYCHUK. Edited and translated by GLORIA K. ATAMANENKO. Summerland, British Columbia: Danny Evanishen/Ethnic Enterprises, 2002. ISBN 0-9732428-1-7. 216 p., map, b&w ill., bib. Softbound. Cdn\$12.95.

In the summer of 1929, largely in response to a Norwegian challenge to Soviet sovereignty over the archipelago of Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa (Franz Josef Land), the Soviet government established a weather station at Tikhaya Bukhta on Ostrov Gukera (Hooker Island) in the otherwise uninhabited archipelago. Ukrainian geomorphologist Mykhailo Ivanychuk was a member of the party sent north two years later to man the station for the winter of 1931–32; he was also to explore and survey the eastern islands of the archipelago, namely Zemlya Vil'cheka (Wilczek Land) and Ostrov Greem-Bell (Graham Bell Island). *14 Months on Franz Josef Land* is the first English translation of his account of his experiences, published in Russian in 1934 (Ivanychuk, 1934).

Ivanychuk describes the voyage north from Arkhangel'sk on board the wooden steamer *Lomonosov*, formerly the Scottish whaler *Eclipse*. Built in Aberdeen in 1867, *Eclipse* had sailed from Peterhead and Dundee for 40 years before being sold to a Norwegian company, and then to the Russian government in 1914, to search for the missing expeditions of G.L. Brusilov and V.A. Rusanov. *Lomonosov* sailed from Arkhangel'sk on 19 July 1931, but mostly because of heavy ice conditions reached Tikhaya Bukhta only on 8 August. She remained for a week while cargo was being unloaded and a magnetic observatory was being built.

This translation of Ivanychuk's book provides one of the few English-language accounts of a wintering at a Soviet Arctic weather station, interspersed with information on some of the earlier expeditions to the archipelago. Some of Ivanychuk's time during the winter was spent on learning to drive a dog team, in preparation for his planned sledge trip to the eastern islands of the archipelago in the spring of 1932. Having first established a cache of provisions and dog food on Ostrov Aldzher (Alger Island), he set off on his main trip on 10 April, with two dog teams and two companions. On 19 April, they reached Fort McKinley, the outpost established by Evelyn B. Baldwin during Walter Wellman's expedition of 1898–99 near Mys Gellera (Cape Heller) on the west coast of Zemlya Vil'cheka (Wilczek Land) (Capelotti, 2004). Ivanychuk was forced to turn back at this point, as his supplies were running low. Before starting back, however, he spent two days surveying four very small islands in Avstrivskiy Kanal (Austrian Channel) that he believed he had discovered, and which he named Komsomol'skiye Ostrova (Komsomol Islands). In fact, they had been discovered (but not named) by Julius Payer during his exploration of the archipelago in the spring of 1874, and they appear on the map in his account of the Austrian North Pole Expedition (Payer, 1876). Ivanychuk started back west on 25 April and was back at Tikhaya Bukhta by 30 April.

The station was relieved by the icebreaking steamer *Malygin* (formerly the Reid-Newfoundland's mail steamer, *Bruce*) on 22 July. After unloading building supplies to expand the station, *Malygin* returned to Arkhangel'sk and reached Tikhaya Bukhta again on her second trip on 24 August. After a brief stop she continued north to Bukhta Teplitsa (Teplits Bay) on Ostrov Rudol'fa (Rudolph Island). Ivanychuk was on board for this foray north through the archipelago. The object of the trip was to establish a scientific station at Bukhta Teplitsa as one component of the Soviet Union's contribution to the Second International Polar Year. With Ivanychuk still on board, *Malygin* started south on 5 September, reaching Murmansk on 17 September.

Ivanychuk's narrative is thus a useful account of a Soviet Arctic wintering and of a fairly routine sledge trip. Ivanychuk (and Atamanenko) spoil the effect somewhat by inflating his survey of four very small, previously discovered islands into a significant contribution to Arctic exploration.

It is unfortunate that the English translation leaves a great deal to be desired. Ms. Atamanenko is clearly totally unfamiliar with standard English nautical terms. Thus we find such mistranslations as "company cabin," a literal translation from the Russian, instead of "saloon"; "Return the mooring lines!" instead of "Cast off!"; "pulling its anchor" instead of "weighing anchor"; and even "steering wheel sailor" instead of "helmsman"! This is just a small selection of the infelicitous translations scattered through the book.

The translator is equally out of her depth when it comes to place names. The guidelines of the United States Board on Geographic Names and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names specify that the only acceptable versions of place names are the names used in the country involved (transliterated where necessary, but not translated); clearly, however, there are commonly accepted cases where an Anglicized version is almost universally used—one thinks of Rome instead of Roma; Munich instead of München. Atamanenko has attempted to translate all the Russian names occurring in Ivanychuk's narrative, and the result is an abundance of names that one would not find on any map or atlas. Examples are "Quiet Bay" for "Tikhaya Bukhta"; "Russian Port" for "Russkaya Gavan"; and "Warm Springs Bay" for "Bukhta Teplitsa." In the latter case, Atamanenko is doubly at fault. The bay was originally named "Teplitz Bai" by Julius Payer, after his home village in Austria: it has nothing to do directly with warm springs! She can be forgiven, on the other hand, for not realizing that the archipelago has both an Ostrov Vil'cheka (Wilczek Island) and a Zemlya Vil'cheka (Wilczek Land).

Atamanenko has added a biography of Ivanychuk, in which she details the facts that he was arrested by the Russian secret service on trumped-up charges on 28 April 1937 and was executed on 17 August 1937. The poor calibre of the translation is particularly unfortunate, in that

the book is to some degree a commemorative volume, dedicated to the author's memory.

#### REFERENCES

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**WIND AS A GEOMORPHIC AGENT IN COLD CLIMATES.** By MATTISEPPÄLÄ. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004. (Studies in Polar Research.) ISBN 0-521-56406-9. x + 358 p., maps, colour and b&w illus., bib., index. Hardbound. US\$130.00.

Wind is an important geomorphic agent in many high-latitude areas because of sparse plant cover, churning of soils by frost processes, generally low precipitation, and high frequency of strong winds. Although a vast literature is available on wind action in low-latitude settings such as deserts and seacoasts, the distinctive geomorphic effects of wind in cold climates have received less attention. No recent comprehensive review of this subject has been available, and in contrast to the voluminous literature on wind-moved sand and silt particles, the few works describing how wind affects redistribution of snow cover inadequately represent this topic in the geomorphic literature. In this well-organized and nicely illustrated volume, Matti Seppälä, Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Helsinki, attempts to remedy these deficiencies.

Most of the volume's chapters can be grouped into three principal sections. The first (Chapters 2 and 3) provides a broad introduction to the climates, vegetation assemblages, snow and ice features, and wind patterns of cold regions. The region-by-region geographic coverage of these topics becomes somewhat tedious in places, and the volume might have been better served by an integrated synthesis of the general principles that are most important for understanding the high-latitude processes and features presented in the following chapters. The author's citations of early explorers' accounts add spice to these and subse-

quent chapters, but in some cases the reader would benefit from more recent references that reflect current ideas and modern data.

The second and longest section (Chapters 4–10) deals with interactions of wind with mineral grains, primarily sand and silt. The topics covered progress smoothly from wind-drift processes to abrasion by wind-driven grains, then to deflation processes and resultant features, and finally to accumulation of sand dunes and loess. Oriented lakes (Chap. 7) and sand wedges (Chap. 10), distinctive Arctic features that require wind activity for their formation, are also covered in this section. A very useful but brief chapter on field evidence for wind directions (Chap. 9) discusses erosional and depositional features that can be used to reconstruct the often highly complex wind patterns controlled by local topography. However, it fails to mention grain mineralogy as an important indicator of source area.

The final major section (Chapters 11–15) deals with wind effects on snow cover. After a review of snow and its properties, successive chapters cover drift of snow, snow accumulation and its geomorphic effects, deflation of snow cover, and the effects of wind-packed or deflated snow on ground freezing and on resulting hummocks, palsas, and other frozen-ground features. Although snow avalanches are mentioned in passing, the role of wind in loading avalanche-prone slopes, forming wind-slab detachment surfaces, and building cornices that may collapse to trigger avalanches is largely ignored. A vast literature deals with these destructive events, which generally cause 50 or more deaths annually in the United States and Canada alone. Topics that could well have been covered in this volume include (1) geomorphic and botanic indicators of avalanche tracks and runout zones, (2) meteorologic conditions conducive to avalanches, (3) prediction of avalanche runout distances, and (4) determination of avalanche recurrence intervals. Slush flows (p. 276–278) receive more systematic coverage, but further information and illustrations could have been provided on recognition criteria for these hazardous high-latitude and alpine events.

The volume concludes with a very brief chapter on ancient eolian landforms and their use in reconstructing Quaternary paleowind directions. More information could have been presented here on other paleoenvironmental determinations provided by the fossil soils and plant and animal remains that commonly are well preserved in Quaternary eolian deposits such as sand sheets and loess accumulations. Correlations of dune- and loess-forming intervals with past climatic fluctuations also provide important insights into environmental controls over the accumulation of these eolian sediments, a topic discussed earlier in the volume but without this historical perspective. A review of optical luminescence and other methods for dating Quaternary eolian deposits would have been a valuable addition to this chapter.

One of the greatest strengths of this volume is its strong emphasis on European literature, much of which may be