

thorough job of making the chapters readable, though the technical content may not appeal to those not totally familiar with the subject of tectonics and Gondwana geology. However, this is not a fault of the book, but rather a feature of the complexity of the science. A comprehensive 10-page index is useful in searching for subject material in the text. Overall, the authors and editors have done their job well, bringing readers up to date on the present knowledge of this little-known part of the Antarctic plate. Although the investigators have unravelled much of the unknown or reinterpreted it, many more questions remain to be studied. I expect that a comparable conference on the subject will be forthcoming within five to ten years as more data become available. I look forward to it. I recommend the book to an audience of those interested in state-of-the-art tectonics and to instructors, who should include some of the content as required reading for graduate-level courses.

REFERENCE

ADIE, R.J. 1952. The position of the Falkland Islands in a reconstruction of Gondwanaland. *Geological Magazine* 89:401–410.

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CHILKOOT TRAIL: HERITAGE ROUTE TO THE KLONDIKE. By DAVID NEUFELD and FRANK NORRIS. Whitehorse, Yukon: Lost Moose Publishing Company and Parks Canada, 1996. x + 182 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index. Softbound. Cdn\$24.95.

Chilkoot Trail: Heritage Route to the Klondike, is a worthwhile attempt to relive the experience of the Chilkoot—a remote, seemingly inaccessible, forgotten part of our northern countries—and capture what it was before, during, and after the Klondike gold rush of 1898. David Neufeld of Parks Canada and Frank Morris of the U.S. National Park Service have brought together years of research, personal stories, myths, archival material, and photographs. The result: a tale of energetic people who came north in search of fame and fortune, and left with disappointment, riches, or a conquering spirit quenched by tackling one of the last frontiers.

To reach the Klondike, the traveller must pass through three vegetation zones: the Coastal Rainforest, the High Alpine, and the Boreal Forest. Here each zone is painted with geographical vividness that allows the reader to envision the trail during the gold rush. The authors then recount the work of Tlingit and Athapaskan Indians, whose long history of trade relations pioneered the coast-to-interior trails. The human side of the picture becomes clear as the dynamic of the white man's encounter with yet another Native culture unfolds. Well before the Klondike saga there were Natives, and

after it is all over, they are still there, but unchanged by their menial roles as packers during the actual rush. The presence and impact of the gold rush did succeed, however, in altering the Natives' harmonic relationship with the environment.

Neufeld and Morris recount how the actual stampede occurred, and walk the reader along the treacherous trail in various seasons, using many documented stories. Sidebars with snippets of information and photographs from an era when photography was just coming to the forefront enrich the passage and bring it to life. In time, as the discovery of gold in Dawson Creek was followed by the brief stampede and the building of the railway, the trail quickly rose and fell as a landmark in history. The authors introduce us to the political and historical reality of settling international boundaries, the role of the North-West Mounted Police in ensuring the safety of thousands of prospectors, and the bickering which occurred at all political levels. Finally, the authors describe what happened to the towns, the people, and the trail after the gold rush. Eventually, quieter times returned with the added dimension of the presence of the white man.

This book comes out of a love for the Chilkoot Trail, what it has offered in the past, and what it still has to offer to the tourist today. It makes the potential hiker appreciate what has gone before and what impact he can have. The photographs bring an appreciation of the hardships experienced by those pioneers. The research highlights the skills and entrepreneurship of the First Nations clans who opened the trail well before 1898.

Well produced and well worth the time it takes to read, this book would make a great coffee-table gift for all ages and professions. It is highly recommended for the readers who propose to take the trip into the Chilkoot Trail area during its 100th anniversary next year. It would make every facet of the visit more enjoyable and provide a good keepsake of our link with the past.

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ROBERT PEARY & MATTHEW HENSON AT THE NORTH POLE. By WILLIAM E. MOLETT, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.). Frankfort, Kentucky: Elkhorn Press, 1996. vii + 123 p., b&w illus., bib., appendices. Hardbound. US\$19.95.

In 1988 William Molett, a very knowledgeable navigator with the U.S. Air Force, picked up a copy of the *National Geographic* magazine in which Wally Herbert backed down on his support for Robert E. Peary's claim to reach the North Pole. Peary's position was that he did not need a sextant to find the geographic position of the North Pole. Molett agrees with Peary, while Herbert (1988) did not. As a result, Molett became interested in the Peary–Cook controversy concerning the polar claim and who had in fact been the first man to arrive at the geographic North Pole. The author vigorously