

VANSTONE, J.W. 1965. Exploration of Alaska, 1865-1900. (Book Review.)
Science 148:789-790.

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POLAR PORTRAITS: COLLECTED PAPERS. By A.G.E. JONES.
Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby, 1992. 428 p., illus. Hardbound,
£25.50. Softbound, £14.50.

Few books have more protein and less roughage than this collection of the papers of A.G.E. Jones, the noted polar and maritime historian. In 428 pages are reprinted some fifty of his articles that originally appeared in well-known journals, for example, *Polar Record* and *Mariner's Mirror* (not *Mariners' Mirror*, as is claimed in the contents page), and in some not so well known, for example, the *Falkland Islands Journal* and the *Royal Naval Medical Service Journal*. The publishers, Caedmon of Whitby, whose works on Scoresby, Rae and James Clark Ross are found on the shelves of all polar libraries, have, presumably in the interests of economy, printed direct copies of the papers as originally presented.

There are some infelicities. The most serious of these is that those articles that appeared in a page size that could not be accommodated in the volume are not included, and these omissions are some of Jones's most important contributions. More to the point, not all of those that appeared in journals the page size of which would permit inclusion are presented, such as his paper "The voyage of the *Hopefull* and the *Rose*, 1833-34," published in *Mariner's Mirror* in 1965. Less significant is that in one article, "Robert Shedden and the *Nancy Dawson*," reprinted from a note in *Mariner's Mirror*, the footnotes are not collected at the bottom of the page but are interspersed in the text. Moreover, while most of the original illustrations have reprinted well, some have had to be rephotographed or new pictures introduced, and there are no cross references with the articles, though in most cases they are obvious enough. Unfortunately, in at least one article, "Voyages to South Georgia, 1795-1820," the illustrations seem to have been completely omitted. The article "John Biscoe's Voyage Round the World, 1830-1833" is wrongly attributed in the contents to the *Falkland Islands Journal*, rather than to *Mariner's Mirror*, in which it appeared, and the immediately following article, "John Biscoe in the Falkland Islands, 1830-1832," is omitted from the contents altogether. Furthermore, the selection of articles seems to have been somewhat odd, bearing in mind the title of the book, since in one case, "Sir Thomas Slade, 1703/4-1771," the subject had no obvious polar connection at all, except for being the builder in 1759 of HMS *Carcass*, which participated in the 1773 expedition to Spitzbergen and in which sailed midshipman Horatio Nelson. All the above features are irritating and some make for uneven reading, which is accentuated by Jones's rather jerky and abrupt style.

However, this is to cavil. What a feast is here for a rainy winter's evening or an interminable flight. Each article is based upon thorough and detailed research in the archives, and those that focus on individuals present an authoritative portrait of the subject. It is in the unravelling of intricate detail of chart and log that Jones is at his strongest, and it is here that he places us most in his debt. But he goes further and seeks to exercise his historical judgment in a way that is often idiosyncratic and sometimes open to serious objection, but which is always astute and thought provoking.

Significant articles in the collection include "Scott's Transport, 1911-12," which is an account of the use of dogs, ponies, motor sledges and skis on the last expedition, two papers on James Clark Ross covering the voyage of HMS *Cove* (1835-36) and his Franklin search

expedition (1848-49) and "Sir John Ross and Sir John Barrow," in which the relations between those two titans are examined.

But it is the less significant articles, those which relate to the "small, unexamined fringes of the subject," in Jones's own words in his brief introduction, that are in some senses more interesting. Taking one of these more or less at random, "Captain Peter Kemp and Kemp Land," we find a detailed description of the background to the voyage of *Magnet*, Kemp's ship, to the Antarctic, an account of the voyage itself, during which on 27/28 December 1833 he sighted that part of the continental coast now named Kemp Land, and as much as is known about Kemp himself. Jones also examines the question of whether Kemp was or was not the discoverer of Heard Island, based upon his "observation" of land in the appropriate area on 27 November 1833 and, after a detailed analysis of all the evidence, concludes that he was not and that the credit should indeed go to Captain John Heard, after whom the island is named. At once, this is an interesting and informative article. And yet it is clear that Jones is no storyteller; otherwise he would never have permitted himself the throw-away line early in the article that "On 21 April Captain Kemp fell overboard and was drowned."

The book is replete with articles of this type. On reading them, one becomes aware of the breadth and depth of Jones's interests and, in the case of this reviewer at any rate, of the limitations of one's own knowledge. Any selection of those most meriting mention must be personal, but one would contend that anyone interested in polar history would find something worthwhile. The reviewer's preference would be for those articles relating to the Franklin search, that on James Clark Ross mentioned above, "Frederick John Hornby" and "Robert M'Cormick, Deputy Inspector General RN," although Jones's view of M'Cormick seems unduly censorious. Certainly, a surgeon who did not lose a life in seven years of polar service was either not as bad as Jones makes M'Cormick out to be or incredibly fortunate. Further articles in this group are "Captain Robert Martin: A Peterhead Whaling Master in the 19th Century" and "Henry Pegler, Captain of the *Fore-top*" (of HMS *Terror*). Martin was captain of the last ship to have contact with Franklin before the disappearance and Pegler is one of the very few 19th-century seamen for whom it is possible to construct a biography.

To sum up, this is a most valuable publication at a very modest price. One trusts that the publishers will consider preparing a companion volume containing the rest of Jones's papers in order that his complete works be available in easily accessible form.

Polar Portraits is available directly from the publishers, Caedmon of Whitby, Headlands, 128 Uppang Lane, Whitby YO21 3JJ, United Kingdom.

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GUIDE TO MARINE MAMMALS OF ALASKA. By KATE WYNNNE.
Illustrated by PIETER FOLKENS. Fairbanks: Alaska Sea Grant College
Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1992. Softbound.
US\$15.00.

This is a very "user friendly" guidebook to the marine mammal fauna common to waters offshore Alaska. In the preface, the author states that the guide "is intended to be informative yet readable, complete yet brief and equally useful in a fisherman's wheelhouse, tour boat stateroom, or biologist's backpack." Overall, the author has succeeded on all accounts. The guide's size, spiral binding and color-coded pages — keyed to three sections depicting 1) cetaceans, 2) pinnipeds, and 3) fissipeds — facilitate flipping through entries to locate specific identifiable traits for the subject at hand. This quick and easy access to basic information is, after all, what a guidebook should provide.

The guide's straightforward style is evident on the first page, where the reader is advised on how to use it when trying to identify marine mammals at sea. As anyone who has identified marine mammals from the pitching deck of a ship or a circling aircraft knows, the animals seldom provide repeated clues. The observer must make the most of the few seconds that the animal is in view and quickly process the available species-specific characteristics. Of the advice given, I thought the following especially practical: "Don't lose observation time thumbing through a field guide. Keep your eye on the mammal and make mental notes or quick sketches of key traits for later comparison with guides." Additional advice to be patient and to avoid jumping to conclusions is followed by a brief listing of the guide's design to familiarize the reader with the format used to summarize each species.

Each of the three sections of the guide is preceded by a brief outline of taxonomic relationships, accompanied by body shape silhouettes, a morphologic diagram identifying areas on the body frequently mentioned in subsequent descriptive text, and a summary chart depicting relative-size drawings of species representing that group. For example, the section on cetaceans begins with a brief description and a truncated taxonomic key that branches from order to family. Differences in body form among the eight families are depicted in silhouettes directly below the taxonomic key and are accompanied by brief descriptive text. Cetacean morphology, with separate drawings for mysticetes and odontocetes, precedes a chart of whale drawings drawn to scale in a format that will be familiar to all who have seen Pieter Folkens's marine mammal posters. As in the introductory pages of the guide, the background material is clearly and succinctly presented.

Species accounts are presented in a facing-page layout that includes a close-up photograph or an illustration of the subject by Folkens, a map depicting seasonal distribution, at least one and sometimes two field photographs, and silhouette depictions of surfacing animals — including heads, flippers, dorsal fins, flukes, backs, and blow shapes. These illustrations are accompanied by brief text summaries in categories ranging from "Size" to "Status and Human Interactions," with key features presented in **bold** text. The only confusion I had on first looking through the guide was that the color backgrounds associated with the silhouette illustrations were often the same colors used to depict seasonal distribution on the adjacent map. For example, in the bowhead whale species account, pink is used on the map to depict summer/fall range and the same shade forms the backdrop for the silhouette drawing of the northern right whale, a species with which bowheads might be confused. At first glance it seemed that the pink shading implied that northern right whales were found over a broad area of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, which I found quite extraordinary! This is a minor criticism, as most readers will quickly grasp that the colors are not associative between the two illustrations.

Overall, the species accounts are well presented, informative, and concise. On perusing most of them, I had occasional concerns with specific details presented in the brief text summaries. For example, "smooth skin" is highlighted as an identifying characteristic when looking at bowhead whales, instead of the distinct triangular-shaped "stack" that forms the profile of the head near the blowholes and is easily seen from a distance. Also, the depiction of the gray whale migration route as *only* coastal along southeast Alaska implies that this pathway has been described with certainty and "leaves out" any gray whales swimming across the Gulf of Alaska. In most cases, the summaries of "Status and Human Interactions" simply states estimated population size and harvest numbers, but some end in non sequiturs, such as "Common oceanarium performers" (Pacific white-sided dolphin) or "Are known to accumulate pollutants" (harbor seal), which are not necessarily specifically descriptive of the species.

The thoroughness of the guide is exemplified by the inclusion of silhouettes of terrestrial mammals that sometimes swim (e.g., deer, bear, moose, river otters, and beavers) in the introduction to the section on Fissipeds (polar bear and sea otters). From experience, I know that a polar bear swimming in open water can be initially taken for a white poodle when viewed from an aircraft at 400 m, so this

type of orientation to what might be seen in coastal marine habitats is not necessarily out of place in a guide for marine mammals! The guide ends with a glossary of terms and abbreviations and a listing of common names of marine mammals in Japanese, Russian, and Alaska Native languages.

In summary, this is an excellent and very affordable field guide. The author has condensed a broad range of information into a very usable booklet and enhanced the presentation with clear illustrations and often stunning photographs. The use of water-resistant paper and sturdy covers should allow each copy to serve for many years in the pack of a biologist, on the deck of a ship, or riding in the side pocket of a cockpit. I would recommend that a copy find its way to all those locations and more.

Sue E. Moore

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BOOKS RECEIVED

- A FRENCHMAN IN SEARCH OF FRANKLIN: DE BRAY'S ARCTIC JOURNAL 1852-1854. By EMILE FRÉDÉRIC DE BRAY. Translated and edited by WILLIAM BARR. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992. ISBN 0-8020-2813-6. xxii + 339 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Hardbound. Cdn\$35.00.
- A PHYTOGEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF NORTHERN GREENLAND — NORTH OF 74° NORTHERN LATITUDE. By CHRISTIAN BAY. Copenhagen: The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, 1992. ISBN 87-503-9972-1. Meddelelser om Grønland, Bioscience 36. 102 p., maps, colour and b&w illus., bib. Softbound. DKK 190,00 + p&h.
- MUSKOKO HUSBANDRY: A GUIDE FOR THE CARE, FEEDING AND BREEDING OF CAPTIVE MUSKOXEN. By PAMELA GROVES. Fairbanks: Institute of Arctic Biology, 1992. ISSN 0161-3243. Biological Papers of the University of Alaska, Special Report No. 5. xiv + 148 p., b&w illus., bib. Softbound. US\$30.00.
- NORDIC ARCTIC RESEARCH ON CONTEMPORARY ARCTIC PROBLEMS. Edited by LISE LYCK. Copenhagen: Nordic Arctic Research Forum, 1992. ISBN 87-7307-452-7. (Available from Aalborg University Press, P.O. Box 159, DK-9100, Aalborg, Denmark.) 277 p., maps, refs. Softbound. Price not given.
- THE MIGRATION OF KNOTS. Edited by THEUNIS PIERSMA and NICK DAVIDSON. Peterborough, UK: The Wader Study Group, 1992. ISSN 0260-3799. 209 p., maps, b&w illus. (Available from Wader Study Group, P.O. Box 247, Tring, Herts. HP23 5SN, UK.) Softbound. £15.
- THE PATTERNED PEATLANDS OF MINNESOTA. Edited by H.E. WRIGHT, JR., BARBARA A. COFFIN and NORMAN E. AASENG. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1992. ISBN 0-8166-1917-4. xx + 327 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., index. Hardbound. US\$44.95.
- TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS: JOHN HALLER 1927-1984. Edited by FRITZ SCHWARZENBACH. Zürich: Verlag der Fachvereine, 1992. ISBN 3 7281 1912 1. (Available from Mrs. P. Solomon, Harvard University, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science, 20 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.) 128 p., colour and b&w illus., maps, bib. Hardbound. US\$59.00 (includes p&h).

PAPERS TO APPEAR IN ARCTIC

- HEINZE, J. Life Histories of Subarctic Ants.
- SCHMIDLIN, T.W., and ROETHLISBERGER, R.A. Winter Sub-Freezing Periods and Significant Thaws in the Boreal Forest Region of Central North America.
- SCOTT, P.A. Relationship between the Onset of Winter and Collared Lemming Abundance at Churchill, Manitoba, Canada: 1932-90.
- KAPPEN, L. Plant Activity under Snow and Ice with Particular Reference to Lichens.
- CONOVER, R.J., and SIFERD, T.D. Dark-Season Survival Strategies of Coastal-Zone Zooplankton in the Canadian Arctic.
- CRÊTE, M., HUOT, J., NAULT, R., and PATENAUDE, R. Reproduction, Growth and Body Composition of Rivière George Caribou in Captivity.
- TUCHSCHERER, A.M., and BROOKS, R.J. Paternal Care in Collared Lemmings (*Dicrostonyx richardsoni*): Artifact or Adaptation?