

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ANTARCTIC INVERTEBRATES (TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER). By WILLIAM BLOCK. Cambridge: British Antarctic Survey, 1992. v + 263 p., 1 map, classification, taxonomic, species, author, subject, geographical and expeditions indexes. Softbound. £25.

The objective of this work, as its title suggests, is to provide a comprehensive bibliography to all published work on Antarctic invertebrates from "the earliest South Polar Expedition on which invertebrates were recorded (the French 'Coquille' Expedition of 1822-25) to the end of 1990." The bibliography is designed to be user friendly by being cross referenced and having multiple indexes. William Block tells us "The book is organised with the user in mind, so that information can be readily found and accessed not only by established workers in this area but especially by new-comers to Antarctic science." These are very laudable objectives, and before going any further I should say that, by and large, they are met in a most satisfactory way.

As with any project of this type, a number of decisions have to be made that are, to an extent, arbitrary, e.g., the geographical extent of the area covered, the inclusion of Kerguelen and Heard islands and the exclusion of St. Paul and Amsterdam islands, or the inclusion of Macquarie Island and exclusion of Campbell and Auckland islands. In both cases involving island selection, the invertebrate faunas of the former islands share many features with the latter, based largely on geographical proximity. However, the decisions made in this case seem to me to be completely defensible and are clearly defined from the outset. The taxonomic scope of the work probably reflects the author's own interests to a larger extent: "The survey concentrated primarily on free-living invertebrate animals, but whilst some ectoparasitic taxa are included, endo-parasites are not." This will surely limit its usefulness to ecto-parasitologists, who will never know if particular work is included or not.

As William Block says, it is impossible for a bibliography ever to be complete, but from my reading this one seems to be as complete as could be expected. I do, however, have a few quibbles with the scope and coverage. As noted above, the author singles out *Voyage autour du Monde sur la "Coquille"* as beginning the study of Antarctic invertebrate science, but he did not see this work or that of the next major French Antarctic expedition, *Voyage au Pol Sud et dans l'Océanie sur les corvettes "l'Astrolabe" et la "Zélée"*, so there are no abstracts published for them to indicate their contribution to the beginnings of Antarctic biological science. Surely copies of these seminal works must be available in Cambridge!

The main bibliography consists of a series of 1331 numbered entries arranged alphabetically by author; a full literature citation is given for each entry and a brief abstract is included. The abstract is classified under one or more of four headings: Group (taxonomic group[s] and species), Ecol (ecology), Phys (physiology) and Sys (systematics). This makes for a very complete and useful treatment. The style of the presentation is excellent and easy to use. I really liked the line drawings on each page that begins a new initial letter of the authors' names.

I sympathize with the frustrations of bibliographers in trying to make their bibliographies as complete and up to date as possible. These objectives have led William Block to include three appendices to his main bibliography: material received too late for inclusion in the main bibliography, unpublished material, and unseen material. A real problem arises in the use of these appendices; the indexes are all to citation number, but the citations in the appendices are not in wholly numerical order, so it is not obvious to which appendix any particular index citation refers. This can require the user to look up an entry in three separate places.

As has become customary, the word processing and pre-publication computer packages used in the production of this book are all listed in the introduction. It was produced from laser-printed camera-ready copy and is exceptionally well edited and printed. The soft-cover glued binding has, so far, been perfectly adequate.

I strongly recommend this book to all researchers and students of Antarctic invertebrates. It will remain an invaluable reference work for many years to come. It is also an excellent source of much useful information for anyone with an interest in Southern Hemisphere and, particularly, Antarctic biogeography.

Rowan M. Emberson
Department of Entomology
Lincoln University
Canterbury, New Zealand

WESTERN SUBARCTIC PREHISTORY. By DONALD W. CLARK. Hull: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1992. ix + 152 p., 1 chart, 49 plates, 10 maps, annotated reading list. Softbound. Cdn\$14.95.

This monograph is the eighth volume in the Canadian Prehistory Series, a collection of books about the pre-European contact archaeology of Canada written for the general audience by Canadian archaeologists, many of whom are staff members of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization. It deals with the Western Subarctic, which the author defines to include an enormous area of the country extending from northwestern Ontario to the Yukon and, when necessary, adjacent areas such as Alaska. In the author's words, the book presents the history of the native people "who stayed on, who endured the harshness and knew the beauty of the Subarctic" (p. ix).

The fact that it took nearly twenty years from the time the series began until the appearance of this book is perhaps a reflection of the great challenge faced by the small cadre of prehistorians who are working in this vast area. Sites are difficult to find, artifact collections are often small, if not impoverished, characterized only by lithic tools and very few of the kinds of tools that archaeologists usually rely upon to establish the basic framework of thousands of years of history. Much of this is due to the destruction of organic materials from abandoned subarctic campsites because of poor preservation conditions caused by the acidic nature of the soils in coniferous forest regions. We know from ethnographic accounts that subarctic peoples relied heavily upon organic materials such as wood, bone, antler, and hides to make the tools and other devices necessary for living in this harsh environment. They also depended upon the animal resources of the region for most of their subsistence. Poor organic preservation is responsible for the loss of major categories of information about the past, leaving subarctic archaeologists with the perplexing problem of how to extract meaning from what is left.

Perhaps because of this, few archaeologists have chosen to work in the Subarctic and, as a result, the data needed for constructing the prehistory of the region have accumulated very slowly; indeed, a good deal of the information that Clark relies upon for this synthesis has only appeared since the early 1970s. Working within these limitations, however, Clark has used his encyclopaedic knowledge of subarctic archaeology to present a much-needed summary that should serve to foster greater interest in this fascinating region.

Clark begins the book with an overview of the characteristics of the study area, summarizing the history of research, providing a personal view of the "allure" of subarctic archaeology, and giving some basic background to the reader unfamiliar with the methods of archaeological enquiry. To organize the broad geographic, temporal, and cultural scope, he subdivides the Western Subarctic into three sub-areas: 1) the Northwestern Area, which includes the Yukon, Mackenzie valley, northern British Columbia, and northwestern Alberta; 2) the North-Central Area, which encompasses far northeastern Alberta, the northernmost parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and the area south of the tree line between Great Bear Lake and Lake Athabasca in the west and Hudson Bay in the east; and 3) northwestern Ontario and the boreal forest regions of Manitoba, central Saskatchewan, and east-central Alberta.