

Volume 3 is devoted to the *Russian American Colonies, 1798–1867* and begins with the Act of Incorporation of the United American Company, 1798. It closes with the Treaty of 1867, in which Alaska was ceded to the United States. Each volume has a satisfactory introduction, a glossary of terms, and a bibliographic essay. Each volume also includes a substantial final bibliography, with mostly Russian-language sources, and a useful index. All in all, these large tomes present us with our most exhaustive English-language documentary record of Russia's conquest of Siberia and its native peoples; the inexorable Russian push to eastern Siberia, then to Kamchatka and the Aleutians; and, finally, imperial Russia's colonial advances across the Bering Straits, past the mouth of the Columbia River, and south to Fort Ross in California.

Among the documents are treaties, charters, Muscovite and imperial decrees (*ukazy*), and secret communiqués. Reports abound from Cossacks, geodesists, explorers, merchants, diplomats, commanders and other officials, and from missionaries. Included also are dispatches from *voevodas* and governors, instructions from state ministers, extracts from diaries and log books, letters, petitions, and inventories.

Although the key sections remain intact, a number of the documents have been abridged. Therefore scholars will still have to turn to the originals in order to complete serious research. Some historians may regret certain absences, for example, of materials from the fascinating and corroborative diaries of such important 18th-century explorers, botanists, or archivists as Stepan Krasheninnikov, Johann Gmelin, G.-F. Müller, P.S. Pallas, and others. But most of these are available elsewhere and their stories are apart from the more official versions that were sought for here. Because of its completeness, and the availability of original English-language materials with which to compare their content, the documentation of the origins and purpose of the Russian American Company, in Volume 3, seems to present the most complete picture. Volume 1, however, is especially significant for its record of the early stages of Russian-Chinese competition along the Amur and elsewhere.

The introductions are somewhat skimpy, but they serve their purpose nonetheless and provide food for further thought. In spite of, or because of, its length there is very little else to review in a publication of this type, unless one were to attempt a collation of the translations with the originals or suggest at length that other items should have been included. Neither is necessary. The value of the collection lies in the fact that it brings together records previously unavailable to English-only readers and provides users with an invaluable picture of one of history's greatest — but perhaps least well-known — “expansions.”

The compilers and translators are to be congratulated for their 15 years of labour on this project. The collection should be in every university library.

J.L. Black, Director
Centre for Canadian-Soviet Studies
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1S 5B6

THE JOURNAL OF ROCHFORD MAGUIRE, 1852–1854: TWO YEARS AT POINT BARROW, ALASKA, ABOARD H.M.S. *PLOVER* IN THE SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN. Edited by JOHN BOCKSTOCE. Hakluyt Society, Second Series, Vols. 169–170. London: The Hakluyt Society, 1988. 584 p., maps, illus., index, bib. Hardbound. £30.00 for 2-vol. set.

This recently published journal by Rochfort Maguire comes up to the high standards of editing for which the Hakluyt Society is well known. The journal accounts for the two years that the *Plover* spent on the northwest coast of America under Rochfort Maguire's command as a backup supply vessel for H.M.S. *Enterprise* and *Investigator*. The latter two ships were engaged in the British Admiralty's search for Sir John Franklin's missing crew and ships,

this branch of the search being conducted through the Bering Straits. The *Plover* spent numerous years in the Northwest, but the years 1852–54 found her under Maguire's command. Essentially, nothing of major significance occurred during the two winters the *Plover* was frozen in the ice just off Point Barrow. Under Maguire's command and orders, the *Plover* was never intended to undertake any exploration of consequence or to search for the missing Franklin party. Her purpose was exclusively to provide a supply station to which other British Admiralty vessels could fall back in time of need.

Clearly, then, *The Journal of Rochfort Maguire, 1852–1854* does not make exciting reading by virtue of the events that unfold in its narrative. Nothing of the natural vigor of Samuel Hearne's journey to the Coppermine or John Franklin's desperate retreat across the Barrens to Fort Enterprise is to be found in Maguire's account. But Maguire's journal has its own appeal. In the Introduction, Bockstoce remarks on the tangible sense one gains of Maguire's personality in reading the two volumes. I'm moved less by a growing sense of Maguire's personality and more by the developing image of compromise and understanding that arises between Maguire and his frequent Iñupiat visitors. For instead of coasting along the arctic shoreline surveying navigable waters, Maguire spent two lengthy winters frozen into the ice of Elson Bay, only a short distance from the Iñupiat settlement of Point Barrow, located at the end of the long spit of land behind which the *Plover* sheltered. Hence, Maguire's journal is not a running commentary on tides, coastal indentations, and shoals north of Bering Straits; instead, it provides a daily record of social engagements between two diverse cultures who had previously experienced no sustained contact with each other. Rather than begin each day with weather conditions, the typical entries for Maguire's journal start with a report on the number of Iñupiat on board.

Clearly, anthropologists and ethnologists will be interested in much that Maguire reports about his visitors and their culture. But one need not be trained in anthropology to become engrossed in the process of tolerance and compromise that unfolds through these two volumes. Initially, Maguire's ethnocentric personality expresses great distaste for the “heathens” he meets; nor do the Iñupiat find much to recommend the European intruders, except for the obvious material wealth they carry with them. At the centre of the conflict lies the concept of private ownership. While Maguire initially has little curiosity about customs and beliefs of the Iñupiat, it is their propensity for thieving that most galls him. In fact, references to pilfering run like a leitmotif through the journal, especially in the first volume. But as the months pass, both Maguire and the Iñupiat come to understand more of the other's perspective. With efforts from both sides, the “problem” does not disappear, but the two groups find ways to deal with their differences so that the common humanity of all parties can rise to the surface.

Because the journal is Maguire's, the reader's vision is obviously funnelled through his eyes, and not through the Iñupiat's. It requires a bit of extrapolation, accordingly, to see the changes that come to the Iñupiat as they begin to comprehend and grow to trust Maguire, but the change is clear nonetheless. This is an important facet of the journal, it seems to me, as we hear so much today about the faults of British ethnocentrism and cultural exploitation (or, at best, insensitivity) in the nineteenth century. Indeed, Maguire's own account shows that many such charges were true. But by reading his journal, we also come to understand that other cultures were equally ethnocentric. Ultimately, the friendships that develop between individuals are what permit the Iñupiat and the crew of the *Plover* to live harmoniously.

A word about the editing of the journal is in order. Bockstoce has omitted the segments of Maguire's journal that relate his travels to and from the Arctic. As well, Bockstoce has deleted Maguire's meteorological and auroral observations. Together, these omissions constitute about 30% of the original journal, and while my first instinct is to prefer a complete transcription of a historical account (thereby permitting readers to use the document as best suits their needs), the fact that the journal already runs to two volumes probably

explains the need to reduce. The edition includes a thorough bibliography and index, as well as seven appendices, which include such related documents as accounts of short boat journeys taken from the *Plover* and Dr. John Simpson's essay on the Iñupiat of northwestern Alaska. Bockstoe's Introduction generally attempts to place Maguire's service in the larger historical context of the Franklin search, especially that branch of it directed through the Bering Straits. Because of the significant anthropological interest of the journal, more attention to this facet of Maguire's account might have been given in the Introduction, although to Bockstoe's credit, the annotations are rich in information about the customs and beliefs of the Iñupiat encountered.

In short, this is a well-executed edition of the earliest surviving account of a sustained foreign presence with the Iñupiat of northern Alaska.

Richard C. Davis
Department of English
The University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2N 1N4

THE AGE OF THE ARCTIC: HOT CONFLICTS AND COLD REALITIES. By GAIL OSHERENKO and ORAN R. YOUNG. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. 216 p., graphics, maps, illus., notes, index. Hardbound. US\$59.50.

The Age of the Arctic is essential reading for those seeking to grasp the political realities of present-day life in the circumpolar North. The authors' breadth of knowledge grounded in law and government is especially noteworthy and should assist greatly in providing the reader with a solid basis for analyzing the complex socioeconomic and geopolitical relations that presently characterize this area of the world. Of particular significance is Osherenko and Young's insistence that the region be analyzed as an international as well as domestic arena in which all parties, including aboriginal Native inhabitants, local, state and national governments, environmentalists, and multinational corporations, have their vested interests that must be clearly recognized and taken into account if conflicts among them are to be adequately addressed. It is further proposed that we are now entering a new "Age of the Arctic" — and that those wishing to "bring peace and stability to a world of conflict" need to know and understand this region far more thoroughly than has been the case thus far.

Approaching this task from a perspective as mediators, the authors begin by describing the participants ("players," in the lexicon of geopolitical theory), their interests, and those concerns of greatest importance to them. In an early chapter, issues of security in the Arctic focus initially on military and strategic activities of the United States and the Soviet Union. This is followed by an analysis of the implications of this militarization for the other arctic-rim states as well as the competing interests of subnational groups such as state and local governments, industry, environmentalists, and Native populations. Three similarly oriented chapters follow in which the interests of industry and commerce, indigenous peoples, and environmentalists are explored, with corresponding discussions of points of conflict between (and among) them. Thus, for example, in the chapter addressing environmental concerns, important distinctions are examined among the perceived interests of Friends of the Earth, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and Greenpeace in protecting arctic lands and seas.

With this background knowledge in hand, the reader is prepared to analyze key theoretical issues underlying major economic, political, and social conflicts presently occurring in the Arctic — conflicts associated with events such as the opening of northern waters for oil and gas development, the damming of northern rivers to generate hydroelectric power, the consumptive use of wild animals

by indigenous peoples, and the designation of large tracts of arctic land as wilderness areas.

In this section of the book, Osherenko and Young focus on the key aspects of these conflicts that impede their resolution, and in so doing they point out the limits of more conventional responses. They first remind the reader that as a social phenomenon, conflict always involves interrelationships *among* parties rather than merely behaviors of given parties. Thus, a key element in any analysis of conflict is the extent to which the parties concerned (whether they be individuals, corporations, or nation states) are required by the circumstances to act interdependently, as opposed to pursuing their separate objectives. Illustrations utilized in discussing this principle include an analysis of relations between the United States and Canada over the status of the Northwest Passage; antagonisms between animal rights advocates and Native groups over the harvesting of wild animals; and frictions occurring among petroleum companies and environmental organizations, Native northerners, and the fishing industry over the opening of outer continental shelf areas for oil and gas exploration. In each instance, conflicts are never attributed to the attitudes or actions of any particular party. Rather, each group is seen "as a facet of the relationship between or among the parties."

The authors point out that conflicts often erupt when the various objectives involved cannot be fulfilled simultaneously or when the pursuit of one interest interferes with the desire for another. Illustrative of this point are the contradictory goals exhibited by the Government of Norway and various Sami groups over the proposed Alta Dam. Here, the government's effort to produce more hydroelectric power is seen as being incompatible with the interest of the Sami in protecting the habitat required for reindeer herding. A similar example is found in the antagonism expressed between the North Slope Iñupiat of Anaktuvik Pass and the U.S. Park Service over the use by the former of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) while traveling through park land to reach traditional hunting areas. In this instance, the government's priority to protect public land from damage by ATVs is sharply at odds with present-day subsistence practices undertaken by Iñupiat hunters. The book contains numerous other illustrations, all reminding us that conflicts over the allocation of resources among competing users in the circumpolar North is an even greater problem now than in the past.

A second set of conflicts common to the Arctic involves the distribution of benefits (and burdens) among competing claimants. In highlighting this problem, the authors ask: What constitutes an appropriate division of the economic return or rent from oil and gas production in Alaska among the federal government, the State of Alaska, and the North Slope Borough? Should the federal government share any proceeds it derives from the outer continental shelf oil and gas development with the state government or with local communities? Should public agencies at any level try to collect economic returns from commercial fishing in arctic waters? What can be said for and against the innovative proposal to address the problem of distribution in Quebec by providing support in the form of income security programs for indigenous hunters and trappers in return for accepting the use of northern rivers for hydroelectric power production?

Whether these conflicts are allocative or distributional in nature, they often take the form of clashes over what political agency should be the locus of authority in making binding decisions over human activities in the region. Needless to say, this question is being addressed at all levels of governance, whether international, national, state, or local. Furthermore, as the authors point out on several occasions, another significant category of jurisdictional conflict in the Arctic has arisen in connection with the emerging tribal sovereignty movement. And while these claims are more likely to focus on issues of wildlife management, education, and various forms of tribal government than on geopolitical separation, they nevertheless generate sharp disagreements with existing governmental authorities adverse to seeing any diminution of their own power by new indigenous political groups.