

success of Ahtna and Cook Inlet corporations or why the Metlakatla Tsimshians' history led to acceptance of a reservation.

Inevitably the report will draw comparisons with his Mackenzie Valley report. The village hearings were the same but the review was not government-sponsored. It was funded by bingo games and donations, without money for extensive research. While the book deals with social conditions, the focus is less on development: rather it deals with restructuring the 1971 settlement. In presenting his case, Berger relies heavily on the hearing testimony, some federal reports and court decisions, reflecting restricted funding.

Though occasionally some legal terms such as fee simple patent or encumbrance may not be part of most readers' daily vocabulary, this well-written and well-organized report is an important study of native claims in Alaska for laity and specialist — a case study of indigenous people (or the "Fourth World," as he mentions at the end of the book).

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THE ISLAND OF SOUTH GEORGIA. By ROBERT HEADLAND. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984. £13.95. US\$39.50.

The author of this book was a biological assistant at the British Antarctic Survey station at Grytviken at the time of the Argentine invasion on 3 April 1982 (he had previously served there during 1977-80). He and his companions conducted themselves with courage, dignity and (as far as circumstances allowed) considerable resource when confronted by *force majeure*. They were removed at gunpoint to an Argentine ship bound for Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego, and eventually repatriated through Uruguay. The unwelcome interlude of three weeks before the island was repossessed by British forces provides the finale to this book, and also presages the end of an era for, as a direct result of the conflict in the South Atlantic, South Georgia ceased to be a Dependency of the Falkland Islands and became, with the South Sandwich Islands, a separate territory by Statutory Instrument of 3 October 1985. It has therefore been a timely occasion to take stock of the history, geology and natural history of the island.

South Georgia was probably first sighted by Antonio de la Roché (Antoine de la Roche), a London merchant of French parentage, in April 1675 when his 350-ton ship (the name of which is not recorded) was blown off course on a trading voyage to Peru. In June 1756 the island was circumnavigated in similar circumstances by the Spanish trading ship *León* on passage from Callao, Peru, to Cadiz. However, its position and extent remained in doubt until the voyage of HMS *Resolution* and *Adventure*, 1772-75, under the command of Captain James Cook, RN, who made the first chart of the island in January 1775 and took possession of it for King George III under the name "Isle of Georgia."

Cook's reports of the abundance of fur seals and elephant seals led to British sealers starting work on the island in 1778, soon to be followed by Americans. By 1791 there were more than 100 vessels engaged in securing seal oil and skins in the Southern Ocean, one vessel alone accounting for 57 000 fur seals in a single season. The story of these early operations and ruthless slaughter for money, which is not for the squeamish, is admirably described by the author, who includes a number of extracts from contemporary accounts. By 1825 the near-extinction of the fur seal had halted the industry, although there was a brief revival of sealing in the 1870s, following a partial recovery of the fur seal population. The later complete protection afforded this species led to the recolonization of its old haunts, which has been one of the great success stories in conservation.

The early sealing operations had been unregulated by any government, but with the introduction of shore-based whaling on the island in

1904 the Falkland Islands government, under the British crown, stepped in by issuing regulations on the new industry in 1905. This led in 1908 to the issue of Letters Patent announcing that the Falkland Islands Dependencies, comprising South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, were British possessions. After 1931 shore-based whaling gradually began to decline with the innovation of pelagic whaling, but continued until 1964, when the last whaling station closed down. But British administration on the island has been continuous since 1905, apart from the brief interregnum of the Argentine occupation.

All these aspects of the 20th-century history of the island are extremely well described by the author, who also gives summary accounts of the principal expeditions or investigations that have contributed to our knowledge of the island, including the work of the South Georgia Survey under the leadership of Duncan Carse in four seasons between 1951 and 1957 and of the British Antarctic Survey, which has maintained scientific stations at Grytviken, 1969-82, and on Bird Island in the north since 1972. The events of April 1982 are recounted in detail. Not the least valuable part of the book are the excellent syntheses on physical sciences and natural history in South Georgia. With 250 illustrations (including adequate maps and excellent photographs, many of great archival interest) and a bibliography of about 90 items, the book is likely to remain the standard authority on the island for many years to come.

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VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCTIC TERRESTRIAL SCIENCE. Edited by G. EDGAR FOLK, JR., and MARY ARP FOLK. Iowa City, Iowa: The University of Iowa, 1984. xiii + 239 p. Softbound. US\$15.00.

While a school boy I read Stefansson's books as examples of high adventure. Eventually, some localities became points of reference and his accounts were reread with interest. In his later years he still appeared now and then as a charming and enthusiastic advocate of life in the far north. On the occasion of his hundredth birth-year, it was a pleasure to attend a symposium in his honor. His widow's account of their 20 years together was fascinating. Only after I had been asked to submit a review of the publication did any misgivings come to mind. His history was discussed with individuals who have been working actively in the Arctic. Our university library has a set of his books and related literature; several were secured for perusal. A recent book by Richard J. Diubaldo (1978) was found to be critical, to say the least. It seems that our explorer-author appears no better under close scrutiny than others who have achieved notoriety. He is still a hero to most of us.

During the early 1900s a portion of the Canadian Arctic was considered to be unexplored. The mystery concerning Sir John Franklin's elaborately conceived expedition of the 1840s had created further interest. Nansen, Sverdrup, Amundsen, and Peary all carried out important exploration. Within a few years, Vilhjalmur Stefansson came to personify small-scale effort in learning about the region. His book *My Life with the Eskimo* did much to establish him as an authority. His years of travel in the North were described exuberantly in various publications and lectures. A popular account, *The Friendly Arctic*, expressed many of his thoughts concerning this region and its inhabitants. Some aspects were controversial and not all matters were seen to reflect favorably upon the author. Nevertheless Stefansson has been recognized as one of the foremost arctic explorers, who had a great aptitude for living there and learning from the native people. Observations concerning diet stimulated research that is still active.

In essence, 30 years after his strenuous field activity, Stefansson was a respected scholar and arctic authority. Some of his visions concerning