

topics and authors. Just a few of the many maps, tables and diagrams suffer from loss of clarity after reduction, inadequate explanations or lack of consistency with the accompanying text; for example, those on pages 41, 126 and 456. Only two spelling errors were noticed by this reader: "pelecepod" on page 340 and "comformable" on page 406. The quality of paper, printing, binding and reproduction of plates is very good; however, I don't think I am being unduly nationalistic in wondering whether a Canadian printer cannot be found to turn out work of a similar high quality.

While this is not the type of book which will be read from cover to cover, except perhaps by reviewers, it contains a wealth of new information, important reviews and syntheses which will make it a standard reference for continuing research in each of the taxonomic groups/stratigraphic divisions which is covered. And, at the listed prices, it is a bargain.

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A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY. By P. A. TIKHMENEV. Translated and edited by RICHARD A. PIERCE and ALTON S. DONNELLY. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1978. 522 + xvi pp., drawings, maps, index. \$35. **A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY, VOL. 2, DOCUMENTS.** Translated by DMITRI KRENOV, edited by RICHARD A. PIERCE and ALTON S. DONNELLY. Materials for the Study of Alaska History, No. 13. Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1979. 257 + vii pp., drawings, maps, index. No price indicated.

Originally published in two volumes, with an appendix of documents, at St. Petersburg in 1861-63 as *A historical survey of the formation and activities of the Russian-American Company until the present time*, Petr Aleksandrovich Tikhmenev's work has been widely regarded as one of the most valuable sources available on the Russian-American Company. The Company, chartered in 1799, managed Russian America for the Imperial Government from that time until 1867 when the United States purchased what is now known as Alaska. The Company also established posts or conducted business in other Pacific Rim areas such as Siberia, Hawaii, and California; and attempted, unsuccessfully, to initiate trade with Japan. Until the publication of these translations, however, one of the early historical accounts of this significant commercial organization has not been generally available.

Both of these books are greatly enhanced by prefaces in which the editors critically review the

history of their writing by Tikhmenev, a Russian naval officer in the employ of the Russian-American Company. The editors also discuss earlier translations, beginning with the work of Ivan Petroff in the 1880's.

A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY is organized in two parts, and in twenty chapters traces the Company's development from the time of its formation until 1861. **VOL. 2, DOCUMENTS**, reproduces letters, reports, and other documents which were written by or to key officials of the Company or its predecessor trading organizations between 1783 and 1807. Extensive notes, a Glossary, and a list of Chief Managers of the Russian-American Company Colonies with their terms of service will aid the users of both books. The texts are accompanied by a number of informative maps and illustrations, not all of which appeared in the original publication.

Richard A. Pierce, who is Professor of History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has in the past published a number of books, articles, and translations concerning Russian America. This has often been done in cooperation with Alton S. Donnelly, Professor of History at the State University of New York, Binghamton. Their latest joint effort in these Tikhmenev translations adds a superb item to their list of past achievements and will allow wider use and study of one of the more important works on Russian exploration and trade in Alaska and the North Pacific.

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JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO THE NORTHERN WHALE-FISHERY. BY WILLIAM SCORESBY JUNIOR. Edinburgh, 1823. Reprinted 1980 by Caedmon of Whitby, 9 John Street, Whitby, Yorkshire, YO21 3ET. 472 pp. £13.95.

The Naval Arctic voyages of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are well covered by published narratives, log books, muster books, letters and other papers; but as anybody who has tried to deal with other Arctic voyages for the same period knows only too well, material on the whale fishery is exceedingly scarce, and few books have been published about their voyages. This is all the more regrettable since there were (in round figures) about a thousand whaling voyages to every naval voyage.

Fortunately for us, the whaling trade had one outstanding man, Captain William Scoresby, Junior, a skilled seaman, a successful whaling master, an outstanding navigator and surveyor and an educated man. Scoresby was an able scientist with an enquiring mind (as shown by his magnetic observations at the Royal Greenwich Observatory), and a Fellow of some of the leading learned societies, to which he made notewor-

thy communications from time to time. In recent years, the Caedmon of Whitby press have published reprints of his *My Father* (1852) and papers that Scoresby presented to the Wernerian Society in 1815 and to the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* in 1828. The Wernerian paper shows that years before Parry's unsuccessful attempt to reach the North Pole in 1827, Scoresby suggested that it was a doubtful proposition.

Tom and Cordelia Stamp (the proprietors of Caedmon of Whitby) have, in addition, written a biography of Scoresby.

In 1816, Scoresby first noted the loosening of the pack ice at the West Greenland fishery between Spitsbergen and Greenland, and in the following years he and his very able father made exploratory and commercial voyages in those waters.

In 1822, Scoresby made a voyage to the Greenland fishery in the *Baffin* of Liverpool, and in between his mercantile activities, he charted the coast of East Greenland from Gael Hamke's Land (lat. 75°N) to Cape Barclay (lat. 69°N), plotting at least 400 miles of coast. When it is remembered that some of this coast-line was laid down on bearing and estimated distance only, that he was hampered by the usual bad weather and that he had other preoccupations, it was highly creditable that his map should agree well with the modern chart, and was quite as good as that prepared in the following session by Commander D. C. Clavering, R.N., who oddly did not express his debt to Scoresby.

During this voyage of 1822, Scoresby continued his scientific observations in geology, botany, zoology and meteorology, which appear in the course of his narrative and in appendices: he added some useful information to the speculation about the existence of Eskimo on that coast, a matter which is a point for discussion even today. The narrative itself is, in effect, sailing directions for the Greenland Sea.

Scoresby's narrative is hard to find in libraries and second-hand copies seldom or never appear. It is therefore extremely useful to have this reprint.

The reproduction has been done well. The "views" of the coast and the plates are almost as good as the originals. Even the finest graduations on the charts are distinct. The text is printed on good paper and the book is well bound. It will be a boon and a blessing to many Arctic historians to be able to read this book at home instead of extracting notes in a library, because there is so much of value in it.

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STEFANSSON AND THE CANADIAN ARCTIC. BY RICHARD J. DIUBALDO. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1978. i-xii. 274 pp. Photographs, maps, chart, bibliography, index. Hardbound, \$18.95.

When students or veterans of the Arctic congregate, their conversation eventually turns to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the 100th anniversary of whose birth was noted with a photograph in the December 1979 issue of *Arctic*.

He was one of the greatest Arctic explorers of the era of small boats and dogteams, the first ethnologist to study and publicize the Copper or "blond" Eskimos of Coronation Gulf, whose language and survival techniques he mastered, and while living off the land or sea ice he discovered and mapped the last sizable islands in the Canadian High Arctic. He was also a prophet, foreseeing three decades before it became commonplace the criss-crossing of the North Polar area by airplanes and submarines.

As an explorer, he was at his best alone or with small groups of whites or Inuit. He got into difficulties as leader of his third, largest and final expedition (1913-18), with his role in what he called "The Adventure of Wrangel Island," and with his scheme for breeding reindeer on Baffin Island in the early 1920's.

He had loyal friends and admirers, and detractors and a few enemies besides. But now, nearly all of the members of his expeditions, friends and foes, are dead. None of his still-living friends met him until his days as an active explorer were past and he was becoming mellow; they knew him only during the second half of his life, when he supported himself as a learned scholar, author and lecturer expounding his ideas about the North.

As yet, the only published biographies of Stefansson were by friends, plus his posthumously published autobiography, *Discovery*. The latter was hardly critical of the author and contained almost no references to parts of his life he regarded as private.

The present book, concentrating on the Canadian Arctic phase of his career from 1906 to the mid-1920's, is based wholly on research for a doctoral thesis. In his Introduction, Dr. Diubaldo states: "This book does not seek to offer yet another biographical or geographical study of Stefansson's activities . . . Instead, it will try to look through and beyond Stefansson to examine the impact of the man and his ideas on the Canadian scene . . . One should not gain the impression that Stefansson's explorations are underplayed because these feats were negligible. Nothing could be further from the truth."

The author has done an admirable job. He has been objective throughout, presenting all sides