

BOOK REVIEWS

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose unoccupied base at Bache Peninsula was visited by the expedition. Two R.C.M.P. cairns were examined by the southern party on Axel Heiberg Island, one built by Inspector Joy (then Sergeant Joy) on May 14, 1926, and one by Stallworthy on April 23, 1932. Stallworthy's patrol was one of two journeys (the other under R. W. "Paddy" Hamilton) made in 1932 in search of the German expedition of 1930 (Krueger and Bjare). Vibe's Eskimos described Krueger's travelling technique as "very imperfect", and explained that after this disaster the Polar Eskimos had decided that in the future no Eskimo should go alone with any white man's expedition; that there should always be at least one Eskimo for each white man.

The expedition brought back specimens for various museums in Copenhagen, zoological, botanical and geological. For most of the members it was a training expedition, and a very successful one. Vibe's account contains many intriguing moments and stories, some of which will serve to close this review: (1) Vibe's efforts to explain to Inotersuak and Naduk why they must not shoot musk-oxen; and the Eskimo point of view "yes, but . . . the Canadian police don't understand about musk-oxen . . . look, wolves eat many musk-oxen . . . I will shoot two wolves for every musk-ox." All to no avail; the law stands. (2) The message in Greenlandic Eskimo, written on a pemmican-tin, announcing the invasion of Denmark, for the benefit of the southern party: "The Germans are robbing the Danes of all their meat,

FRIDTJOF NANSEN OG KNUD RASMUSSEN: EN SLÆGTSSTUDIE

By EIGIL KNUTH. Gyldendal, Copenhagen, 1948. pp. 48.

In this genealogical study Eigil Knuth has shown rather convincingly that Norway's and Denmark's two most gifted and inspired arctic travellers and writers descended from a common Dutch ancestor, Gert Adriansen Geelmuyden, who died in Bergen, Norway, in 1701.



(Photo: Chr. Vibe)

Message to van Hauen Expedition written in Greenlandic Eskimo on old pemmican can. It announces the Nazi invasion of Denmark.

but the King is safe. There is no more kerosene in the store." (3) The celebration in Bay Fjord before the two parties separated, when the wine was impatiently eaten frozen, like candy. (4) The difficulty of explaining to the Polar Eskimo that soil has value in more southern lands, that it can produce food, just as the sea does for the Eskimo. (5) The deep impression which Thorlaksson's singing of Icelandic ballads made on the Eskimos, causing Inoterssuak several times to suggest that Thorlaksson marry a Polar Eskimo girl, so that his genius should not be lost to the stock.

M. J. DUNBAR.

Although in character as well as in outlook and appearance Nansen and Rasmussen were as different as two men could be, both, from their earliest youth, were deeply imbued with the desire for exploration, adventure and travel. For Nansen the ultimate motive was scientific discovery; for Rasmussen it was love of travel among primitive peoples. Both possessed to an unusual degree the ability to inspire and make others share in their discoveries. Both were great leaders of

men who through their work and achievement rose, in their own lifetimes, to become internationally known and universally acclaimed within their chosen fields. At home they were deeply loved and nationally worshipped public heroes.

Both Nansen and Rasmussen possessed

those mystic characteristics which make men go seeking "the wilderness stone" and which a thousand years ago produced the Vikings. It seems fitting and natural that those two great men should have sprung from the same root.

A. E. PORSILD.

GABA,

DEN LILLE GRÖNLAENDER.

Written and illustrated by GITZ-JOHANSEN. Gyldendal, Copenhagen, 1947. 24 pp. Kr. 5.35.

ARNAJARAK.

Text by FREDERIK NIELSEN, illustrations by GITZ-JOHANSEN. Ejnar Munksgaards Forlag, Copenhagen, 1948. 22 pp. Kr. 5.00.

Gaba is the story of a little boy who lives in East Greenland. It is for children between three- and seven-years-old. Although the story is written in Danish, the coloured drawings are so good that it can be understood even if you cannot read the language. One example is when *Gaba* is shown skiing with his friends. There is a picture on one page and opposite it is the story which, when translated, reads: "In the spring *Gaba* ski'd among the hills with his friends." *Gaba* would be a good book for American and Cana-

dian children.

Arnajarak is a Greenlandic girl and the book tells of her adventures when she is driven away from home by her wicked stepmother. She finds a little house belonging to some dwarfs who work in a coal mine among the hills. The story tells of the adventures of the little coal miners and about the animals and birds they meet. It is written in verse in both Greenlandic-Eskimo and Danish and there is a coloured drawing to illustrate each group of verses.

The book is suitable for children between six- and thirteen-years-old. Although the pictures are very interesting and amusing, the story cannot be followed properly unless you can read the verses. Both Frederik Nielsen, who lives in Greenland, and Gitz-Johansen of Copenhagen prepared this book for the children of Greenland without being paid for their work.

MONA LLOYD.

GREEN SEAS AND WHITE ICE.

By MIRIAM MACMILLAN. Dodd, Mead and Co., New York, 1948. 287 pp. \$4.00.

Why does Commander Donald B. MacMillan make his annual ventures to the northern seas? Why did he take it upon himself to establish and support a school for Eskimo children at Nain, Labrador? What is this "spell of the far North" that seems to get into one's blood and send him back again and again to what many consider a land of desolation?

In *Green Seas and White Ice* Miriam MacMillan gives us a clear and concise answer. She has indeed caught the spirit of her famous husband. She has become a part of his almost legendary ventures—some twenty-seven polar expeditions—and brings to the reader this spirit of adventure and exploration of little known lands.

Many accounts of polar exploration are written in a dry, matter of fact, scientific manner and catch only the interest of the student of exploration. Miriam MacMillan wisely avoids this, and has written her account with wide appeal. It is a personal story of how, as a girl, she watched her hero sail away to the far North and met him on the dock when he returned. They were later married, but "Cap'n Mac" said it was too dangerous to take her North, and besides the crew of the *Bowdoin* would not like to have a woman on board. By her own deliberate design she broke down the traditional barrier of "no women", and after having made six voyages, Miriam is truly an indispensable veteran, not only as an able crew member of the *Bowdoin*, and ship's hostess, too, but also as an author and lecturer. With her the reader meets the friendly Eskimos, inches