

friendships were begun during these years, but not much else was derived from Cambridge University.

Mr Wollaston quite often refers to the family riches, perhaps not always with appropriate significance. August's life was a long struggle against wealth, trying to conceal it from unmonied friends. I would like to have read more of what he did, largely by stealth, making funds available for exploration.

His own Arctic experience began in undergraduate days on two of James Wordie's summer expeditions to East Greenland. (The future Master of John's deserves a better description than 'a dry diminutive Scot'.) But August, himself, was by this time producing material, for his almost daily correspondence with his future wife had begun—and has been preserved. What is quoted (one is grateful that it is not too much) is, however, more descriptive of mood than action.

There followed the Sahara adventure with Francis and Peter Rodd—well described—then the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, 1930–31 lead by Gino Watkins. He was not originally a friend (they did not know each other at Trinity) but became, with the possible exception of Francis Rodd, August's only living hero. He described his death as 'the worst blow for England that I can think of'. Early in the air route expedition he wrote for Mollie Montgomerie thumbnail sketches of all the party. Only two are quoted. He was already praising Gino, though much less extravagantly. About himself he was of course ridiculously rude. But he said one true thing: '... is too tough to come to any harm and will come out much as he went in ...'. That was most strikingly proved by his five months lonely garrison duty at the ice cap station. Once he had washed and shaved you could not discern any difference. His biographer devotes two chapters to this achievement, which it fully deserves. He titles the second 'Rescue'—which would have annoyed August.

I regret the last page or so of the book. When a man is possessed by the devils of disease his behaviour should not be recorded, particularly by insinuation. I was fortunate that in my last glimpse of him in the King Edward VII Hospital he revealed the old spirit. 'Lots of famous admirals and generals have died here', he said truculently.

### NORTHERN MINORITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION

[Review by Terence Armstrong\* of *BAM i narody severa*, edited by V. I. Boyko. Novosibirsk, Izdatel'stvo 'Nauka', 1979, 176 p.]

This book contains the results of a social survey carried out in 1976 among some of the local inhabitants of the country through which the Baykal-Amur railway is now being constructed. The idea was to sample the impact of the railway on this remote region. Only the central section of the route is included in the area of the survey—that which falls administratively in Amurskaya Oblast' and the southernmost corner of Yakutskaya ASSR; and in that area, six settlements with predominantly Evenki inhabitants were selected—Pervomayskiy, Ust'-Urkima, Ust'-Nyukzha, Bomnak, and Ivanovskiy, all in Amurskaya Oblast', and Zolotinka in Yakutskaya ASSR. The combined population was about 3 400, 65 per cent Evenki and 35 per cent Russian; and most seem to have been involved in the survey.

Most interestingly, the results give, what is rare in Soviet publications, an ethnically-distinguished description of society. It is not common to find factual material illustrating social attitudes in Soviet society, but rarer to find such attitudes subdivided by the ethnic origin of the holder. Thus, there is detailed information about employment patterns, job satisfaction levels, cultural preferences, and career planning as they pertain to both Evenki and Russians. The results are too complex to summarize here, but some pointers which emerge are these: 74 per cent of the native workforce is engaged in manual labour, compared to 32 per cent of the Russian workforce; the proportion of natives in industry is seven times smaller than that of Russians, while the proportion of natives in reindeer husbandry and hunting is 140 times larger than that of Russians; the number of natives with high professional qualifications is lower, but not vastly lower, than that of Russians (roughly 1:1.5); while the proportion of Evenki wanting for example, to

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change jobs or leave the district is closely similar to that of Russians. On the central issue of the book—the impact of the railway—the point which emerges clearly is that the traditional native pursuits of reindeer husbandry and hunting are strongly based, are likely to continue and even grow.

The editor, who was also one of the principal contributors to the volume, has been the pioneer over the last ten years in studies of this kind, and he deserves our thanks for this new, interesting and carefully prepared work.

### A COMPELLING TALE

[Review by Sydney Miller\* of Captain Charles H. Barnard's *Marooned*, edited by Bertha S. Dodge, Middletown, Connecticut, Wesleyan University Press, 1979, xiv, 263 p, illus. Hardcover US\$ 18.70.]

Charles Barnard, an experienced American sealing captain, had made several voyages to the Falkland Islands during the early 19th century. In September 1812 he anchored his vessel, *Nanina*, in Hooker's Harbour, New Island and continued sealing in the shallow, *Young Nanina*. An American vessel, *Hope*, arrived the following January when Barnard learnt of the outbreak of war between the US and Britain. While sealing south-east of West Falkland he noticed smoke on an island then known as Eagle Island (now Speedwell); there he found the crew and passengers of the British ship, *Isabella*, wrecked on passage from Australia to England. Instead of being grateful to be rescued, on hearing of the hostilities, the party seized *Nanina* while Barnard was away hunting for food. At a time when the Falklands had been temporarily abandoned by the British Navy, he was left marooned on New Island with three companions and no food or equipment to survive the winter months. The story of their survival until being rescued five months later is recounted in great detail by Barnard in *Marooned*, first printed in 1829 now republished 150 years later. Their shelter built from beach stones, driftwood and seal skins still stands today as part of a cow byre.

Mrs Dodge has been indefatigable in her research into sources that have confirmed the accuracy of Barnard's narrative, despite the 15 year period between his rescue in November 1814 and the first publication of *Marooned*. She suggests that he may have kept a rough log written with a primitive kind of ink on parchment made from dried skins of seal pups. Either Barnard had an excellent memory or these parchment skins survived his further travels after his rescue, for two more years elapsed before he finally reached home.

It is a compelling and dramatic tale of human treachery and survival: a part of Falkland Islands history that can stir our pride in British hearts.

## IN BRIEF

### ANTARCTIC CONSERVATION CONVENTION

In May 1980 representatives of 15 nations (the Antarctic Treaty nations plus East and West Germany) met at a conference in Canberra to discuss the conservation of the Southern Ocean's living resources in the face of a growing fishing industry in the area. The conference was able to agree on a convention to prevent over-fishing by regulating commercial exploitation of marine life; it also elected to establish an international commission of experts to study the food chain of the Southern Ocean and to recommend measures to protect species. About 35 million square

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