

pages of this volume. Both firms are still in business and have contributed generously to the costs of publication.

Although essentially a volume to be savoured for the quality and originality of its illustrative content, the editors are to be congratulated on the accompanying text, intended primarily to remind the reader of the main events in the expedition's history. This is contained in 12 chapters, the first being an introduction outlining the events leading to the much-quoted declaration of the Sixth International Geographical Congress in London in 1895 that 'the exploration of the Antarctic regions is the greatest piece of geographical exploration still to be undertaken.' This was a clarion call that, in spite of prevailing international rivalries, was to lead to the first attempt at a concerted effort to resolve a number of outstanding questions relating to the south polar regions, perhaps the most immediate being the whereabouts of the South Magnetic Pole and whether or not an Antarctic continent actually existed. There follows a brief summary of Sir Clements Markham's efforts to sting a begrudging Board of Admiralty into providing the necessary support and an uncooperative Royal Society into playing its part in a joint venture. Chapters 2–11 follow the fortunes of the expedition from the launching of *Discovery* and her final departure from England to her triumphant return in September 1904. Each episode in the expedition's progress is briefly outlined, followed by relevant extracts from the published edition of Wilson's diaries and brief extracts from Skelton's personal diaries, many in print here for the first time.

Each page of the quarto-size book is liberally illustrated in colour and in black and white. In keeping with their declared dislike of 'revelations' the authors in their text take great pains to avoid controversy. Thus the suffering of the Southern Party is but lightly touched upon, as are the problems with the dogs and Shackleton's controversial return to England on the relief ship. A concluding chapter entitled 'One hundred years on' bridges a century by drawing a parallel between the NASA space shuttle *Discovery* and Scott's vessel, thereby associating both with a 'long and illustrious succession of vessels of scientific exploration.' In addition to a select bibliography, the volume concludes with a list of all the illustrations reproduced, quoting the artist's name, title, provenance, and document reference. Both authors therefore are to be congratulated on a joint venture that is not only a delightful book in which to browse but also, and more importantly, a valuable work of reference for the student of polar art. (H.G.R. King, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

THE ARCTIC: ENVIRONMENT, PEOPLE, POLICY. Mark Nuttall and Terry V. Callaghan (Editors). 2000. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers. xxxviii + 647 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 90-5823-087-2. £78.00; US\$118.00; EUR 124.

What are the prospects, in an age of scientific specialization, for the cross-disciplinary regional reference book? In some respects it seems a nostalgic artifact. So far as the Arctic is concerned, it was not so long ago that the edited collection was a standard documentary form, offering an

intellectual arcade stretching from polar lands and seas to fish and wildlife to social organizations, politics, and market economies. In other respects, however, the modern Arctic reference book points the way to the future and the possibility for a new level of insight through inter-disciplinary synthesis. Both attitudes can be posed squarely to this collection. It offers 22 chapters, all peer-reviewed, in a survey of current Arctic scientific knowledge.

It is, in the opinion of this reviewer, a reference tool that all Arctic research units will find useful to consult. At the same time, by its structure as much as its content, *The Arctic* offers some telling insights into the state of the field. This begins with the principles by which the volume is organized. There appear to be two schemas fighting for control of the same collection. The first, announced in the subtitle, suggests a predominant social-science perspective geared to contemporary politics and set in an environmental context. However this is at odds with the second schema, reflected in the four-part structure of the table of contents. Here the organizing categories are more sweeping, if traditional, domains: physical science, life science, social science, and anthropogenic impacts. Furthermore, the particular terminology suggests an incommensurability among the main parts, as geophysical processes contrast to biological and ecological science and social and political dimensions. It appears that interdisciplinary breadth is expected to emerge principally within the traditional cognate fields. Geology and glaciology fit with oceanography and meteorology; marine and terrestrial ecosystems with medicine and physical anthropology; social anthropology and demography with geopolitics and resource management. Some readers will be surprised by the short shrift accorded to economics. Yet one expects that the editors were drawn toward the ecumenical potential of hybrid frameworks like social anthropology, geopolitics, and political economy. For the most part, these fulfil the expectations, although more might have been made of the reasons behind these choices. The one unit that strains to break type is part four, which surveys anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Here the causal lines run both ways, as the science and politics of global change intersect frequently. The tensions between western and indigenous knowledge are probed, while both of these domains are captured in the vectors of Arctic environmental diplomacy.

Might there be other sub-disciplines that could further the integrative ambitions of the volume? Perhaps the art and science of impact assessment would serve well, as might the sustainable development paradigm, which is markedly understated in these pages. Despite the ambiguities of core terminology and the challenges of operationalizing the vision of sustainable development, it remains a paradigm of considerable creative potential. To conclude, there is much in this ambitious volume to tempt the student of the Arctic and to stimulate possibilities for cross-disciplinary work. If the presentation tends to follow familiar and traditional categories, it nonetheless provides a solid point of reference and departure for more adventurous synthesis. (Peter Clancy, Department of Political Science, St Francis Xavier University, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2W5, Canada.)