

their connections, and archaeology. There are also accounts of the palaeontology and archaeology of particular areas in north-east Asia and North America. Most of the papers deal with Late Cenozoic time, or with the Quaternary, only a minority covering the Tertiary in any detail. The treatment of vegetation history varies from general surveys of areas with little detail attached, to more factual accounts of recent (in 1973) research. Of the latter, there are good outline accounts of variations in vegetation types in north-east Asia in the Quaternary as a whole and in the late Quaternary in more detail. Several of the papers refer to the attributes of the Kharginsky interglacial some 50,000 years ago, and there are valuable discussions of the very interesting biome of tundra-steppe communities, now very restricted in range but formerly much more extensive. A paper by Yutsev synthesises the biota history in the Late Cenozoic. On the zoological side, there are contributions on the migration of proboscideans, rodents, lagomorphs and on mammalian faunas as a whole, and on the changes which may have led to present distributions of various elements of the present fauna of north-east Asia and North America. The archaeological section contains accounts of particular sites or areas, of relations between the archaeology of north-east Asia and North America and of the history of indigenous peoples in the area.

From this brief survey it will be seen that the contributions in the volume will be valuable for anyone who is interested in Holarctic biogeography in a broad or narrow sense, and not only in Beringia. Even though the papers are of 1973 vintage, they provide a good insight into the way palaeontology, palaeoecology and systematics are providing important basic data for the study of the present flora, fauna, population and climate. The translator, D. Löve, is to be commended for enabling a much wider audience to take advantage of the results of recent research in Beringia. (R. G. West, The Botany School, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EA)

BRIEF REVIEWS

STUDIES OF SEA MAMMALS IN SOUTH LATITUDES. Ling, J. K. and Bryden, M. M. (editors). 1985. Adelaide, South Australia Museum. 132 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-7243-6761-6. A\$16.50.

A compilation of nine research papers presented at the 52nd ANZAAS Congress of May 1982. Three of the papers are on southern elephant seals *Mirounga leonina*, covering size, status and demography (McCann), tagging studies of young males in the Vestfold Hills of Antarctica (Burton), and endocrine regulation of breeding on Macquarie Island (Griffiths). The fourth paper is on milk production and pup growth in Weddell seals *Leptonychotes weddelli* (Tedman), and the fifth deals with the taxonomy, biogeography and life history of South African and Australian fur seals *Arctocephalus pusillus* (Warneke and Shaughnessy). The remaining four papers include a history of whales in the southern hemisphere (Fordyce), recent work on southern right whales *Eubalaena australis* and humpbacks *Megaptera novaeangliae* off Western Australia (Bannister), studies of humpbacks in Area V (Bryden) and a contingency plan for cetacean strandings in Australia (Anderson). Available directly from the South Australia Museum; the price includes postage and packing.

ARCTIC WHALING: Proceedings of the international symposium on Arctic whaling, February 1983. s'Jacobs, H. K. (editor). 1984. Groningen, University of Groningen. 181 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 90-800042-1-9.