Polar Research Center in September, acknowledged that "I am not a historian but a librarian."

Authors should not be held to the fire for the excessive publicity of their publishers, but there should be some accountability for the assertion that Mr. Bryce was "the only one to have studied [the Cook papers] in detail and the only scholar with the right to publish excerpts." Not so, as at least two others and this reviewer have researched the same materials and published from them. Yet what may be the most troubling for those interested in history is the subtitle, which asserts that this book has somehow "resolved" the controversy (Bryce dismisses both Peary's and Cook's claims). The reader must decide this, but those about to embark on this thousand plus-page experience should know that any "resolution" demands further reading and checking of authors and writers ignored or curtly dismissed in the reference notes.

Surprisingly, Bryce ignores an extensive body of European literature on the controversy, presumably because Europeans would defer to the opinion of American writers on "their" candidates for Polar honors. Bryce dismisses Canadian Farley Mowat as expounding "anti-establishment" theories because of his advocacy of Cook. He seeds doubt about the integrity of others who have researched the Cook-Peary story before him, including Thomas F. Hall, who 80 years ago published the first extensive field analysis of both explorers, and Dennis Rawlins, a contemporary critic of both explorers who as much as anyone debunked the Peary claim more than two decades ago.

The myth surrounding Peary had remained unassailed through three generations of critics until British explorer Wally Herbert—ironically, at the invitation of virtually Peary's last institutional defender, the National Geographic Society—reexamined the Peary claims in 1991. To the Society's dismay, Herbert (1990) declared that Peary had not been at the geographical Pole. Forgotten scholars like Britain's J. Gordon Hayes had consigned the Peary claim to an Arctic limbo 60 years earlier, yet Bryce devotes but a few paragraphs to their work. The book's title suggests a dual biography, but the author treats Peary as a character intertwined with Cook.

For reasons only the author knows, he only mentioned a three-day symposium on Cook held at the Byrd Polar Research Center in 1993, at which he heard Herbert, Rawlins, French explorer Jean Malaurie, and ice travellers Brian Shoemaker, Joseph Fletcher, and others expound on Cook. Bryce also dismisses with a note an expedition that followed Cook's route to Mt. McKinley a year later.

The book will be welcome in those libraries that include collections on exploration and discovery as well as on Polar research. It is also essentially American social history and politics, for the fine selection of illustrations and cartoons portrays the press attention and commentary through which this debate fascinated the public in the years prior to World War I. Only the dedicated collector of Polar titles will not wait for remainder catalogues for this one. Despite this book's title, its controversy will likely remain unresolved into the next century.

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Russell W. Gibbons
Frederick A. Cook Collection
207 Grandview Drive South
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A
15215

THE ALPINE FLORA OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, VOLUME 1, THE MIDDLE ROCKIES. By RICHARD W. SCOTT, Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1995. ix + 901 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index, appendices. Hardbound. US$110.00.

As subjects become better known but more complex, books often cover smaller slices of a subject. *The Alpine Flora of the Middle Rockies* by R.W. Scott is no exception. Its large format, length, and coverage of only alpine areas of Wyoming and mountain ranges in adjacent Utah, Idaho, and Montana would at first appear to give it limited use. This, however, is not the case, for most species of the southern Rockies (Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico) and many for the northern Rockies (Montana, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon) are included.

Interesting aspects of this book, seldom found in a flora, are the background pages devoted to ecologically describing the alpine zone and the adaptations of these plants. The ecology section is followed by a section on the geomorphology and glaciation within the area. The individual mountain ranges are then described geologically.

The alpine flora of 609 species and 55 subspecies is outlined via the 36 families and 204 genera represented. The species richness of this alpine flora is demonstrated by comparison with the circumpolar arctic flora of 892 species. Scott further relates floristic richness per mountain range by showing that the Hoback Range, the smallest, has 92 species, while the largest ranges, Absaroka, Beartooth, and Wind River, have the largest floras (392, 374, and 413 species respectively). The three largest families are the Asteraceae (108 spp.), Poaceae (55 spp.), and the Cyperaceae (54 spp.); of the 204 genera, 96 are represented by a single species. Scott lists eight disjunct and often rare species that are more common to the southern or northern Rockies or to the Arctic. Endemic species, species more common at lower elevations, and species found at the highest elevations are listed along with 37 species that were expected, but have not yet been found in these mountain ranges.

Following the keys to families, the families are presented in alphabetical order along with the genera and species within that family. Each species is presented on a separate page that includes a line drawing of the plant, often with detailed inserts on flowers, fruits, or seeds (including size of structures), a map with dot locations, a species description with habitat information, general geographic distribution, and a detailed synonymy. The species, often with common names, are well described, and the line drawings will greatly aid correct identifications.

Appendices include glossaries of alpine terminology and botanical terms, chromosome numbers, and details on the authors of species names.

Biologists will find this volume very helpful when dealing with the alpine flora of this limited area. As noted above, it will be useful throughout much of the Rocky Mountain region. Its large size, however, will limit its ease of carrying in the field.

Lawrence C. Bliss
Department of Botany
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.
98177

AN ARCTIC VOYAGE TO BAFFIN'S BAY AND LANCASTER SOUND IN SEARCH OF FRIENDS WITH SIR JOHN FRANKLIN. By ROBERT ANSTRUTHER GOODSIR. West Sussex, England: The Arctic Press, 1996. (Available from Patrick Walcot, 60 Sunnybank Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 5RJ, U.K.; Fax 44 121 3861251.) viii + 152 p., map, b&w illus., bib. as footnotes. Originally published by J. Van Voorst in London, 1850. £25/US$40.00.

By the spring of 1849, concern about the fate of Franklin and his men had not been stilled by any positive news from the Arctic. James Clark Ross's search expedition, which had left England a year earlier, would not be back from the Arctic until fall or later, depending on its success in extricating the ships from an icy winter harbour. The author of this book, Robert Goodsir, had a very personal interest in the welfare of the Franklin expedition: his brother, Harry Goodsir, was the assistant surgeon (acting) on board the H.M.S. *Erebus*.

Having heard of Mr. William Penny, an Aberdeen whaling master with an outstanding reputation and immense experience in the eastern Arctic whale fishery, Robert Goodsir offered his services (as ship's surgeon, one assumes) as a way of getting to the Arctic. If opportunity allowed, he would search for evidence of the lost Franklin expedition. It should be remarked that in 1849 William Penny's motivation for going north was the same that it had always been: whaling. Searching for Franklin and his men was clearly of secondary importance, a fact which was undoubtedly made clear to Robert Goodsir at the beginning of the voyage, since he voices no objections to the very short time eventually spent on the search for evidence of the lost expedition.

The *Advice* left Stromness on 17 March 1849, "running past Hoy Head with a light, but fair wind, and standing right to the westward" (p. 1). Ten days later, Goodsir experienced his first major storm at sea. The ship had been hove to under close-reefed topsail, riding a building sea. Goodsir had just gone below when a huge wave threw her on her beams ends. The quarterdeck was swept nearly clean, and two men were lost overboard. Two other seamen were seriously injured and became Goodsir's first patients.

As soon as they entered the first streams of ice, preparations were made for fishing. The seven harpooners on board checked the gear needed for a successful whale hunt and personally spliced the harpoon lines together before coiling them in the boat. Goodsir provides an excellent description of life on a whaling ship, stormy seas, and the dangers inherent in maneuvering through the pack ice. On 23 April, they crossed the Arctic Circle and spent time in Exeter Sound on the east coast of Cumberland Peninsula. From here Captain Penny took his ship over to the Greenland side of Davis Strait and cruised the waters of Disco Bay. Encounters with native Greenlanders and Danish administrators are described in very positive terms. The Danes in particular were anxious about news from Europe, since Denmark was engaged with the German Confederation in the dispute over Schleswig-Holstein. In early June, the ship left the Black Hook fishing ground and headed northward, passed Upernavik and the Devil's Thumb, and entered Melville Bay, the crossing of which "is viewed by the whalers with the greatest dread" (p. 42). Goodsir cites the losses of 14 ships in 1819, 11 in 1821, and 7 in 1822. Then came the disastrous year of 1830, when 19 ships were lost, leaving nearly a thousand men on the ice. Aboard the *Advice*, preparations for crossing Melville Bay included the hoisting of provisions and other necessities onto the deck in case the ship should be nipped by the ice. Of the eleven ships accompanying them on the crossing, two were seriously damaged and two totally destroyed. Goodsir provides an excellent description of cutting (sawing) a dock into thick ice floes, using saw blades 14 feet long, and tracking (hauling) ships along open leads in the ice. It was not until 1 July that Goodsir could report the sighting of Cape York and his first meeting with Ross's "Arctic Highlanders," the ancestors of the present-day Inughuit of North Greenland. Goodsir relates accounts of sailors from the 1830 disaster who came across winter house settlements near Cape York where all the inhabitants had died, presumably from disease. The party continued northward along Ross's "Crimson Cliffs," passed Dalrymple Rock, crossed to the south of the Carey Islands, and ran passed an ice-filled Lancaster Sound on 8 July. Looking westward into the sound, Goodsir could only hope that time and conditions would eventually allow the ship to join the search for the missing Franklin expedition.

In Pond Inlet they met up with the whaling ship *St. Andrew* which, to the annoyance of Goodsir, had managed to get through Melville Bay and enter Pond Inlet a full month earlier. Although very careful in his account of meeting the *St. Andrew*, Goodsir makes it clear that had he crossed earlier, Captain Penny would have had a real opportunity to search