

help bring additional life to the text. The quality of reproduction, however, does not do justice to the artist. Based on my field of expertise (large mammals), the material is well researched and factual. I recommend, however, that the bibliography be updated in future editions.

I believe the authors have achieved their purpose of providing the reader with an overview of the natural character and flavor of southeast Alaska. This is not a book for experts to learn more about their discipline, although even experts will find interesting reading about species and interrelationships outside their field of study. I recommend this book to both residents and visitors interested in the natural history of south coastal Alaska and coastal British Columbia. *The Nature of Southeast Alaska* will increase people's knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of this unique coastal bioregion. This book should also fill a niche as an important resource for the new and expanding interest in wildlife viewing and ecotourism.

John W. Schoen  
Senior Conservation Biologist  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
U.S.A.

EXPLORATION OF ALASKA 1865-1900. By MORGAN B. SHERWOOD. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1992. 207 p., 41 illus., bib., index, 10 maps. Softbound. US\$15.00.

As the title suggests, this book is about the pioneering explorations into the Alaskan interior in the latter half of the 19th century by the Western Union Telegraph Company, U.S. Army, U.S. Geological Survey, and others. The book has recently been reissued — it is the second in the University of Alaska Press Classic Reprint Series. This study was originally published in Yale's Western American Series. In keeping with the central theme of the series, it "tends to emphasize the hitherto-neglected role of the national government in charting the American West" (Cunliffe, 1967).

Morgan Sherwood believes that "exploratory activities by the federal government in Alaska were extensive," given the existing social attitudes and preoccupations in the United States (such as the reformation after the Civil War) and the fact that Alaska's small population was politically impotent. The author thinks that the main focus for further Alaskan historical research should be the scientific exploration of Alaska, not its political evolution. Sherwood works to present a balanced account "between the impersonal institutional approach and excessive attention to individual heroism." A further goal was not only to present the physical data, but to reveal something about the background of the men and institutions who interpreted that data. The study area is the inland Subarctic, essentially the territory south of the Brooks Range. The temporal framework begins in 1865, the year of the first methodical exploration of Alaska by the Western Union Telegraph Company, and ends in 1900, a somewhat arbitrary date, but one based on administrative, political, and scientific factors.

Sherwood gives a realistic evaluation of the significance of the Western Union Telegraph Company Expedition, which later may have indirectly influenced the United States decision to purchase Alaska. A chapter is devoted to the scientific career of William Healey Dall, who often frustrates historians and anthropologists because of his errors and ambiguous generalizations. The author puts Dall's work into a broader perspective, which caused James VanStone (1965) to comment that "they tend to forget, or are ignorant of his [Dall's] accomplishments in other fields and his accurate assessment of the future needs of the newly acquired territory."

Another predominant figure of the period is Ivan Petroff, who was a major contributor to Bancroft's *History of Alaska* and the Tenth

Census of 1880 (two of the three most influential books on Alaska published in the 19th century). Sherwood highlights many of the inconsistencies in Petroff's background and work, as well as pointing out his sometimes less than ethical methods. For example, Petroff was a journalist, not a scientist, but with clever plagiarism of Dall's ethnographic data, he created the illusion that he was "at least" Dall's equal as an ethnographer. Also, Sherwood believes that Petroff's census report was of "doubtful accuracy," but probably as good as could be done in the circumstances.

A major portion of this book is devoted to U.S. government-sponsored military explorations, including the expeditions of Raymond, Schwatka, Allen, Abercrombie, Cantwell, Stoney, and others. Sherwood writes that Lieutenant Frederick "Schwatka's wanderlust was both intellectual and geographical." After graduating from West Point, Schwatka studied law and medicine while serving at different army posts. He was eventually admitted to the Nebraska bar and also received a medical degree from New York's Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Of Lieutenant Henry Allen's 1885 expedition, which covered over 1500 miles and charted three major river systems for the first time, the author thinks it "deserves to be ranked with the great explorations of North America."

Also described are the more specifically scientific contributions of Turner, Nelson, and Jacobsen, plus others, and the valuable support of the Smithsonian Institution, as well as the role of prospectors and missionaries. Leroy McQuesten, a Yukon River trader and prospector, explored part of the Koyukuk River, obtaining rare mammalian species for Nelson, and also collected census information for Petroff. Some explorers gained fame from being "versed in the art of advertising," rather than from the rigors or the results of their expeditions. In 1896, W.A. Dickey led a small expedition no more than 50 miles up the Susitna River to its fork. Later, he reported additional information obtained from prospectors who had traveled the distance up the Talkeetna and Chulitna rivers. Dickey received wide acclaim when accounts of his "journey" were published in the *New York Sun* and *National Geographic Magazine*. Finally, the last chapter of the book is devoted to the work of the U.S. Geological Survey and the outstanding contributions of Alfred Brooks.

Sherwood clearly describes the underlying political, economic, and philosophical forces acting on events taking place in Alaska during this period. For reader comprehension, it is desirable to present both the contextual framework of the period and the human element. To that end, the author gives the characters dimension, so that the readers understand more about the reasons behind the explorers' actions. Part of the enjoyment of this text is learning about the people involved. The book has a few minor shortcomings. Sherwood failed to mention Father Jules Jette', who, before the turn of the century, started to gather what was to become a substantial collection of ethnographic and linguistic information about interior Athabaskans. Also, the book's central thesis is rather subjective, even though its slant provides a necessary balance, considering previous works, and the author supplies enough evidence to support his thesis. Overall, the book is a most competent work, it is well edited, the maps are informative and coordinated with the text, and the illustrations, consisting of photographs and drawings, are excellent reproductions. In his 1965 review of the book, VanStone (1965) predicted that this text "will surely be a basic source for many years to come." This projection has certainly come true; today scholars consider this volume to be a landmark in Alaskan historical literature. This edition continues to be a valuable resource of information and enjoyment to laymen, students, and professionals. I recommend it to anyone interested in the exploration and history of Alaska.

#### REFERENCES

- CUNLIFFE, M. 1967. Exploration of Alaska, 1865-1900. (Book Review.) *English Historical Review* 82:189-190.

VANSTONE, J.W. 1965. Exploration of Alaska, 1865-1900. (Book Review.)  
Science 148:789-790.

Thomas J. Turck  
USDA Forest Service  
Heritage Resource Program  
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area  
902 Wasco Avenue, Suite 200  
Hood River, Oregon 97031  
U.S.A.

POLAR PORTRAITS: COLLECTED PAPERS. By A.G.E. JONES.  
Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby, 1992. 428 p., illus. Hardbound,  
£25.50. Softbound, £14.50.

Few books have more protein and less roughage than this collection of the papers of A.G.E. Jones, the noted polar and maritime historian. In 428 pages are reprinted some fifty of his articles that originally appeared in well-known journals, for example, *Polar Record* and *Mariner's Mirror* (not *Mariners' Mirror*, as is claimed in the contents page), and in some not so well known, for example, the *Falkland Islands Journal* and the *Royal Naval Medical Service Journal*. The publishers, Caedmon of Whitby, whose works on Scoresby, Rae and James Clark Ross are found on the shelves of all polar libraries, have, presumably in the interests of economy, printed direct copies of the papers as originally presented.

There are some infelicities. The most serious of these is that those articles that appeared in a page size that could not be accommodated in the volume are not included, and these omissions are some of Jones's most important contributions. More to the point, not all of those that appeared in journals the page size of which would permit inclusion are presented, such as his paper "The voyage of the *Hopefull* and the *Rose*, 1833-34," published in *Mariner's Mirror* in 1965. Less significant is that in one article, "Robert Shedden and the *Nancy Dawson*," reprinted from a note in *Mariner's Mirror*, the footnotes are not collected at the bottom of the page but are interspersed in the text. Moreover, while most of the original illustrations have reprinted well, some have had to be rephotographed or new pictures introduced, and there are no cross references with the articles, though in most cases they are obvious enough. Unfortunately, in at least one article, "Voyages to South Georgia, 1795-1820," the illustrations seem to have been completely omitted. The article "John Biscoe's Voyage Round the World, 1830-1833" is wrongly attributed in the contents to the *Falkland Islands Journal*, rather than to *Mariner's Mirror*, in which it appeared, and the immediately following article, "John Biscoe in the Falkland Islands, 1830-1832," is omitted from the contents altogether. Furthermore, the selection of articles seems to have been somewhat odd, bearing in mind the title of the book, since in one case, "Sir Thomas Slade, 1703/4-1771," the subject had no obvious polar connection at all, except for being the builder in 1759 of HMS *Carcass*, which participated in the 1773 expedition to Spitzbergen and in which sailed midshipman Horatio Nelson. All the above features are irritating and some make for uneven reading, which is accentuated by Jones's rather jerky and abrupt style.

However, this is to cavil. What a feast is here for a rainy winter's evening or an interminable flight. Each article is based upon thorough and detailed research in the archives, and those that focus on individuals present an authoritative portrait of the subject. It is in the unravelling of intricate detail of chart and log that Jones is at his strongest, and it is here that he places us most in his debt. But he goes further and seeks to exercise his historical judgment in a way that is often idiosyncratic and sometimes open to serious objection, but which is always astute and thought provoking.

Significant articles in the collection include "Scott's Transport, 1911-12," which is an account of the use of dogs, ponies, motor sledges and skis on the last expedition, two papers on James Clark Ross covering the voyage of HMS *Cove* (1835-36) and his Franklin search

expedition (1848-49) and "Sir John Ross and Sir John Barrow," in which the relations between those two titans are examined.

But it is the less significant articles, those which relate to the "small, unexamined fringes of the subject," in Jones's own words in his brief introduction, that are in some senses more interesting. Taking one of these more or less at random, "Captain Peter Kemp and Kemp Land," we find a detailed description of the background to the voyage of *Magnet*, Kemp's ship, to the Antarctic, an account of the voyage itself, during which on 27/28 December 1833 he sighted that part of the continental coast now named Kemp Land, and as much as is known about Kemp himself. Jones also examines the question of whether Kemp was or was not the discoverer of Heard Island, based upon his "observation" of land in the appropriate area on 27 November 1833 and, after a detailed analysis of all the evidence, concludes that he was not and that the credit should indeed go to Captain John Heard, after whom the island is named. At once, this is an interesting and informative article. And yet it is clear that Jones is no storyteller; otherwise he would never have permitted himself the throw-away line early in the article that "On 21 April Captain Kemp fell overboard and was drowned."

The book is replete with articles of this type. On reading them, one becomes aware of the breadth and depth of Jones's interests and, in the case of this reviewer at any rate, of the limitations of one's own knowledge. Any selection of those most meriting mention must be personal, but one would contend that anyone interested in polar history would find something worthwhile. The reviewer's preference would be for those articles relating to the Franklin search, that on James Clark Ross mentioned above, "Frederick John Hornby" and "Robert M'Cormick, Deputy Inspector General RN," although Jones's view of M'Cormick seems unduly censorious. Certainly, a surgeon who did not lose a life in seven years of polar service was either not as bad as Jones makes M'Cormick out to be or incredibly fortunate. Further articles in this group are "Captain Robert Martin: A Peterhead Whaling Master in the 19th Century" and "Henry Pegler, Captain of the *Fore-top*" (of HMS *Terror*). Martin was captain of the last ship to have contact with Franklin before the disappearance and Pegler is one of the very few 19th-century seamen for whom it is possible to construct a biography.

To sum up, this is a most valuable publication at a very modest price. One trusts that the publishers will consider preparing a companion volume containing the rest of Jones's papers in order that his complete works be available in easily accessible form.

*Polar Portraits* is available directly from the publishers, Caedmon of Whitby, Headlands, 128 Uppang Lane, Whitby YO21 3JJ, United Kingdom.

Ian R. Stone  
The Registry  
University of Kent at Canterbury  
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ  
England

GUIDE TO MARINE MAMMALS OF ALASKA. By KATE WYNNNE.  
Illustrated by PIETER FOLKENS. Fairbanks: Alaska Sea Grant College  
Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1992. Softbound.  
US\$15.00.

This is a very "user friendly" guidebook to the marine mammal fauna common to waters offshore Alaska. In the preface, the author states that the guide "is intended to be informative yet readable, complete yet brief and equally useful in a fisherman's wheelhouse, tour boat stateroom, or biologist's backpack." Overall, the author has succeeded on all accounts. The guide's size, spiral binding and color-coded pages — keyed to three sections depicting 1) cetaceans, 2) pinnipeds, and 3) fissipeds — facilitate flipping through entries to locate specific identifiable traits for the subject at hand. This quick and easy access to basic information is, after all, what a guidebook should provide.