

John Day's letter and a sequence of plausible inferences regarding sailing and sailing ships of that period, I think he has drawn the most reasonable conclusion from the evidence at present available.

Controversial problems, of course, abound in the area of pre-Columbian voyages. Here the historian has to pick his way between tantalizing but questionable evidences and intriguing but unsubstantiated (some would say crack-pot) theories. The Ancient, Irish, Norse, and Medieval "discoveries" of America are treated respectively in the first four chapters of the book, and in this area Morison takes the hard-headed, nothing-but-the-solid-facts approach. He dismisses absolutely any discovery of the New World by the Ancients; allows St. Brendan his existence and navigation, but no further than Iceland and/or the Azores; admits the Norse discovery of Vinland, which however he believes to be no further south than Newfoundland; and utterly rejects the "fakery" of Madoc, the brothers Zeno and Henry Sinclair, Pining, Pothorst, Sclovus, and any prior but secret Portuguese discovery of North America.

Undoubtedly from the point of view of scientific historical scholarship, Morison is correct (as well as safe) in taking a very critical attitude in this area, but my own opinion is that he tends to go so far as to shut out *a priori* any possibility of Irish, Norse, or late Medieval contact with the Canadian Arctic or with more of the eastern coast of North America than just Newfoundland. For example, he claims (p. 38) that the Newport Tower has "incontrovertibly" been proven to be colonial, which is not the case — at least not incontrovertibly. He takes *vinber* (pp. 51-52) to be cranberries or currants but not grapes because grapes do not grow north of southern Nova Scotia. He denies (pp. 61-62) any Norse influence on Columbus or the Portuguese attempts at western discovery despite the Portugal-Bristol-Iceland stockfish trade in the fifteenth century and the fact that Columbus once sailed to the north of Iceland in a Portuguese ship. And the Vinland Map he suspects to be a fraud (pp. 58 and 69). In time he may well be proven right in any one or all of these controversial problems, but as of now none of these nor many other problematical questions are proven one way or the other, much less incontrovertibly.

Regarding the Arctic, only the chapters on Frobisher and John Davis deal with it, and there only in terms of elucidating the geography of the places visited and sighted by these navigators. The whole matter of pre-Columbian contact with the Canadian Arctic is

virtually ignored except for some sarcastic strictures on some of the more well-known but questionable evidences. In all fairness, however, Morison did not set out to write a book on pre-Columbian discovery but rather on the solidly historical post-Columbian era of exploration, and it is here that the book has its incontrovertible merit.

George F. W. Young

FISKARNA I FARG. BY KAI CURRY-LINDAHL. *Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1969.* 4¾ x 7¼ inches, 248 pages.

The present book is the seventh edition of Mr. Curry-Lindahl's very popular guide to the different species found in Sweden. More than 200 species are described and of these, 185 are shown in colour. Not only species common to Swedish waters are reported, but also fishes which are seldom found off the Swedish coasts, being more or less exotic visitors from far away. Also newly introduced species such as lake trout, kokanee and hucho are portrayed.

In this new edition, the latest taxonomic, ecological and biological observations have been considered, and in its short form, the text is surprisingly full of information.

Each species is presented with its Swedish and Latin name. The text gives a description of the fish, its size and the distribution within the country, often also shown on a map. The ecology, spawning age, time and behaviour, number of eggs and incubation time as well as food and growth are also given as well as migrations, importance for fishery and known maximum weight in Sweden. The dialectal Swedish names are also given in the last part of the text, the whole of which is very clear and informative with many facts.

However, the illustrations are not of the same standard as the text, a risk always present when the pictures are coloured instead of colour photos. In some cases, they are too dull, in others, too bright. But even with these errors, the different species are easily recognized in the pictures.

The book has two indexes, one with Swedish and one with Latin names, and also a bibliography giving Swedish literature on fish and fisheries.

Even considering the errors in the illustrations, the book must be looked upon as a good and very useful handbook of Swedish fishes.

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