

WILEY



Review: Islands of the Western Pacific

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Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 6 (Dec., 1913), pp. 562-563

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1778523>

Accessed: 26-04-2016 03:30 UTC

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The book is illustrated by five sketch-maps, three of which are new editions of those which appeared in Mons. Bernard's earlier work, 'Les Confins Algero-Marocains.'

A. G. O.

'Reminiscences of a South African Pioneer.' By W. C. Scully. (London: Fisher Unwin. 1913. Pp. 320. *Illustrations*. 10s. 6d.) Reminiscences of a land like South Africa, where political and economic conditions have changed out of knowledge within human memory, are worthy of record, however personal and individual. The writer seems to carry us much further back than the mere tale of years would suggest, when he writes in his seventh chapter (to quote a single example) of the country of the Crocodile, Olifant, Limpopo, and other rivers as one unmapped, whose "geography was but vaguely rumoured of." The traveller and the sportsman will find interesting reading here.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

ISLANDS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

'A Naturalist in Cannibal Land.' By A. S. Meek. Edited by Frank Fox, with an introduction by the Hon. Walter Rothschild. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1913. Pp. xiv., 231. *Illustrations, Map, Index*. Price 10s. 6d.

This is an excellent book of somewhat unusual type. The author, the son of a professional naturalist, while disclaiming scientific knowledge, makes it quite plain that he himself was born a naturalist—in the old-fashioned sense of the term—and, from his youth upwards, has loved all things of the open air. Under the auspices of his father, he began collecting as a boy in Hyde Park, the New Forest, and other familiar parts of the British Isles, and it was the hobbies thus formed which afterwards led him far afield—first to Queensland, where, even while still collecting, he trained himself for the adventure of his future life by working on a cattle ranch, a horse-breeding establishment, a sheep farm, and by long journeys "out-back"; and then, having thus proved his capacity, and having suitably and profitably placed at the Tring Museum the collections so far made, he passed on, under the auspices of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, to less-trodden and far more exciting collecting grounds in New Guinea and in the Solomon, Trobriand and Louisiade islands.

Mr. Rothschild writes that the new species of moths alone, collected by Meek, must be counted by the thousand, and adds—herein rightly appreciating the chief point in which Meek's work is of geographical interest—that "the zoogeographical results of his expeditions to these little-known places are naturally of great interest. New Guinea, the largest island of the globe, lying under the Equator, and its mountain ranges rising to such heights that they are covered with eternal snow, offers exceptional opportunities for the study of the vertical distribution of animals." No other Englishman, perhaps no foreigner, has brought together so much material for the study of the "zoogeography" of this remote and especially interesting tropical area; and it is from this point of view very satisfactory that the Meek collections have chiefly found shelter at the Tring Museum.

A perusal of the book will show that this worthy task of gathering material for students at home has been done under conditions exceptionally arduous; and for the less strenuous students among the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society it may be noted, almost in the words of the editor, Mr. Frank Fox, that

to some it may appear that the chief value of this modestly told story of a naturalist's adventures in cannibal land lies in its human interest.

E. im T.

POLAR REGIONS.

ERICHSEN'S GREENLAND EXPEDITION.

'Report on the *Danmark* Expedition to the North-east coast of Greenland 1906-1908.' ('*Danmark-Ekspeditionen til Grønlands Nordøstkyst 1906-1908.*' Bind I. Ni. 1. From '*Meddelelser om Grønland*,' xli.) By G. Amdrup. *Portraits and Maps*. Pp. 270. Copenhagen: Bianco Luno. 1913.

Here, in an unpretentious paper-covered volume, is the detailed record of the extraordinary amount of work accomplished by Mylius Erichsen's expedition to Greenland. Though Mr. A. Friis, one of the artists of the expedition, published a popular account of it in Danish some years ago, no work in English on this fruitful expedition has hitherto appeared if we except a few lectures and articles by Lieut. Trolle, on whom the command devolved on Mylius Erichsen's death. In Denmark the survivors on their return were hailed with enthusiasm, and those who fell, Mylius Erichsen, Høeg Hagen and Jørgen Brønland, are held in honour, but in this country, despite our interest in polar exploration, the expedition attracted far too little notice. The splendid discoveries appear on the newer maps of Greenland, but their source is known to few and the stirring story of their attainment attracts little attention. The absence of an English version of the story no doubt partly accounts for this, but not altogether, for when Mikkelsen published the story of his search expedition in this country last year ('*Lost in the Arctic*') it aroused comparatively little enthusiasm, although it recorded one of the most marvellous sledge journeys on record around either pole. Be that as it may, however, this summary of the work of the *Danmark* expedition should prove most welcome. It is compiled by Lieut. Amdrup from diaries, records and personal information supplied by survivors. Lieut. Amdrup, though not a member of the expedition, is well qualified for the task from his own experience as an arctic explorer, and we are glad to see that the committee entrusted the work to a man with knowledge of the subject.

It is, perhaps, to be regretted that, as the report was written before Einar Mikkelsen returned from Greenland in August, 1912, it takes no account of the later information obtained from Erichsen's missing records.* The author discusses at length the problem of Erichsen's return route, and decides against the likelihood of his having crossed the inland ice from Denmark fjord to Lambert's land. Mikkelsen proved that he had taken the coast route. The important discovery of the union of Peary land with the mainland of Greenland is of course not given here, since the discovery of the non-existence of Peary's Independence sound only came to light on Mikkelsen's return.

In this unemotional matter-of-fact record every journey is given in detail and a large-scale map of the discoveries is added, but it would have been an advantage had it borne indications of the routes of the main journeys. Facsimile reproductions of Lieut. Hagen's sketch-maps are also given. Apart from the detailed scientific researches carried out assiduously for two years, the main topographical results were splendid, and exceeded expectations. From about 75° N. to Cape Bismarck the rough survey of the German expedition of 1869-70 was amplified, and from Cape Bismarck to Navy Cliff and Cape Bridgman the map of the coast-line was linked with Peary's work, so that Denmark has now completed the charting of Greenland's coasts.

* A four-page leaflet since issued (as Bind I. Nr. 5) deals briefly with these records.