

manities, the Quest for Truth Foundation, and the US Department of Defense Legacy Program. The book has been published in a large format, with a generous assortment of maps and photographs, and a particularly attractive reproduction of war art on the dust cover.

The only real criticism that can be levelled at this book is that, like any collection of specialized papers, it is not a very good or accessible introduction to the subject of Alaska and World War II, since it presupposes a fair amount of knowledge of the subject covered. But it is evidently not intended to serve this purpose; instead, it provides for the specialist the current state of scholarship on the subject. It will stand as a valuable source of scholarship, explanation, and personal recollection of events concerning the war, but the general reader wanting an overview of the subject should first consult one of the general histories of the state, such as Naske and Slotnik's *Alaska: a history of the 49th state*. Given some previous knowledge of the subject, this book is a treasure house of information. (William R. Morrison, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.)

STRUCTURE, FUNCTION AND EVOLUTION OF TEETH. Patricia Smith and Eitan Tchernov (Editors). 1992. London and Tel Aviv: Freund Publishing House. 570 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 965-222-270-4.

Smith and Tchernov's edited volume is based upon papers presented at the 8th International Symposium on Dental Morphology. The Symposium provided a forum for palaeontologists, embryologists, dental anthropologists, anatomists, and geneticists to exchange information on the microstructure, embryology, morphology, function, and evolution of teeth. Of particular relevance to researchers interested in the biology of the north are two chapters in the third section dealing with human populations.

The first is by J.T. Mayhall and L. Alvesalo, and deals with sexual dimorphism in the maxillary first molars in the residents of the island of Hailuoto in Finland. Although the dental health and genetics of this population have been extensively investigated since the 1970s, little research has been conducted on its dental morphometrics. Mayhall's and Alvesalo's results suggest that while the Hailuoto islanders' cusp heights are similar to those reported in Japanese and Canadian Inuit populations, the overall relationship is stronger to mainland Finnish patterns and other Caucasians.

The second paper of relevance to northern anthropology is by G.R. Scott and V. Alexandersen, and explores dental morphological variation among medieval Greenlanders, Icelanders, and Norwegians. The authors' aim was to assess evidence for possible gene flow from the Inuit into the Norse Greenlandic population between the tenth and sixteenth centuries. Their findings are that in the Greenlandic Norse skeletons there is temporal stability in oral health parameters (such as caries, antemortem tooth loss, and periapical osteitis), along with decreases in

overall body size and increasing third molar agenesis. These are traits associated with contemporary populations in Iceland and Norway, and suggest an overall congruence with European dental patterns. However, the study also indicated that the Greenlandic Norse showed significant changes in the frequency and expression of oral tori, characters more commonly associated with Inuit populations. It was concluded that there was no incontrovertible evidence for gene flow between Norse and Inuit communities, and the authors speculate that the unusual tori patterns were the result of a combination of founder effect and genetic drift.

While most of *Structure, function and evolution of teeth* is not of direct relevance to anthropologists specialising in northern populations, it is an excellent compilation of some of the most recent and exciting research in the field, and will prove to be a valuable reference source for years to come. (Elizabeth Cruwys, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

THE FALKLANDS AND THE DWARF: THE CRUISE OF HMS DWARF IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS 1881–1882. C.H. Layman and J. Cameron. 1995. Chippenham: Picton Publishing. xiv + 160 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-0948251-76-X. £25.00.

During the late nineteenth century, the Royal Navy undertook a bewildering variety of duties quite apart from participating in the various wars that took place during the period. One of the most important of these was the gathering of intelligence concerning potential enemies, which, as this was the period of 'splendid isolation,' meant, in effect, all of those countries that were not coloured red on the map. Other tasks included hydrographic surveying, the exploration of remoter parts of the globe, and action in aid of the civil power and general policing duties in those British dependencies where such was required and where there was no adequate local machinery for so doing. These latter were often combined with cruises, the ostensible purpose of which was to provide training and to keep ships' crews up to scratch, together with the general showing of the flag.

This entertaining little volume presents a first-hand account of one such voyage, that of HMS *Dwarf* in the Falkland Islands in 1881–1882. The reason for the visit of the ship to the islands was the enforcement of legislation establishing a close season for sealing. As the government had no effective means for doing this, it requested help from the senior officer of the South East American station, based at Montevideo, who arranged for *Dwarf*, a small vessel of four guns with a crew of 85, to undertake the duty. But for a fortunate circumstance, the records of *Dwarf*'s cruise would have remained as formal reports to the Admiralty, which would now be buried in the naval archives. However, in command of *Dwarf* was a remarkable officer, Commander Sir William Wiseman, Bt, who wrote a series of detailed letters on the doings of the ship to his wife, and these letters are presented in the book.