

DISCOVERY IN RUSSIAN AND SIBERIAN WATERS. By *L. H. Neatby*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 1973. vii, 226 pp. \$8.50.

This modest book surveys four centuries of multinational exploration and discovery in the Arctic waters of the Eastern Hemisphere. The story of the opening of the North American sector of the Arctic Ocean has overshadowed that of the Eurasian sector, thanks in part to three previous books by Neatby himself (an historian by avocation) but also to Russian secretiveness, the traditional remoteness and strangeness of things Russian, and the uncoordinated character of pre-Soviet efforts to probe the Russian High Arctic. This book will help to right the imbalance.

The absorbing narrative is perhaps predictable—heroic courage, incredible endurance, horrible suffering, and small reward in the face of pack ice, bitter cold, snow blindness, scurvy, uncharted shoals, unsuitable vessels, and sometimes unhelpful natives (but always hospitable Russians). The explorers were motivated by the desire to open trade with Russia, to find a shorter route to China, to satisfy scientific curiosity, and to reach the North Pole, with means ranging from kayak to dirigible.

These attempts by Britons, Italians, Norwegians, Russians, and others are knowledgeably and respectfully treated by Neatby in sprightly (if at times hyperbolic and folksy) prose. Geographically the coverage is well balanced, but topically it is not; two of the sixteen chapters, for example, concern the voyage of the *Jcannette* (1879–81), which was perhaps the most disastrous—but certainly not very fruitful. There is also somewhat too much detail and admiration for foreign efforts and not enough for Russian ones, particularly those of the numerous but unsung *morekhody* and *zemleprokhodtsy* as against the large-scale and official expeditions. This unevenness stems from the author's overreliance on non-Russian sources (the page-and-a-half bibliography lists only two Russian-language items). The weakest section is his support of Golder's contention that Dezhnev crossed rather than rounded the Chukchi Peninsula; he overlooks the recent thorough examination of this question by Fisher, who has concluded that Dezhnev did indeed sail through Bering Strait, so that the renaming of Captain Cook's East Cape as Cape Dezhnev by the Russians hardly qualifies as "horrible gaucherie." There are few typos, but the maps are pedestrian and the index is spare (personal and geographical names only).

JAMES R. GIBSON  
*York University*

RUSSLAND, FRANKREICH UND DAS REICH, 1801–1803: ZUR VORGESCHICHTE DER 3. KOALITION. By *Uta Krüger-Löwenstein*. Frankfurter Historische Abhandlungen, vol. 2. Wiesbaden: Steiner Verlag, 1972. xii, 159 pp. DM 24, paper.

Making good use of German and Austrian archives, and an impressive array of published sources, Uta Krüger-Löwenstein seeks to elucidate Russia's role in the indemnification of the German princes whose left-bank territories had been annexed by France. The author proves convincingly that Alexander sought to solve the problem in conjunction with Austria and Prussia; but the inability of the three powers to act in concert enabled Napoleon to seize the initiative and redistribute power in southwestern Germany in order to strengthen his own position in the German Reich, leaving Alexander the dubious privilege of approving the arrange-