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### Subscriptions

Volume 6 in 1995: January, April, July and October

£76 for institutions; £62 for individuals; delivery by airmail £18 extra. ISSN 0957-5073.

For further details contact the Journals Marketing Department, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK.

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# **POLAR PUNDIT: REMINISCENCES ABOUT BRIAN BIRLEY ROBERTS**

Edited by H.G.R. King and Ann Savours

With an Introduction by John Heap

For more than a quarter of a century the name of Brian Roberts was synonymous with all that was best and much that was innovative in British polar research. The present-day reputation for excellence enjoyed by the British Antarctic Survey and the Scott Polar Research Institute owes much to Roberts' foresight, clear thinking, and insistence on high standards.

By training an ornithologist, Roberts' interests were all-encompassing, ranging from the organization of polar information to international agreements on scientific nomenclature and place-names. As Head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Polar Regions Section, Roberts demonstrated his diplomatic skills during the negotiations leading in 1959 to the signing of the Antarctic Treaty, in the drafting of which he played so active a role. Until the time of his death in 1978 he continued to be actively concerned with measures relating to the conservation of Antarctic wildlife and resources and the protection of the environment.

*Polar pundit* constitutes recollections of Brian Roberts in his numerous roles, both private and professional, by a cross-section of his colleagues and friends. Appropriately, the publication of this 140-page book coincides with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Scott Polar Research Institute, to which Brian Roberts devoted so large a part of his life and genius.

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For vols 1–23 inclusive apply to Bluntisham Books, Oak House, East Street, Bluntisham, Huntingdon PE17 3LS, UK.  
For vols 24 onward apply to Cambridge University Press, UK or USA.

**Advertising**

For details apply to the Editor or to the publishers.

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, UK  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge.

# POLAR RECORD

VOLUME 31 NUMBER 179 OCTOBER 1995

## CONTENTS

### ARTICLES

- Geomagnetic storm and substorm aurora observed from Spitsbergen. D.A.R. Simmons, F. Sigernes, and K. Henriksen p 375
- A survey of Eskimo sites from Mesters Vig to Kuhn Ø, northeast Greenland. Robert G. David p 389
- The settlement of disputes under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. Martijn Wilder p 399
- Age and taphonomy of abandoned penguin rookeries in the Antarctic Peninsula region. Steven D. Emslie p 409
- The United Nations and Antarctica, 1994: the restoration of consensus? Peter J. Beck p 419

### NOTES

- The role of independent traders in the near-extermination of muskoxen on the mainland tundra of Canada, 1892–1915. William Barr p 425
- A recently discovered breeding colony of emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) on the Budd Coast, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica. David Melick and Ward Bremmers p 426
- The effect of local weather conditions on the behaviour of moulting southern elephant seals, *Mirounga leonina* (L). Elizabeth Cruwys and Pamela Davis p 427
- The spirit of Gino Watkins, 1994. Derek Fordham p 430

### REVIEWS

- Seals and sea lions of the world. W. Nigel Bonner. Elizabeth Cruwys p 431
- Arctic artist: the journals and paintings of George Back, midshipman with Franklin, 1819–1822. C. Stuart Houston (Editor). Clive Holland p 432
- Polar tourism: tourism in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Colin Michael Hall and Margaret E. Johnston (Editors). Ron Naveen p 433
- Greenland's icy fury. Wallace Hansen. Mark Brandon p 435
- Derecho Internacional de la Antartida. Francisco Orrego Vicuña. Alejandro A. Escobar p 435
- Cold climate landforms. D.J.A. Evans. Julian A. Dowdeswell p 436
- Scaling fisheries: the science of measuring the effects of fishing, 1855–1955. Tim D. Smith. Karl-Hermann Kock p 437
- The trail of the Hare: environment and stress in a sub-Arctic community. Second edition. Joel S. Savishinsky. David Anderson p 437
- Ancient land: sacred whale: the Inuit hunt and its rituals. Tom Lowenstein. Barbara Bodenhorn p 438
- Brief reviews p 438

### OBITUARIES

- Paul-Emile Victor p 440
- Helen Wallis p 441
- Air Commodore Iliffe Cozens p 441

### IN BRIEF

- SPRI Archives p 442
- Law receives Australia Day honours p 442

### SCAR BULLETIN No 119

- Summary Reports to XXIII SCAR, Rome, Italy, 4–9 September 1994 p 443

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0032-2474(199510)31:4;1-D