

Overland to Starvation Cove: with the Inuit in search of Franklin, 1778–80. Historical introduction; author/title and subject indexes. Copies may be ordered from Media Distribution, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ont., Canada N1G 2W1.

POUR JEAN MALAURIE. Bartillat, C. de. (editor). 1990. Paris, Editions Plon. 944 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 2-259-01913-7. 450 FF.

A collection of no fewer than 102 papers, in French, presented in homage to the distinguished French geographer and polymath Jean Malaurie, Director of the Centre d'Etudes Arctiques, Paris, honouring his 40 years' involvement in Arctic research. An intriguing assemblage of research and comment, appropriately covering all aspects of Arctic knowledge from mythology to ethnomusicology, and a great deal more beside. Illustrated lavishly and affectionately, though not always lucidly: a fine tribute to a remarkable man.

BRITAIN IN THE ARCTIC: A DIRECTORY OF INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES. Scott Polar Research Institute. 1990. Swindon, Natural Environment Research Council (Occasional Papers 4). 112 p, soft cover. ISBN 1-85531-018-X. Free.

Compiled by the library of SPRI on behalf of NERC, this catalogue aims, in the words of its introduction, to (1) identify all in the UK who have Arctic interests, (2) improve communications and help to develop collaboration within the UK Arctic community, and (3) strengthen Britain's claims for full membership rights in the recently

established Arctic Science Committee, as a significant and active participant in Arctic matters. Nearly 400 individuals and organizations are listed, together with notes on their fields of interest; there are also details of current projects and sources of funding, and subject, geographic and personal-name indexes. The information was assembled from questionnaires sent out in 1989. Any British scientific or industrial enterprises that are not included should contact the Information Officer at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK. Copies of this most useful catalogue are obtainable from NERC, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1EU.

PETROLEUM GEOLOGY OF NORTH GREENLAND. Christiansen, F. G. 1989. Copenhagen, Grønlands Geologiske Undersøgelse (*GGU Bulletin* 158). 92 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISSN 0105-3507. US\$55.0.

An assessment of the hydrocarbon potential of the Lower Palaeozoic Franklinian basin, North Greenland, based on GGU drillings from 1980 onward, especially the 1984–87 'Nordolie' project that studied the distribution and thermal maturity of hydrocarbon source rocks in central and western North Greenland. The project was concurrent with a comprehensive GGU geological mapping programme. This report is a condensed version of Christiansen's fuller report of 1988. Nine chapters (with 11 colour plates) cover physiographic, geomorphological and logistic background, analysis of cores, quantitative aspects and economic implications of the study.

In brief

SATELLITES TRACK WANDERING ALBATROSSES. In a recent letter to *Nature* Pierre Jouventin and Henri Weimerskirch report their success in tracking six male wandering albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* across the Southern Ocean from nests on Ile Possession, Iles Crozet, January to March 1989. Using transmitters weighing 180 g and two ARGOS satellites, with processing centre in Toulouse, they obtained a mean of 11.8 locations per bird daily. Birds covered between 3664 and 15,200 km in a single foraging trip while their partners were incubating, much less during brooding, at maximum flight speeds up to 81 km per hour; seldom flying into wind, they used leeward winds on journeys out and lateral winds returning, tacking or looping around their home island until able to land. They continued flying at night, particularly in moonlight. Tracks of individuals extended south almost to the coast of Antarctica, north to 35°S in the central Indian Ocean, and southwest to Heard Island. (Source: *Nature* 343, 22 February 1990: 746–48.)

NEW ZEALAND DECLINES TO RATIFY ANTARCTIC MINERALS CONVENTION. The Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA), announced after the Fourth Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, in May–June 1988, is unlikely to be supported by the New Zealand Government. The Convention (the full text appears in *Polar Record* 25 (4) July 1989: 264–282) has already been repudiated by Australia, Belgium, France, India and Italy. Prime Minister and Environment Minister Geoffrey Palmer announced in parliament that legislation to ratify the Convention has for the moment been set aside; meanwhile a 'creative solution' to problems of Antarctic conservation is being sought in other ways. Conservation groups are concerned that the 'setting aside' leaves New Zealand free to return to the issue later, and does not amount to the full repudiation for which they were hoping. (Sources: *Nature* 344 15 March 1990: 187; *New Scientist* 10 March 1990: 27.)