

observations by travellers in the area instead stress the deep connection between Aleuts and their lands 'indicative of a long and independent path of development' (page 247). As the annotations of Lydia Black often remark, Liapunova's desire to prove the original and robust nature of Aleut economy led her in this first book often to overestimate the population of the area.

Although Liapunova was a field ethnographer as well as an archive ethnologist, the reader will not find much of a local point of view in this text. The sole chapter on social organisation covers the ground of kinship, political organisation, and stratification within 22 pages. The generalisations about the gendered division of labour and ecological adaptation are made primarily from the analysis of objects and clothing. To support her analysis there are 32 high-quality half-tone illustrations (the two colour plates in the original are reproduced here in black and white).

The editors have done a fine job of annotating and situating the text. In addition to a fine translation, there is a short biography of Liapunova (with a portrait from her second book), an index, and footnotes that provide the reader with more recent references to the debates that she cites (or identify errors in interpretation). The editors' introduction claims that Liapunova herself verified the translation in 1990 (page xi). Nevertheless, there are still several question marks scattered through the text referring to uncertainty in the translation of certain terms. I would offer only the mildest of criticisms of the editing. Alternate translations or additional words are presented in square brackets, but it is often not clear if these have been added by the editorial committee or by Liapunova herself. The few direct quotes from English language material have been translated and not reproduced from the original. Perhaps the most serious flaw is the map (page 2), which simplifies the Russian original such that some important toponyms mentioned in the text are missing.

Overall this is a fine translation of an authoritative text, which should prove useful to archaeologists, anthropologists, and students of the circumpolar region. It provides one of the only English language works on a rich literature found in difficult-to-access archives and rare bibliographic works. One hopes that the Rasmuson collective will continue their new endeavour of translating the published and unpublished work of Soviet-era Siberian ethnography. (David G. Anderson, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.)

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S LAST ARCTIC EXPEDITION: A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL NAVY. Richard J. Cyriax. 1997. Plaistow and Sutton Coldfield: The Arctic Press. xviii + 222 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-9527394-1-0. £25.00; \$US42.00.

Few books concerning the history of Arctic exploration have been more significant, but harder to obtain, than Richard Cyriax's classic *Sir John Franklin's last Arctic expedition*. Originally published in 1939 by Methuen, most of the copies of the book were still in a warehouse when it was destroyed during the German bombing of

London in World War II. The Arctic Press has now done the world of polar scholarship a great favour by reproducing this book, which, due in part to the limited numbers extant, was previously prohibitively expensive to buy even on the rare occasion that one might be fortunate enough to find it available.

The story of Franklin's final expedition is familiar to most readers of *Polar Record*. However, rarely has a book concentrated on the details of that ill-fated expedition to the extent that Cyriax's book does. Indeed, as he points out in the 'Preface,' most previous books had dealt with the expedition as a part of a general history of Arctic exploration, as part of a biography of Franklin, or as the introduction to an examination of the subsequent Franklin searches. Although making reference to the background of the search for a Northwest Passage and to the Franklin searches, Cyriax views these only as necessary parts of completing the picture of Franklin's final voyage, to which his study always returns.

Cyriax's volume is well-known for its scholarship, and he made excellent use of many primary sources that had been little studied before his efforts. Unfortunately, he was not able to incorporate a number of important sources that have since come to light. Chief among these important documents were accounts of the Franklin search of 1878–1880 led by Frederick Schwatka. The first of these, from Schwatka's own diary, was not published until 1965 (Stackpole 1965). The second, a first-hand account of the search by Heinrich Klutschak, was published in German shortly after the expedition (Klutschak 1881), but did not appear in English until more than a century later (Barr 1987).

Despite the author not having access to some of these later sources, *Sir John Franklin's last Arctic expedition* has excellent detail and remains a valuable research tool. The large majority of information known about Franklin's expedition is to be found here. The main body of the book includes lists of personnel and equipment, and the appendices include information about graves, monuments, and relics relating to the expedition, as well as brief biographies of the junior officers.

This facsimile reprint of the book is handsomely and faithfully reproduced, including all three fold-out maps. Since it is a limited edition, one can predict that, like the original, it will become a highly desirable and valuable commodity. (Beau Riffenburgh, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

References

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