

eight papers on historical whaling for the species. These cover Basque whaling, American shore and pelagic whaling in the North Atlantic, French whaling in the South Atlantic, shore whaling in southern Africa, and 19th and 20th century whaling around Australia and New Zealand.

Both volumes are strongly recommended for biologists and others interested in large whales, the first for information on aspects of their behaviour and associated management problems, the second for an up-to-date account of the status of right whales, and for new information on the history of whaling for the species and the effect of hunting upon them. (S. G. Brown, 24 Orchard Way, Oakington, Cambridge CB4 5BQ.)

### BRIEF REVIEWS

**AMMASSALIK, EAST GREENLAND—END OR PERSISTENCE OF AN ISOLATE? ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND DEMOGRAPHICAL STUDY ON CHANGE.** Robert-Lamblin, J. 1986. *Meddelelser om Grønland, Man and Society* 10. 168 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 87-17-05235-1.

An account of the evolution of a small, isolated East Greenland population through the 20th century. First exposed to western influences in 1884, it developed slowly before World War II and then explosively, diversifying from a society of nomadic sea mammal hunters to one of wider sedentary activities including commercial fishing, handicrafts and catering for tourists. The changes are set in the context of recent social and political changes in Greenland.

**PHOQUES, MORSES, OTARIES: ECOLOGIE ET VIE SOCIALE.** Tollu, B. 1986. Monaco, Le Rocher. 156 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 2-268-00493-7.

**LES MANCHOTS: ECOLOGIE ET VIE SOCIALE.**

Tollu, B. 1988. Monaco, Le Rocher. 126 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 2-268-00613-1.

Two attractive and informative French pocket books, with black and white illustrations, respectively on the biology and ecology of seals, sea lions and walruses, and on penguins; well packed with concentrated information.

**PENGUINS.** Sparks, J. and Soper, T. 1987. Newton Abott, David and Charles. 246 p, hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-7153-8875-4. £12.95.

Revised and updated edition of the authors' 1967 account of all the penguins, well laced with photographs (colour and black and white), maps, and attractive illustrations by Robert Gillmor.

**LE GRAND DÉFI DES POLES.** Imbert, B. 1987. Paris, Gallimard. 224 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 2-07-053013-2.

Pocket-sized paperback packing an encyclopaedic wealth of information on the history of both polar regions, from brief accounts of expeditions to advertisements for Ovomaltine; the author has gone out of his way to find interesting illustrations, and the publishers have done their best to produce them attractively.

**THE LIFE OF A RIVER.** Russell, A. 1987. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart. 181 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-7710-7878.

The river is the Oldman, which runs from the Rockies to Hudson Bay; the writer '... has been a trapper, cowboy, bronco-buster, trail guide, grizzly hunter, nature photographer and film-maker, and a widely successful lecturer.' He sustains the story of this river, its people and wildlife, without benefit of photographs or map, which is no mean achievement, and challenges the proposed building of a dam that in his view will destroy it.

## In brief

**TWO SPRI SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS.** The Scott Polar Research Institute museum is currently mounting two exhibitions of special polar interest. 'Life in Siberia and the Soviet north today', organized by Dr Piers Vitebski and opened on 3 November 1987, is based on over 40 mounted colour photographs of scenery, industry, wildlife, culture and day-to-day living, supplied mostly by the Soviet Embassy. Displays also include artefacts, books, pamphlets and other material illustrating recent Cambridge-based research. On 26 January 1988, an exhibition of 'Australia and the Antarctic' was opened, organized by Robert Headland and Jenny Owen in celebration of Australia's 200th anniversary. Material shown, much of it provided by ANARE, includes maps and photographs of

Australian research stations on the Antarctic mainland, Macquarie Island and Heard Island, historical photographs, and old and recent examples of polar clothing and equipment; there is also a display of photographs and other material from SPRI archives covering Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Research Expedition 1911-14 and the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition 1929-31. The Australian exhibition will remain open for several months. (Source: R. B. Headland.)

**SOVIET UNION AWARDS ARCTIC CONVOY MEDAL.** The Soviet Union is awarding commemorative medals to members of the British armed forces and mer-