

detail for features in the same area or discovered by the same expedition, some repetition could have been avoided by cross-references, as for example in presenting biographical details of individuals with more than one feature named after them. But these are minor points in a work displaying formidable industry and scholarship by its compiler and editor, who was also secretary of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic names from 1949 to 1980.

After an interval of 25 years Antarctic specialists and others are once again greatly indebted to USBGN and ACAN for updating the only gazetteer to cover the whole Antarctic. It can be assured of a long and useful life.

### SOCIAL LIFE IN SITKA, 1870

[Review by Dorothy Middleton\* of *Lady Franklin visits Sitka, Alaska 1870; the journal of Sophia Cracroft, Sir John Franklin's niece*, edited by R. N. DeArmond, Anchorage, Alaska, Alaska Historical Society, 1981, xxviii, 134 p, illus. Hardcover.]

Lady Franklin was the first of only five women to receive a Gold Medal from the Royal Geographical Society. In 1860 she was presented with the Founder's Medal for her 'self-sacrificing perseverance in sending out expeditions to ascertain the fate of her husband.' The Patron's Medal for the same year went to Leopold McClintock who had commanded her ship the *Fox*, pursuing the Franklin Search in 1855.

Jane Griffin was Sir John's second wife, an energetic and ambitious woman, who went everywhere with her husband, encouraged him in his profession and was enthusiastically behind his appointment to command the ill-fated Arctic expedition of 1845. She was a great traveller, and during her long widowhood visited India and Japan, Singapore and Hawaii, and was more than once in America. Sophia Cracroft, Sir John's niece, was her constant companion and it is her journal which has now been published by the Alaska Historical Society. Lady Franklin and Sophia went to Sitka in 1870 to follow up a rumour that some of Franklin's papers might have found their way to Alaska. Miss Cracroft, however, barely mentions this quest; her diary is more concerned with social life in Sitka soon after the purchase of Alaska by the Americans from Russia. The result is a very slight, but nevertheless amusing account of an 'expatriate' society bent on maintaining social distinctions and the customs of the homeland. In this sometimes losing battle the locals were backed up by the visitors, doubtful whether their landlady should be allowed to 'visit', and whether indeed she was a 'lady'. Lady Franklin and Sophia also made a distinction between themselves and their hosts, being highly critical of American ways and forms of speech. Overheated rooms and the American 'twang' come in for much censure.

The journal, the original manuscript of which is part of the Jessie Lefroy bequest in the Scott Polar Research Institute, is edited by R. N. DeArmond whose wide knowledge of Alaskan history gives Sophia's jottings a dimension they would otherwise lack. The text is embellished by the author's own sketches and a map of Sitka in 1867. Two appendices are included, an inventory of buildings in the town in 1867 and the Sitka census of 1870. *Lady Franklin visits Sitka* . . . will appeal more, perhaps, to those interested in Alaska's past than to Polar historians, but it provides a homely footnote to the sometimes heroic life of Jane Franklin.

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### SLEDGING INTO HISTORY

[Review by Bernard Stonehouse\* of D. L. Harrowfield's *Sledging into history*. Auckland, Macmillan Company of New Zealand, 1981, 119 p, illus. Hardcover NZ\$29.50.]

The author is the curator of New Zealand's National Antarctic Centre in Christchurch. He writes lovingly and with first-hand knowledge of the historic polar huts in McMurdo Sound—those put up by the *Discovery*, *Nimrod* and *Terra Nova* expeditions, and since cherished by the New Zealand Antarctic Society, with strong backing from New Zealand's Antarctic Division. The author's aim is 'to present a

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descriptive and pictorial record of the three huts on Ross Island and their contents as they are today . . . ' but David Harrowfield knows his polar history, and tells their background stories as well. Clearly written and beautifully illustrated in colour and black-and-white, this book reminds us that Antarctic archaeology has already begun, and it should jolt our sense of responsibility for artefacts under British stewardship. The huts at Snow Hill, the Debenham Islands and Stonington Island, for example, and the sealing sites, whaling stations and other industrial relics of the Falkland Islands, South Shetlands and South Georgia (some of them older than the McMurdo Sound huts)—are they equally cherished and protected against weather and casual vandalism? The New Zealanders have shown us what needs doing, and *Sledging into history* is a worthy record of their concern.

## In Brief

### RELICS OF BERING'S SECOND EXPEDITION

Vitus Bering died in 1741 on an uninhabited island in the Bering Sea. The island too is now named after him, Ostrov Beringa, and it is one of the Ostrova Komandorskiye, whose name again reflects the explorer. In 1979 and 1981 an archaeological party examined the site where the expedition had wintered and found a number of objects, including seven cannons and much miscellaneous equipment. Three cannons had been recovered in 1946 (the ship, which was wrecked there, had carried fourteen). Two of those are now at Bering's birthplace, Horsens in Denmark, and one is in the museum at Petropavlovsk-na-Kamchatke. In 1981 a member of the party, Fedor Konyukhov, erected wooden monuments to Bering and his four companions who died on the island. The monuments were unveiled with due ceremony in the presence of the company of two visiting Soviet yachts, *Chukotka* and *Rus'-2*. (*Vodnyy Transport*, 11 July 1981, and *Pravda*, 15 July 1981.)

### PLAN TO RAISE A. SIBIRYAKOV

On 25 August 1942 the Soviet icebreaking ship *A. Sibiryakov*, which had achieved fame as the first ship to traverse the Northern Sea Route in one season in 1932, was sunk in the Kara Sea by the German battleship *Admiral Scheer*. Some of her crew, including the captain A. A. Kacharava, survived, and are among those supporting a project to locate and raise, or at least examine, the vessel. The ship sank near Ostrov Belukha at about lat 76°12'N, long 91°27'E, but the hull has not been exactly located. A group of diving enthusiasts from Murmansk, led by S. P. Pobol', is pressing government agencies to make a ship available, but so far without success. Some of the group were recently involved in the successful location of the *Chelyuskin*, wrecked in the Chukchi Sea in 1934. (*Vodnyy Transport*, 7 July 1981.)

### HMS EDINBURGH'S GOLD

In the Barents Sea to the north of Murmansk lies HMS *Edinburgh*, a British cruiser that sank on 2 May 1942 in roughly 245 m of water. With her went five tonnes of Soviet gold, Stalin's payment for American weapons, now valued at about £45 million. Thirty-nine years later Jessop Marine Recoveries, working in those Arctic waters, took six weeks to retrieve 431 out of the 465 bars. As part of the joint British-Soviet contract, the British salvage company has received 45 per cent of the bullion; the remainder has been divided up between the two governments, the Soviet Union receiving two thirds and the UK one third. Jessop Marine is planning to return to the Barents Sea in 1982 to recover the remaining 34 bars of gold. (*The Sunday Times*, 13 September, 20 September, 4 October, 11 October 1981.)