

usually call forth. Trenchant opinions are expressed at times, as for example in the editor's piece on John Quayle Dickson, a Manxman, as is evident from his middle name, and as is the present reviewer, and colonial secretary from 1913, who seems to have been particularly tiresome. We are told that he was resident commissioner in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands where he demonstrated 'administrative incompetence' and 'financial ineptitude.' Matters did not improve when he arrived in Stanley 'with bumptious confidence' announcing 'that he intended to reform the machinery of government.' Suffice it to say that Dickson's services were terminated by the colonial office in September 1914 but the editor permits himself the wry observation that his pension was still being paid in 1944!

There are some curious omissions and one wonders if all of them can have asked not to appear, or if it was impossible to find contributors willing to write about them. For example, Ian Strange, prominent in Falkland conservation, John Smith who founded the wonderful museum in Stanley, the Napier family of West Point Island, and with regard to South Georgia, Bernard Stonehouse, are all conspicuous by their absence.

Sufficient has been written to make it plain that this book is a major contribution towards the history of the Falkland Islands. It does however have two deficiencies. References do not appear in any of the entries although it seems plain that some writers have attempted to import them by the back door so to speak, by including notes on relevant works in the texts. This deficiency seems very curious and this reviewer is at a loss to explain it. It would certainly have involved some extra work but in proportion to the labour of the whole this would seem relatively insignificant. A further difficulty is presented by the lack of an overall map of the Falkland Islands. True, there is an attractive colour map of landholdings as in 1868 in the front inside cover and there is a colour map of the southern part of South America showing the position of the Falkland Islands with regard to that land area inside the back cover. There is also a British Antarctic Survey map of South Georgia. But there is no map on which a reader can identify the location of major places in the islands, many of which are referred to in the text, and one suspects that the reason for not having such a map might be the additional cost if one were specially prepared. Indeed it is made plain that the book was prepared on the proverbial shoestring which makes the overall achievement all the more remarkable.

The presentation of the work is excellent. It is substantially bound in attractive blue cloth and the printing is first class. The illustrations are carefully selected and each one enhances the article in which it appears.

To sum up, this is a very significant contribution towards any history of the Falkland Islands and when one considers that the compilation of it was all the more or less the unaided work of the editor it is apparent that he deserves our warmest congratulations. The price of the book is astonishingly modest when one considers its quality. All with interests in the Falkland Islands

should have it in their libraries. (Ian R. Stone, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

**CARL WEYPRECHT (1838–1881) SEEHELD, POLARFORSCHER, GEOPHYSIKER. WISSENSCHAFTLICHER UND PRIVATER BRIEFWECHSEL DES ÖSTERREICHISCHEN MARINEOFFIZIERS ZUR BEGRÜNDUNG DER INTERNATIONALEN POLARFORSCHUNG.** Frank Berger, Bruno P. Besser, and Reinhard A. Krause. 2008. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 587 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 978-3-7001-4019-1. (Veröffentlichung der Kommission für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Medizin 57). doi:10.1017/S0032247409008493

The name of the Austrian born naval officer and polar explorer Carl Weyprecht (1838–1881) is well known to all polar researchers. Under his leadership, the Austro-Hungarian expedition on the vessel *Tegetthoff* was intended to sail to the Bering Strait crossing the North Pole. Unfortunately the expedition which took place in 1872–1874 did not achieve that as the ship was trapped in the ice and the expedition had to be limited 'only' to the discovery of Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa [Franz Josef Land]. In addition, Weyprecht initiated the organisation of the International Polar Year (IPY) (1882–1883) in order to obtain a more systematic survey of the climate and geophysics of the polar areas of the earth. These are the undertakings associated with the name of Weyprecht in general and special encyclopedias (for example Holland 1994). A systematic study of Weyprecht as a polar researcher and an organiser of the International Polar Year is absent in the literature in English. Even in German *Weyprechtiana* is also rather scanty. However, the surveys and investigations about Weyprecht compiled by Heinrich von Littrow (1881), Alexander Burger (1910) and Egon Ihne (1913) and an exhibition catalogue compiled in the National Library of Austria on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the polar expedition guided by Weyprecht and Julius Payer (100 Jahre 1973) deserve attention. The latest publication appeared 'only' 36 years ago.

This recently published volume represents an important addition to the limited literature on the life and activities of Weyprecht. It enables the reader to follow in detail the career of a young man, fascinated with the sea, from a being naval officer to becoming an important figure in the history of science. Due to the diligence of the authors, 338 letters and archival documents, mainly in Gothic script which was the predominating literary form in Germany in the 19th century, have been deciphered and are presented. The letters and documents belonging to the period of 1856–1881, mainly contain Weyprecht's letters (325 in total) to his parents, to the German geographer and publicist August Petermann and to Count Hans Wilczek, an enthusiastic supporter of polar exploration

who financed several expeditions. In the book, has also been included some letters, concerning different questions relating to polar exploration, to Weyprecht from the above mentioned persons. These provide a rounded view, in the first instance, of the problems connected with the initial preparations for the IPY. The same aim is served by letters and documents (for example to Karl Ernst von Baer, Heinrich Wild, and Heinrich von Littrow) disclosing to an attentive reader very important details of the later preparations for the IPY. The letters have been ordered according to different periods in the life of Weyprecht and have been briefly summed up and commented on at the beginning of each period. The book includes a complete subject index and a list of personal names provided with dates and the most important biographical data (pages 545–557, 557–587). In addition, the authors have attempted with success to compile a very accurate bibliography of the papers by Weyprecht and of the secondary writings devoted to his activities (pages 559–570). Numerous mostly high quality illustrations in the book deserve our special attention.

The introductory articles by the compilers add depth to the treatment. Frank Berger and Bruno P. Besser prepared a brief account of the life and activities of Weyprecht and Wilczek (pages 11–18). The reader learns about the events which stimulated Wilczek, one of the richest men of Austria, in his interest in polar research; how the friendship between Weyprecht and Wilczek began and developed, and the share of Wilczek's contribution to Austrian polar exploration over 40 years. Reihard A. Krause's long article about Weyprecht as the initiator of international polar research (pages 19–54) is very interesting. In this article, Krause analyses the state of German polar research, problems connected with it and the research goals (for example the question of the open polar sea put forward by Petermann, the navigability at the eastern coast of Greenland, the Gulf Stream in the Arctic Ocean) of the 1860s and the role of Weyprecht in the solution of these problems. In his opinion, the *Tegetthoff* expedition had convinced Weyprecht that Petermann's hypotheses on the physical geography of the Arctic Ocean were mostly incorrect and that the best way to obtain answers on the role of the Arctic in the climate of the earth and earth geomagnetism was to carry out synchronous observations at several research stations. According to Krause, in addition to Weyprecht, there were other German researchers, such as Carl Koldewey (in 1871) and the geophysicist Georg Neumayer, who also considered the idea of international collaboration in polar areas. The latter had touched upon the problem in his report in 1874 (Krause 1992: 258, 292). But there is no proof that Weyprecht knew about the ideas of Koldewey and Neumayer when he, in 1875, put forward his plan for international collaboration in research on the geophysics and climate of polar areas.

The volume includes many letters by Weyprecht (144 in total) that are published for the first time. These provide information concerning his service in the Austrian navy

(1856–1870); his scientific ambitions in connection with Petermann's plan for German polar expeditions (1865) and his attempts to take part in them (1868 and 1869), and the realisation of his projects of personal investigation (in 1871, on the ship *Isbjørn* to Novaya Zemlya and in 1872–74 on *Tegetthoff*). The book contains Weyprecht's diary, published for the first time, describing the return of the members of the expedition from Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa [Franz Josef Land] to Novaya Zemlya (May–September 1974). The correspondence concerning the preparations for the IPY (128 letters all in all) is set out in full. All these data make the book extremely valuable.

Of special interest are the last letters, which throw light on the birth of international scientific collaboration. They also indicate how imprecise was Weyprecht's plan for this. The proposed ideas were original, but he lacked experience for the realisation of them in practice and for working out unified research methods acceptable to different countries. From Weyprecht's letters, it appears that he supposed that organisational questions would be solved spontaneously through personal initiative. However, this proved to be more complicated due to the political circumstances and different interests of the countries which were expected to join the project. It was only the organising committee with governmental mandates that was able to carry out Weyprecht's project. The Swiss geophysicist Heinrich Wild, living in St Petersburg, understood the actual situation and was the one to find the solution for putting Weyprecht's idea into practice. Several later great international research projects, including the second IPY in 1932–1933, were based on these structures.

To conclude, the publication of Weyprecht's letters is a valuable resource for historians carrying out in depth studies in polar history, but certainly not for the general reader who is expecting entertaining adventures. This book also makes an important addition to the history of Austro-Hungarian navy and to the biography of Weyprecht. In other words, it is an important document describing that period in the development of science through the eyes of Weyprecht. (Erki Tammiksaar, Estonian University of Life Sciences, K.E. von Baer House, Veski 4, EE51005 Tartu, Estonia).

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**LANDS THAT HOLD ONE SPELLBOUND.** Spencer Apollonio. 2008. Calgary: University of Calgary Press. xx + 332 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 978-1-55238-240-0. C\$ 34.95.

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This is a smallish format softback production; the only English language account specifically dealing with the history (story might be a better word, as the author suggests) of east Greenland. It is an account of this huge and sparsely populated area written for the general reader, but could also be useful as a starting point for more serious study, since it is indexed and has a short bibliography.

The author makes it clear from the outset that he has not attempted an exhaustive study of his subject and that he has little personal first hand knowledge of east Greenland. Nevertheless, he has achieved a useful and interesting account of some of the published material on the region.

The introduction is a hugely over-simplified geographical summary of such a large area and does not follow the conventional subdivisions. Very early settlement is described briefly and the summary of early European activities is useful, in which published information is scanty and hard to come by.

Nineteenth century European exploration from Scoresby onwards is given much more detailed treatment, together with Danish exploratory ventures. Pioneering expeditions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are well covered, with many passages of quotation from a range of published sources. Expeditions such as Amtrup's pioneering voyages down the difficult and dangerous Blossville Kyst and Mylius-Erichsen's ill-fated explorations are recounted at some length, together with some of the early over-wintering experiences and problems. Perhaps surprisingly for a north American book, Peary's and, later, Louise Boyd's ventures are not given prominence.

The completion of the 'ring' of exploration around northern Greenland is covered, followed by the early attempts at social engineering by Einar Mikkelsen and others, based, one might say, on the results of the early exploratory expeditions. Although there is relatively little study in the book about Inuit matters of this era after World War I, expeditions at that time became more numerous and more intensively scientific, and these are covered at some length. The sovereignty issue is also covered but not discussed in any depth.

World War II in East Greenland is summarised, with some of its strange events, but the post war period is only scantily touched on, with emphasis mainly on Egil Knuth and the British north Greenland expedition. The development of aviation and its importance to east Greenland, the formation of the national park, the Sirius Patrol and most recently the development of arctic tourism are given scant or non-existent coverage.

The main strength of this book thus seems to lie in its quite detailed descriptive summary of expedition activity in east Greenland from the early nineteenth to the mid twentieth century, loosely set in a geographical and historical context but without much in the way of analysis.

Being a north American production, the sterling price is not cheap and the standard of production is, in this reviewer's opinion, not altogether commensurate with the price. The illustrations are in black and white and are poorly printed on the same weight and quality of paper as the text. Even modern images are poorly reproduced and text shows through them from the reverse side of the page. (D.W. Matthews, Drummore of Cantray, Cawdor, Nairn IV12 5XY).

**MEN OF ICE: THE LIVES OF ALISTAIR FORBES MACKAY (1878–1914) AND CECIL HENRY MEARES (1877–1937).** Leif Mills. 2008. Whitby: Caedmon of Whitby. ISBN 978-0-905355-69-6. £20.00  
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With biographies of most Antarctic expedition leaders now largely available (although there is still a gap for an English biography of Otto Nordenskjöld), the time of the Men appears to have arrived. Books by Thomson (1977) and Quartermain (1981) have covered at least briefly many of the participants in both the Scott and Shackleton expeditions, but more extended accounts are now appearing. Leif Mills (1999) produced a biography of Frank Wild some years ago, and he has now returned to examine some less well-known men of the Heroic Age. Here he has chosen Alistair Forbes Mackay – who went south with Ernest Shackleton on the *Nimrod* expedition in 1907 and later north with Stefansson on the ill-fated Canadian Arctic Expedition aboard *Karluk* – and Cecil Meares, chosen to go south with Robert Falcon Scott on *Terra Nova*. He does not explain why he chose these two rather than others on the Scott and Shackleton expeditions.

The two were very different men, but both had interesting lives outside the polar expeditions. There is only a limited amount of original material in the form of letters or diaries (which have been used by other polar authors previously), so Mills has had to work mainly from secondary sources.

Mackay was a doctor who originally interrupted his medical studies at Edinburgh to fight in the Boer War. It was on his return he signed up for the Antarctic. Using Mackay's sledging diaries, Mills tells about the epic