

the northern hemisphere and their early use in the Antarctic the book primarily focuses on sled dog racing in Alaska. The historical account of the development of professional sled dog racing in Alaska is well done, as is the account of the present day Iditarod and the individuals involved.

The historical sections dealing with events outside of Alaska are unfortunately not nearly so accurate; Nansen is reported to have embarked for Antarctica, Scott is identified as a follower of Shackleton, Amundsen and Scott are supposed to have met, 'en route to the South Pole...at approximately 90°S'. Franklin is reported to have died at Beechey Island with twenty-nine men and Greeley is supposed to have survived two winters '...on the icebergs'. There are many other similar inaccuracies. References to Inuit use of the sled dog and their history and culture is likewise subject to correction. Inuit are reported to have lived in the Arctic for twenty thousand years; the author also asserts the Inuit believe, 'Anyone who does not own dogs is not considered to be entirely a 'man' or member of the race'. Certainly this is not the case today and is unlikely to have ever been an accurate statement of Inuit belief. An Inuit on p60-61 is reported to be cutting up a walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* when in fact the animal is a bearded seal *Erignathus barbatus*. Numerous other photo captions are either incorrect or at best misleading.

For those with a deep interest in sled dog racing and northern dogs in general this book will be a disappointment. It is recommended to those readers who have a general interest in the north and dogs who may find the book of interest. The photographs are good. A book on northern sled dogs was long overdue and while this book could have been much improved, its real downfall lies in the author's attempt to deal with subject areas that are beyond his expertise. Better research, editing, and translation might have saved the book from the many errors that will be obvious to any polar scholar, whether he be dog expert or not. (Ken MacRury, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

#### LANCASTER SOUND SURVEY

LANCASTER SOUND REGION: A COASTAL ATLAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. Dickins, D. and 11 others. 1990. Vancouver, D. F. Dickins and Associates (for Environment Canada, Environmental Protection). 346 p, soft cover, illustrated. ISBN 0-921623-08-9.

Oil is a necessary evil in the North as elsewhere. The communities of Lancaster Sound depend on annual shipments of oil for power generation, heating and motor fuel: and Panarctic Oil's currently small arctic island hydrocarbon production program depends on shipment south of about two tankerloads per year. Yet the Lancaster Sound Region is renowned for its rich marine mammal and bird life, and the Inuit cultures and economy built on them.

In the Lancaster Sound Region Use Plan, a recommendation was made to develop an atlas of oil spill response

and countermeasures, similar to one prepared for the Beaufort Sea in 1987. Environment Canada thus coordinated the production of this atlas, with inputs from a broad selection of scientists and oil spill experts, and some input from local Inuit. The timing of its publication is interesting, coming a year after the Valdez oil spill and coinciding with a review of the success of the Alaskan clean-up efforts. Despite the immediate shock and reaction that oil spills generate, debate continues about whether it is more harmful to clean spills up, or to let nature take its course. Of course, by far the preferred solution is *prevention*, rather than contamination.

In Lancaster Sound, spills could occur from ships, transshipment between ships and tanks, and drilling activities. This atlas is designed to respond to those sorts of release events, and intended to be used in planning oil spill countermeasures and protecting valued components of the regional environment. It allows prioritization of areas, in terms of prevention, protection and clean-up requirements. The authors note that there would be severe limitations on oil spill response in this region, because of remoteness and lack of marine support. As well, access limitations and the short summer season will most likely force clean-up operations to extend over at least two years. However, much of the coastline is characterized as 'high energy' (receiving heavy wave, tide or storm action) and may not need active cleaning if not heavily contaminated by oil.

In the 'operational' section of the atlas two maps are shown for each stretch of coastline. One set illustrate biological resources and human use, in conjunction with an environmental description and shoreline sensitivity ratings. The second set illustrate physical environment and logistical considerations, including coastal type, airstrips, safe havens for boats and potential stockpile locations, in conjunction with descriptions of recommended countermeasures. For some reason they give only the topography of the land, not the hydrography of the marine areas, so presumably this atlas is to be used with the usual pilots and navigation charts. Other, more general sections of the atlas cover regional descriptions, offshore sensitivity, climatic and ice patterns.

The document's most important component, according to the authors, is the numerical sensitivity ranking system, which reflects coastal sensitivity to effects of marine oil spills. Sensitivity is determined by human use, biological resources, and the expected period of oil residence in the marine or shore area. The system attempts to condense a complex biophysical response to the potential effects of an oil spill into four categories of sensitivity (low, moderate, high, extreme). One hundred and eight areas of shoreline, approximately 30 km in length, are so categorized, as well as 49 offshore areas of various sizes. A total of 22 biophysical and social/cultural elements are assessed in the ranking system, covering all major species, resource uses and shoreline geomorphology. Tables give the values that were calculated for each of the elements, as

well as the assumptions that went into the determination of the sensitivities. This audit trail is very useful, allowing for the recalculation of values should new information be gathered on species responses or shoreline residence. One problem with the atlas is that no analysis is given for the determination of the four categories of sensitivity. With out this, the sensitivity analysis is harder to evaluate.

In general this atlas is a very valuable addition to the literature on the region. It pulls in information from a variety of sources, but expresses it in highly useable format. Its true usefulness requires that it be on the shelves of all agencies and individuals responsible for responding to an oil spill. Let's hope they never need to use it. (Heather Myers and Laurence Turney, Yellowknife.)

### ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

**THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM IN WORLD POLITICS.** Jørgensen-Dahl, A. and Østreng, W. 1991. Basingstoke, Macmillan and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute. 475p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-333-55586-4. £45.00.

The Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) continues to generate academic interest: here is yet another compendium of papers — some 29 in all — from a wide spectrum of authors on aspects of the Treaty and its instruments.

After an introduction by the editors, Chris Beeby outlines the goals, performance and impact of the ATS. Section 1, 'Experiences from the Convention on Living Resources', provides four papers on aspects of CCAMLR. Section 2, 'The minerals convention (CRAMRA) as a management tool', includes five papers on the System's most recent and ill-fated convention. Section 3, 'Resource management and the ATS at large' includes six papers on miscellaneous topics including SCAR, the environmental movement, Antarctic science and (again) CRAMRA. Section 4, 'The ATS and the world community', presents six papers assessing the legitimacy and legality of the ATS, its ability to adapt to external challenges, influences of the United Nations, ATS and the Law of the Sea Convention in relation to external challenges, and the need for redefining consultative status. Section 5, 'The ATS model and the future', covers in seven papers the role of the ATS as a model for international cooperation, possible alternatives to the System, tourism and the need for a legal regime, and the ATS model and the future.

The layout is familiar, many of the contributors (Heap, Beck, Larminie, Kimball, Trolle Andersen, Barnes, Vicuña) are old hands: haven't we seen this all somewhere before? Not quite, for the ATS is in transition — some would say upheaval — and the contributions are in general honest attempts to keep up-to-date with galloping events. Many were given at the May 1990 conference of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute: others were presumably written even later than that, and to have them in print by early 1991 is an achievement in itself. Students of the Antarctic Treaty System will find this a useful compendium, though

they had better read it quickly — another of its kind is almost certainly already in press. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

### AN ESKIMO LIFE

**KUSIQ: AN ESKIMO LIFE HISTORY FROM THE ARCTIC COAST OF ALASKA.** Bodfish, Waldo Sr.; recorded, compiled, and edited by William Schneider in collaboration with Leona Kisautaq Okakok and James Mumigana Nageak. 1991. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press. 330 p, photographs, maps, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-44-7. US\$21.00.

For over a century the mandate for the cultural translation and interpretation of traditional societies has rested almost exclusively with anthropologists — an intellectual monopoly both ethnocentric and academically myopic. Recently however, first-person accounts by members themselves of a given society have emerged to augment traditional scholarly ethnographies. Whilst providing illuminating accounts for social scientists, such narratives have also contributed significantly to local knowledge and ethnohistory to the benefit of the community itself. Fulfilling both capacities are the chronicles of the Inupiaq elder Waldo Bodfish Sr. in this, the second volume in the University of Alaska Oral Biography Series. The current work combines the narrative of Kusiq, Bodfish's Inupiaq name, given after his mother's first husband, with the considerable cultural, historical, and lingual annotation of three North Slope experts afforded by formidable 128-page appendices.

Born in 1902, the son of an Inupiaq mother and a commercial whaling captain, Bodfish was raised during a period of profound social change on the Arctic Coast of Alaska. He recalls life in residence at a Lutheran mission school (a surprisingly pleasant time for him, he notes), recalls whaling from an open boat, and recounts tales of the 'messenger feasts', a series of traditional celebrations linking people together via reciprocal invitations and acceptances to festive banquets between villages. Additionally, he records much of the modern development of Alaska including anecdotes of Rasmussen's visit to the region in 1924, the introduction of aircraft and radio into Alaska, and his own career during the 1940s as an employee of the Weather Bureau.

Bodfish's sketches are most noteworthy for their rich insights into the lifestyle of the Inupiat. He devotes considerable detail to descriptions of hunting, fishing, trapping and reindeer herding as well as such topics as traditional snow shelter and sod house construction. Throughout he notes the importance of relatives and elders as his mentors in the acquisition of these skills; through their guidance he gained the mastery and confidence to survive and succeed: from his mother's last husband he learned to hunt seals at the breathing holes, his uncle taught him to herd reindeer, and an indulgent elder taught him the secrets of building snow houses. However, the reader is