

the publication of the book too much, only small corrections, absolutely needed for the understanding, have been undertaken' (page xiii). More is the pity.

Management, technology and human resources policy in the Arctic (the north), published as part of the NATO ASI series, is a collection of 48 papers and two declarations presented at a conference of the same name held in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk in the summer of 1995. The papers cover a wide variety of topics and were presented by persons representing most of the circumpolar states. Well over half of the presenters were Russian; the others consisted of scholars from Canada, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Sweden, and the United States (no Norwegians, evidently). The papers themselves are grouped into seven sections, and are of varying lengths.

Section one concerns the regulation of international affairs in the Arctic. Two of the papers within this section describe Russian geopolitics, while the third examines relations between the Canadian and Russian north. The second section, which is much larger, deals with science and technology policy in the Arctic. Most of the papers so categorized revolve around the formation of science policy and the roles of research institutes and universities in this process. Section three is curiously entitled 'Government and self-government in the Arctic: the structure of organisation of local power.' Most of the papers within this section fall within the realm of public administration, and, with two exceptions, concern developments in Russia. Section four contains papers on the regional aspects of economic development and presents cases drawn from Russia or from territories currently or previously under Danish control. The fifth section is on the market economy of the north and contains several interesting papers on Alaska, Iceland, and Russia. The sixth section focuses on natural resources and ecology, with papers delving into both physical and social science aspects of environmental problems. The final section looks at human resources in the Arctic and especially at the future of native peoples. The papers within this section are case studies of specific locales, as well as less-contextualized studies.

The papers are of uneven quality. Some are well-written studies and provide much contemporary information of interest. The majority, however, are of lesser utility, and suffer from poor language and the lack of any evident editing (one author, for example, speaks of the 'oil and gaze complex' — could this be part of the postmodern condition?); many, moreover, go over material well covered by other sources or reflect outdated concepts:

Knowledge of the natural temperament of the peoples of the Caucasus [*sic*] and Indians of the American continent allows to conclude that if these peoples found them shelves [*sic*] in an analogous situation, then the whole territory where they live would be enveloped with serious indignation and conflicts. Such a phenomenon can be considered as a natural reaction to the barbarous influence by the civilization of the Nature. (page 414)

What? The barbarous civilization of Nature? This passage, which seems to assume that there is a 'natural temperament of certain peoples,' is representative of many others, and furthermore reflects some of the impenetrable language that confronts the reader.

The general unevenness of the papers, a problem common to conference proceedings, is all too evident here. The book also suffers in this respect from any adequate introduction, and it lacks a concluding chapter entirely. There is no effort to tie together these fragmented themes, and the work consequently emerges as something less than the sum of its parts.

Any merits this effort might have had are reduced to insignificance when confronted with the price that the publisher brazenly asks: £169.00 or US\$249.00! After wading through all 491 pages of this volume, in this case I cannot but agree with the words of Callimachus. (Michael Pretes, Department of Geography, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1111, USA.)

ESSAYS ON THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE ALEUTS. Roza G. Liapunova (translated by Jerry Shelest). 1996. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press (Rasmuson Library Historical Translation Series 9). xxii + 256 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-85-4. \$US18.00.

Aleut ethnography occupies a central place in debates surrounding the anthropology and history of the circumpolar north. This carefully edited translation of a Soviet classic — *Ocherki po etnografii aleutov* (1975) — is a welcome addition to a growing literature on the peoples of the Bering Strait region.

This volume is the first of two monographs by Liapunova on the material culture and 'ethnic history' of Aleuts. Liapunova's writing is unique within the corpus of Soviet ethnography, for the fact that it exhaustively references and situates itself within debates in the English language literature. However, writing just after the peak of the Cold War, her encyclopaedic knowledge of this complex region comes across in a measured and cautious manner. Her objective style and reticence to make sweeping theoretical statements no doubt attracted the editors of the Rasmuson Translation Series. This volume is the first to be authored by a professional Soviet ethnographer among a series of translations of the writings of missionaries and explorers. For those who might misinterpret the short chapter on socio-economic stratification, the editors provide a footnote of caution to the constraints of 'the Marxist line' (page 131).

The central concern of this book is within what might be called the high ground of Soviet ethnography: the question of ethnogenesis. The book is a remarkably concise synthesis of literature on the question of the origins of Aleuts, as judged primarily from the study of material culture. Unlike some scholars who study this liminal zone between east and west, Liapunova is not rushed to make a hasty connection to the grand conclusion of how America was peopled. Her careful analysis of artefacts and early

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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