

to *Russian California*, a collection of documents now being prepared by Fedorova and J. R. Gibson of Canada for the Hakluyt Society. (Terence Armstrong, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

ARCTIC JOURNAL OF JOHN RICHARDSON

ARCTICORDEAL. Houston, C. Stuart (editor). 1984. Kingston and Montreal, Canada, McGill–Queen’s University Press, and Gloucester, Alan Sutton. 349 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0–7735–0418–4. £16.50.

When Lieutenant (later Sir) John Franklin’s first expedition of 1819–22 explored the northern coast of Canada, among the party was the surgeon and naturalist John Richardson. It is his journal that forms the basis of *Arctic Ordeal*. The expedition was ultimately beset by tragedy. Only a small amount of coast was surveyed, and on the return journey over half the party perished; starvation, murder and execution are recorded with rumours of cannibalism. Stuart Houston has already edited the journal of Robert Hood, another member of the expedition. Published in 1974, this covered an earlier part of the journey to 15 September 1820. Richardson’s journal begins on 21 August 1820 and continues to 19 December 1821. Thus together the two works cover the period the expedition spent north of Fort Resolution and supplement the official account written by Franklin. (Hood was murdered on 20 October 1821; Richardson executed the death sentence on the culprit.)

The journal includes many details of biology, geology and meteorology of the region; some of this is summarized in the appendices which give details of the birds, mammals, fish, lichens and other plants, and geology recorded. There is also an excellent commentary by the editor which assesses and interprets Richardson’s contribution to exploration of the Canadian north. The narrative account becomes progressively more interesting as Richardson records details of the expedition’s increasing difficulties. The editorial comments are very helpful, including extracts from Franklin’s account of the expedition and other sources. The book is illustrated with many attractive engravings by H. A. Hochbaum, who recently followed the expedition’s course. The maps, although adequate to show the route, have not reproduced well. A bibliography of the expedition and a good index complete an excellent contribution to knowledge of Franklin’s first expedition. (R. K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

A GUIDE FOR MARITIME HISTORIANS

A GUIDE TO THE LLOYD’S MARINE COLLECTION AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY. Hall, C. A. 1985. London, Guildhall Library. 55 p, soft cover. £3.00 plus postage.

In the 18th and 19th centuries there were a thousand whaling voyages for every naval polar voyage. Except for the Scoresbys, father and son, they are nearly all forgotten. When the whalers came back, they wrote no double-decker quarto volumes about their experiences and failures. They were only too glad to get home for a few weeks if they had a good catch, or make a winter voyage to earn some money if it had been a bad season. They were the Silent Service. Little has been published about them, save for the contributions of Tom and Cordelia Stamp.

However, in *Lloyd’s List* there are some 15,000 shipping movements in the Greenland and Davis Straits trade, but they have to be dug out of the millions of entries. Without