

freshwater meiofauna, polychaetes and other marine macrofauna, freshwater and marine fishes, and birds and mammals of the Igloodik area. They also made illuminating comparisons between the local cultures in Igloodik and Godhavn in Greenland. A useful account of an interesting and inspired educational development, which other polar teaching departments might emulate.

ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY: THE ROYAL NAVY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. Barnett, C. 1991. London, Hodder and Stoughton. 1052 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-340-33901-2. £30.00.

Correlli Barnett, of the Churchill Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, has written a number of books on the history of World War II, and on Britain and the Common-

wealth. In this volume he pays tribute to the Royal Navy, especially to its role in keeping sea lanes open so that action could be pressed on land. Readers with polar interests may be assured that Arctic operations, especially the Norwegian campaigns and Murmansk convoys, receive full coverage, though — not surprisingly in a book of this scope — there is space for only passing mention of many of the smaller operations off Greenland, and in Svalbard and the South Atlantic theatres. Written in a good plain narrative style, with many good stories that lose nothing in re-telling: well illustrated with maps and black and white photographs, and provided with extensive notes and references. Strongly recommended for both reference libraries and interested readers.

In Brief

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S SUPPORT FOR AN-ARCTICA MINING BAN. On Friday 10 May, in a written answer to a parliamentary question, UK Prime Minister John Major reversed British policy by expressing his government's hope that the draft protocol tabled at the Madrid Antarctic Treaty meeting would '... provide the basis for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment'. The statement continued: 'Of particular importance are the provisions for a ban on mineral activity for 50 years, and mechanisms for a review of the ban after 50 years, or before if everyone agrees. The results of these provisions would be that there can never be mining in the Antarctic unless all the present consultative parties agree.' The proposal is scheduled for discussion at a further meeting in Madrid in June 1991. (Source: Michael McCarthy, *The Times* Tuesday May 14.)

UK/ARGENTINE ACCORD ON FALKLAND ISLANDS FISHERIES. Following meetings in Madrid on 12–14 and 23–24 November 1990, the UK and Argentine governments agreed to establish a joint South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Meeting at least twice yearly, the Commission will assess the state of off-shore fish stocks in the South Atlantic Ocean between 45° and 60°S, and make conservation recommendations to both governments. From 26 December commercial fishing is banned in a wide maritime area east of the Falkland Islands, contiguous with the 150-mile wide Falkland Islands Conservation Zone. The purpose is to protect stocks of illex squid which have been heavily over-fished. (Source: *Falkland Islands Newsletter* 46 (February 1991): 3–5.)

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AWARDS. The Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society has been awarded to Dr Helge and Anne Ingstad for their

research over many years on the Viking site at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland. The site, the only authenticated pre-Columbian European settlement so far discovered, confirmed that Vikings had settled in North America as long ago as 1000 AD. The Gill Memorial Award has been made to Flt Lt K. W. Hankinson RAF for leadership of Arctic expeditions. Influential in military polar expeditions since 1979, Flt Lt Hankinson has helped to shift emphasis from adventure to research: most recently he led a team to Ellesmere Island to test the use of microlite aircraft for air photography of plant communities. (Source: RGS press release 25 April 1991.)

LEAD KILLED FRANKLIN'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION. Analysis of bone and soft-tissue samples from the remains of three members of Sir John Franklin's Northwest Passage expedition of 1845–48, buried on Beechey Island, strongly implicated lead poisoning as the immediate cause of death. Further studies of human remains from the same expedition, buried on King William Island, confirm that those who survived until later in the expedition were also heavily contaminated with lead. A most likely source was the lead solder used in sealing cans of preserved food. (Source: article by W. Kowal and others in *Journal of Archaeological Science* 18: 193–203, quoted in *The Times*, 7 May 1991.)

PROF. A. W. LAWRENCE: A LINK WITH SPRI. Arnold Walter Lawrence, who in his youth was model for the bronze statue which stands in the garden of the Scott Polar Research Institute, died on 31 March 1991, aged 90. A younger brother of Col. T. E. Lawrence, he posed for Lady Kennett, widow of Capt. Robert Falcon Scott. The statue bears the inscription 'Lux perpetua luceat eis'. Commissioned as a war memorial for a public school, it