

home to “Mother.” These sources provide a somewhat different perspective from the recollections packaged in book form 26 years later. Finch does not dwell on such differences. *A Life of Great Adventure* is not that sort of study, although it might well inspire a more scholarly probing in that vein. Finch does, nonetheless, point out the direction of travel.

For example, Patterson remarks in *The Dangerous River* that “nothing was shot uselessly with the exception of one mountain sheep that was swept away down the rapids” (Finch, p. 96). Yet even Finch’s condensed biographical summary of Patterson’s stay on the Nahanni, derived from Patterson’s own letters and diary entries written while he was on the Nahanni or shortly afterwards, mentions numerous unfortunate situations in which animals could not be retrieved after they were killed. Usually the carcass, like the wasted mountain sheep in *The Dangerous River*, was carried away by the river’s current. At other times, the animal fell on some inaccessible rock outcropping from which recovery was impossible.

Patterson was primarily hunting for food, so the occasional less-than-certain shot was probably necessary. It is nonetheless significant that 26 years later, Patterson not only dropped any mention of such kills, but made the explicit statement that only one unfortunate animal had been lost in this way. Finch speculates, and he is likely correct, that as Patterson matured, “he rewrote the past to reflect the kind of person he would have liked to have been that summer of 1927” (p. 96).

Finch points to other differences between the events of 1926–28 and the accounting given in *The Dangerous River*. According to the biography, Patterson’s adventurous enthusiasm did not always compensate for his initial lack of canoe skills. While Patterson occasionally jokes in *The Dangerous River* about his own inexperience, Finch’s readers come to realize the considerable extent of Patterson’s controlling hand. While Patterson was willing to let the public in for a few chuckles at the “greenhorn’s” expense, there were limits to what his ego could disclose. In many ways, this understanding of Patterson’s vanity makes him more human, and hence, his accomplishments seem even more extraordinary. When we are reminded how much Patterson was like the rest of us, we are better able to appreciate the individuality and boldness with which he chose to live his life. In general, however, *A Life of Great Adventure* is a highly celebratory biography, keeping its focus largely on the accomplishments of this curious gentleman adventurer.

Anyone who has read Patterson’s books—*The Dangerous River*, *The Buffalo Head* (1961), *Far Pastures* (1963), *Trail to the Interior* (1966), and *Finlay’s River* (1968)—will already have encountered much of the biographical information Finch brings to the table. Patterson was always fond of re-creating himself in his books. *Buffalo Head*, for example, Patterson’s book about his years in the mountains southwest of Calgary, is fully one-third of the way through before it shifts to the foothills ranch. What

precedes the account of his ranching days is a history of his early family life in the north of England, his Oxford days, his service in the war, his internment in a German prisoner-of-war camp, his homesteading in the Peace River country, and his journeys to the Nahanni. While Finch certainly draws on other sources for biographical information—interviews, letters, unpublished archival documents, and the like—he obviously makes frequent use of the autobiographical accountings in Patterson’s own numerous books and magazine articles. But few readers will have read all Patterson’s books, and those interested enough to have done so will be delighted by the additional material and modest insight that *A Life of Great Adventure* brings to Patterson’s story. I say “modest” insight because, as an obvious admirer of Patterson, Finch essentially tells the story that Patterson himself would have liked to have told.

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LET HEROES SPEAK: ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS, 1772–1922. By MICHAEL H. ROSOVE. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2000. ISBN 1-55750-967-0. xi + 358 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Hardbound. US\$34.95.

Since the publication of Roland Huntford’s biographies, *Scott and Amundsen* (1979) and *Shackleton* (1985), there has been a renewal of interest in the Antarctic exploratory expeditions of the early 20th century. It has taken the form of new editions of the South Polar classics of the period and the posthumous publication of edited diaries of several of the participants. As a result, many general readers might be left with the impression that the discovery and exploration of the Antarctic continent were very much a British and Norwegian affair.

Michael Rosove’s book does much to place these better-known expeditions in a wider historical context and introduce to the generalist the important contributions of Russian, American, French, Scottish, Belgian, Swedish, German, and Australian mariners, scientists, sealers, and explorers.

Important earlier histories of Antarctic exploration are the second section of Clements Markham’s *The Lands of Silence* (1921)—which rather naturally concentrates on Robert Scott’s two expeditions, which the author, as President of the Royal Geographic Society, sponsored—and Hugh Mill’s more detailed *The Siege of the South Pole* (1905). Subsequent histories include those of Hayes (1932), which covers the years from 1906 to 1931, and Quartermain (1967), which is a comprehensive history of the Ross Sea sector. Rosove gives ample credit to Mill as the first major historian of the region. *Let Heroes Speak*, which covers the century and a half from James Cook’s first foray into

Antarctic waters on his second Pacific voyage in 1772 to the death of Ernest Shackleton at the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia in 1922, can be seen as a modern and timely update of Mill's classic history.

The author endeavours to introduce the general reader to the narratives of the many voyages, both maritime and terrestrial, to the region, as well as providing a useful and comprehensive reference for 'serious polar buffs and scholars.'

The problems inherent in covering such a long period and so many separate expeditions in a 300-page volume are those of adequately summarizing individual expeditions and achieving an overall balance. Rosove does well in capturing the essential features of the main expeditions and providing a unifying commentary. This includes, for example, the daunting task of reducing the second voyage of Captain James Cook to prove or disprove the existence of a Terra Australis, one of the most successful voyages of exploration ever, to a mere seven pages.

The problem of balance is more difficult to overcome. The account of the first 120 years in 59 pages and the last 30 years in the remainder of the book might indicate a greater concentration of expeditions around the turn of the century, or suggest that the author has a stronger interest in the heroics of polar exploration. It is, however, also a fair representation of the available literature and primary sources. The question of who would write the contemporary voyage narratives first surfaced on Cook's second voyage to the Pacific. Johann Reinhold Forster, the German polymath, chief scientist, and last-minute replacement for Joseph Banks, wanted to write and publish the voyage narrative on his return. When the Admiralty ruled in favour of Cook, Forster circumvented this decision by having his young son George publish his *Voyage Round the World (1777)* some few weeks before Cook's account was released. The fallout from this conflict was the Admiralty decree that, on all future naval scientific voyages of exploration, only the exploration commander would publish the voyage narrative. The scientists and civilians would henceforth be limited to describing their scientific findings. This policy was also followed by the Russians, the French, and the Americans up to and including the major naval expeditions of d'Urville, Wilkes, and Ross in the early 1840s. As a result, we are left with only the official accounts of these voyages, which tend to gloss over some of the less successful incidents. The whalers and sealers of the nineteenth century, with the notable exception of James Weddell, showed little interest in writing about their experiences in the southern ocean.

By the 1890s, the matter of who would be permitted to write narrative accounts was much less an issue. Consequently, we find that on both Scott's expeditions, whilst the commander's narratives were given priority, several of the naval officers and civilian scientists published separate accounts in the following decade, and others kept detailed diaries which have subsequently been published. These allow us to see the same events through many different eyes, not all of which were favourably disposed

to naval leadership and discipline, and form a more comprehensive image of these heroic and dramatic events.

Of the earlier maritime expeditions, the author does well to introduce the reader to the exploits of Bellingshausen, a great admirer of Cook, who set out to supplement his predecessor's voyage by "filling in the gaps." His narrative was not available to English readers until some 125 years after the events it describes. A separate chapter might well have been allocated to James Weddell, whose farthest south record of 74°15' stood for nearly 20 years. Larger coverage might also have been given to Dumont d'Urville and Charles Wilkes, whose expeditions, along with that of James Clark Ross, marked the end of a remarkable 80 years of naval scientific expeditions to the Pacific that began with Bougainville and Cook. Of the expeditions that involved both terrestrial exploration and scientific investigations, there are welcome accounts of the successful expeditions of Borchgrevink, von Drygalski, Bruce, Charcot, and Mawson, whose exploits have been largely overshadowed by the heroics of the race for the pole by Scott, Shackleton, and Amundsen.

If the volume is a little brief on the early maritime voyages, this shortcoming is more than made up for by two contemporary books by Alan Gurney, *Below the Convergence* (1997) and *Race to the White Continent* (2000). The three volumes combined provide an excellent and comprehensive introduction to the opening up of the Antarctic Continent for the lay person and valuable reference sources for the specialist and scholar.

Let Heroes Speak is well edited, with partial-page black-and-white illustrations interspersed within the text. The comprehensive bibliography includes some 150 items, mostly published sources.

The first overall history of Antarctic exploration for several decades, this timely update of Mill's history for the modern reader should find a home in the libraries of those with an interest in Polar and Antarctic voyaging.

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INUIT, WHALING, AND SUSTAINABILITY. By MILTON M.R. FREEMAN, INGMAR EGEDE, LYUDMILA BOGOSLOVSKAYAS, IGOR I. KRUPNIK, RICHARD A. CAULFIELD, and MARC G. STEVENSON. Walnut Creek, California: Altamira Press, A Division of Sage Publications, 1998. 208 p., b&w illus., appendices, index. Hardbound, US\$52.00; Softbound, US\$21.95.

At a time when discussion of whaling by indigenous communities is polarized, decontextualized, and limited to one-minute sound bites on television, *Inuit, Whaling, and Sustainability* provides a welcome and thoughtful treatment of the issues from the point of view of the circumpolar Inuit. Carefully choreographed images of whale hunts—which emphasize blood, with condemnations recited by “experts” in the background—are the extent of analysis provided in the popular media. The stated aim of *Inuit, Whaling, and Sustainability* is to engage in dialogue on this issue. The six authors have an appreciation and understanding of Inuit life through sustained contact with Inuit communities in Canada, Alaska (USA), Greenland (Denmark), and Russia. The book, which makes a well-reasoned case for sustained harvesting of whale stocks by circumpolar Inuit, is also well timed. It coincides with increased assertion by indigenous communities (Inuit and non-Inuit) of their rights to whaling, the birth of a new Inuit Homeland in Canada (Nunavut), further oil and gas exploration in the western Arctic, potential for famine in the Russian Arctic, and the increasing public presence of the International Whaling Commission.

A significant portion of the book weaves a narrative of Inuit voices on the significance of whaling. Using the words of leaders, whaling captains, school children, and community members in general, the authors present a circumpolar Inuit point of view in a cultural, economic, legal, social, and spiritual context. Many quotations, some fairly lengthy, express concerns about maintaining traditions and livelihoods. Normally, excessive reliance on quotations is distracting; in this case, however, the narrative is cohesive and succinctly presented. Furthermore, each chapter has a section on suggested readings, which serves as a resource for further research and discussion, especially for the student. In this sense, the work lends itself for use in educational institutions.

The text contains an introduction, six chapters, and an epilogue. It is unclear who among the six authors has

written each chapter. Nonetheless, the chapters follow the narrative, are integrated, and flow well. Subjects covered include the importance of Inuit whaling today; whaling by Inuit yesterday, today, and tomorrow; human rights and the International Whaling Commission; a review of whaling management regimes; challenges to sustainable use of whales by Inuit; and securing the future of Inuit whaling. These topics underlie broader issues, such as the struggle to maintain the cultural and economic diversity of small communities in the context of an imperative towards global homogenization; to come to terms with the unprecedented assault on indigenous values due to social change; and to balance seemingly divergent pressures of corporate interest for large-scale resource development, on the one hand, and the mammoth machinery of the transnational environmental organizations, on the other. Collectively, the chapters illustrate that Inuit whaling is informed by a broader ethical code that links human relationships with their environment, demonstrating the interdependence between the whale and the Inuit in the realms of the spiritual as well as the physical. These issues are significant not only to the Inuit, but also to other indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

Much of the discussion on anti-whaling takes place outside the context of the community or society where whaling occurs. The language used in anti-whaling propaganda is often of a ferocity akin to an evangelical crusade. The opinions of the communities whose cultures and economies are directly affected are completely ignored. This charade, however, is not new for the Inuit or other indigenous communities. The history of colonization informs us that outsiders have visited their fantasies upon indigenous populations in the past. Today, this form of imperialism is rather ironic. Groups that claim to be in the vanguard for human rights in developing countries and for the need to live in harmony with the environment are the very people who seek to dictate to Inuit communities how they practice their livelihood. Extreme environmental groups claim that it is all right for the Inuit to hunt whales as long as they use the technology that they used hundreds of years ago and do not avail themselves of the benefits of modern technology. This view suggests that Native traditions are to be suspended in time and should not be allowed to evolve.

Inuit, Whaling, and Sustainability argues that traditions are not static: they evolve, and they incorporate techniques and values from other cultures. Historical traditions are organic, and not lifeless artifacts to be locked away in museums. Traditions are a process, and not just an event. They are rather like a river: ever flowing. A living tradition remakes itself according to the age in which it lives, using the core of its values to make new from the old. Whaling by indigenous communities should be seen in this context of relationships between change and continuity. The assault on indigenous rights to whaling is seeking precisely to make artifacts out of the Inuit. It is a patronizing enforcement of specific values, ill informed by both the history and the reality of Inuit culture.