

topics and authors. Just a few of the many maps, tables and diagrams suffer from loss of clarity after reduction, inadequate explanations or lack of consistency with the accompanying text; for example, those on pages 41, 126 and 456. Only two spelling errors were noticed by this reader: "pelecepod" on page 340 and "comformable" on page 406. The quality of paper, printing, binding and reproduction of plates is very good; however, I don't think I am being unduly nationalistic in wondering whether a Canadian printer cannot be found to turn out work of a similar high quality.

While this is not the type of book which will be read from cover to cover, except perhaps by reviewers, it contains a wealth of new information, important reviews and syntheses which will make it a standard reference for continuing research in each of the taxonomic groups/stratigraphic divisions which is covered. And, at the listed prices, it is a bargain.

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**A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY.** By P. A. TIKHMENEV. Translated and edited by RICHARD A. PIERCE and ALTON S. DONNELLY. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1978. 522 + xvi pp., drawings, maps, index. \$35. **A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY, VOL. 2, DOCUMENTS.** Translated by DMITRI KRENOV, edited by RICHARD A. PIERCE and ALTON S. DONNELLY. Materials for the Study of Alaska History, No. 13. Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1979. 257 + vii pp., drawings, maps, index. No price indicated.

Originally published in two volumes, with an appendix of documents, at St. Petersburg in 1861-63 as *A historical survey of the formation and activities of the Russian-American Company until the present time*, Petr Aleksandrovich Tikhmenev's work has been widely regarded as one of the most valuable sources available on the Russian-American Company. The Company, chartered in 1799, managed Russian America for the Imperial Government from that time until 1867 when the United States purchased what is now known as Alaska. The Company also established posts or conducted business in other Pacific Rim areas such as Siberia, Hawaii, and California; and attempted, unsuccessfully, to initiate trade with Japan. Until the publication of these translations, however, one of the early historical accounts of this significant commercial organization has not been generally available.

Both of these books are greatly enhanced by prefaces in which the editors critically review the

history of their writing by Tikhmenev, a Russian naval officer in the employ of the Russian-American Company. The editors also discuss earlier translations, beginning with the work of Ivan Petroff in the 1880's.

**A HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY** is organized in two parts, and in twenty chapters traces the Company's development from the time of its formation until 1861. **VOL. 2, DOCUMENTS**, reproduces letters, reports, and other documents which were written by or to key officials of the Company or its predecessor trading organizations between 1783 and 1807. Extensive notes, a Glossary, and a list of Chief Managers of the Russian-American Company Colonies with their terms of service will aid the users of both books. The texts are accompanied by a number of informative maps and illustrations, not all of which appeared in the original publication.

Richard A. Pierce, who is Professor of History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has in the past published a number of books, articles, and translations concerning Russian America. This has often been done in cooperation with Alton S. Donnelly, Professor of History at the State University of New York, Binghamton. Their latest joint effort in these Tikhmenev translations adds a superb item to their list of past achievements and will allow wider use and study of one of the more important works on Russian exploration and trade in Alaska and the North Pacific.

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**JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE TO THE NORTHERN WHALE-FISHERY.** BY WILLIAM SCORESBY JUNIOR. Edinburgh, 1823. Reprinted 1980 by Caedmon of Whitby, 9 John Street, Whitby, Yorkshire, YO21 3ET. 472 pp. £13.95.

The Naval Arctic voyages of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are well covered by published narratives, log books, muster books, letters and other papers; but as anybody who has tried to deal with other Arctic voyages for the same period knows only too well, material on the whale fishery is exceedingly scarce, and few books have been published about their voyages. This is all the more regrettable since there were (in round figures) about a thousand whaling voyages to every naval voyage.

Fortunately for us, the whaling trade had one outstanding man, Captain William Scoresby, Junior, a skilled seaman, a successful whaling master, an outstanding navigator and surveyor and an educated man. Scoresby was an able scientist with an enquiring mind (as shown by his magnetic observations at the Royal Greenwich Observatory), and a Fellow of some of the leading learned societies, to which he made notewor-