

thy communications from time to time. In recent years, the Caedmon of Whitby press have published reprints of his *My Father* (1852) and papers that Scoresby presented to the Wernerian Society in 1815 and to the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* in 1828. The Wernerian paper shows that years before Parry's unsuccessful attempt to reach the North Pole in 1827, Scoresby suggested that it was a doubtful proposition.

Tom and Cordelia Stamp (the proprietors of Caedmon of Whitby) have, in addition, written a biography of Scoresby.

In 1816, Scoresby first noted the loosening of the pack ice at the West Greenland fishery between Spitsbergen and Greenland, and in the following years he and his very able father made exploratory and commercial voyages in those waters.

In 1822, Scoresby made a voyage to the Greenland fishery in the *Baffin* of Liverpool, and in between his mercantile activities, he charted the coast of East Greenland from Gael Hamke's Land (lat. 75°N) to Cape Barclay (lat. 69°N), plotting at least 400 miles of coast. When it is remembered that some of this coast-line was laid down on bearing and estimated distance only, that he was hampered by the usual bad weather and that he had other preoccupations, it was highly creditable that his map should agree well with the modern chart, and was quite as good as that prepared in the following session by Commander D. C. Clavering, R.N., who oddly did not express his debt to Scoresby.

During this voyage of 1822, Scoresby continued his scientific observations in geology, botany, zoology and meteorology, which appear in the course of his narrative and in appendices: he added some useful information to the speculation about the existence of Eskimo on that coast, a matter which is a point for discussion even today. The narrative itself is, in effect, sailing directions for the Greenland Sea.

Scoresby's narrative is hard to find in libraries and second-hand copies seldom or never appear. It is therefore extremely useful to have this reprint.

The reproduction has been done well. The "views" of the coast and the plates are almost as good as the originals. Even the finest graduations on the charts are distinct. The text is printed on good paper and the book is well bound. It will be a boon and a blessing to many Arctic historians to be able to read this book at home instead of extracting notes in a library, because there is so much of value in it.

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STEFANSSON AND THE CANADIAN ARCTIC. BY RICHARD J. DIUBALDO. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1978. i-xii. 274 pp. Photographs, maps, chart, bibliography, index. Hardbound, \$18.95.

When students or veterans of the Arctic congregate, their conversation eventually turns to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the 100th anniversary of whose birth was noted with a photograph in the December 1979 issue of *Arctic*.

He was one of the greatest Arctic explorers of the era of small boats and dogteams, the first ethnologist to study and publicize the Copper or "blond" Eskimos of Coronation Gulf, whose language and survival techniques he mastered, and while living off the land or sea ice he discovered and mapped the last sizable islands in the Canadian High Arctic. He was also a prophet, foreseeing three decades before it became commonplace the criss-crossing of the North Polar area by airplanes and submarines.

As an explorer, he was at his best alone or with small groups of whites or Inuit. He got into difficulties as leader of his third, largest and final expedition (1913-18), with his role in what he called "The Adventure of Wrangel Island," and with his scheme for breeding reindeer on Baffin Island in the early 1920's.

He had loyal friends and admirers, and detractors and a few enemies besides. But now, nearly all of the members of his expeditions, friends and foes, are dead. None of his still-living friends met him until his days as an active explorer were past and he was becoming mellow; they knew him only during the second half of his life, when he supported himself as a learned scholar, author and lecturer expounding his ideas about the North.

As yet, the only published biographies of Stefansson were by friends, plus his posthumously published autobiography, *Discovery*. The latter was hardly critical of the author and contained almost no references to parts of his life he regarded as private.

The present book, concentrating on the Canadian Arctic phase of his career from 1906 to the mid-1920's, is based wholly on research for a doctoral thesis. In his Introduction, Dr. Diubaldo states: "This book does not seek to offer yet another biographical or geographical study of Stefansson's activities . . . Instead, it will try to look through and beyond Stefansson to examine the impact of the man and his ideas on the Canadian scene . . . One should not gain the impression that Stefansson's explorations are underplayed because these feats were negligible. Nothing could be further from the truth."

The author has done an admirable job. He has been objective throughout, presenting all sides

of controversial issues with much significant information never before printed. Through intensification of northern studies in various universities across Canada, and quickening governmental and public interest in northern development, it seems likely that Stefansson, who died in 1962, will gain fresh stature in Canada, the land of his

birth. This book speculates on why he lost favor there in his lifetime while enjoying continued prestige in the United States and other countries.

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