

SEARCH FOR FRANKLIN. BY LESLIE H. NEATBY. *Edmonton: M. G. Hurtig. 1970. 281 pages. \$7.95. Illustrated.*

ARCTIC BREAKTHROUGH: FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITIONS, 1819-1847. BY PAUL NANTON. *Toronto: Clarke, Irwin and Co. Ltd. 1970. 262 pages. \$6.50. Illustrated.*

"They forged the last link of the Northwest Passage with their lives." No name is more intimately linked with the Canadian Arctic than that of Sir John Franklin. It is 125 years since the ill-fated Franklin Expedition sailed in search of the elusive Northwest Passage. Franklin's disappearance still intrigues the minds of men and even today, there are individuals and organizations striving to throw further light on the fate of the Victorian seamen who died far from home. Crossing Baffin Bay they entered Lancaster Sound, the eastern end of the Northwest Passage and vanished into the pages of history and immortality. Volumes have been written on, and by, the many search parties which sailed or sledged overland in a magnificent humanitarian attempt to find the Franklin party or solve the mystery of its disappearance. The main period covered about 12 years, 1847 to 1859, and the annals of the Arctic have never known the like. Over 40 separate expeditions sought the missing men. A number were financed by Lady Franklin or were brought about by her perseverance and appeals to the British Admiralty and the American Government. In 1850 as many as 14 vessels attached to eight expeditions were in the Canadian Arctic at the same time, and the ninth was at work from the mainland. Although they failed in their objective, their contribution to the knowledge of the land and its people was tremendous. It remained for a fur trader and a private expedition to find the answers to the questions of the disappearance in 1845, with all hands, of H. M. ships *Erebus* and *Terror*.

"Arctic Breakthrough" by Paul Nanton is not a new assessment of Franklin; nevertheless, in retelling the story he brings together a series of excerpts from various journals and old letters in a way that makes the volume highly readable and interesting. Much of the book is from the journals kept by Franklin on his two expeditions to the Polar Sea in 1819-22 and in 1825-27. On the first overland voyage, east from the mouth of the Coppermine River he mapped 550 miles of an unknown coast line. The party experienced starvation, murder and cannibalism as they struggled back to their winter quarters of

1820-21 at Fort Enterprise. Within three years Franklin and some of those who shared the horrors of the first venture were back on another overland expedition. This time he explored and charted nearly 400 miles of new coast west from the Mackenzie Delta to 148°52'W. Richardson and Kendall of the expedition went East from the Mackenzie to complete the survey to the Coppermine River. On his two overland voyages Franklin mapped a total of 1700 miles of Arctic coast line, reflecting with surprising accuracy the shape of the northern edge of the continent.

Mr. Nanton, a native of Winnipeg, became interested in the Arctic in 1924, when he travelled aboard the Hudson's Bay Company's annual supply ship *Nascope* which was the lifeline of the Eastern Arctic for many years. "The purpose of this book", he writes, "is to bring together the career and achievements of Franklin, as well as to discover something of the man himself. Sections of his writing are quoted verbatim where the original presentation is particularly interesting and important, while a considerable amount of unnecessary detail has been omitted. The records of the final expedition were, of course, lost so I have drawn on the accounts of men who participated in the searches to complete the picture. If the story of the men who discovered Canada is part of our history, it is impossible to believe that Canadian history is dull".

The introduction to "Arctic Breakthrough" is by Dr. Trevor Lloyd of McGill University, former Chairman of the Board of the Arctic Institute of North America. His hope is that its publication will encourage interest in the early exploration of northern Canada and lead Canadians, especially young Canadians, to turn back to the early records of northern travel and exploration. He points out that they will find there were giants in those days and John Franklin is one of them. The reviewer shares this view, and believes that "Arctic Breakthrough" will have a place of interest on any shelf of northern history books. It is illustrated with maps and drawings from the original Franklin journals and contains a good bibliography.

In the "Search for Franklin", Professor Leslie H. Neatby brings together in one volume a well-documented story of many of the search expeditions. As with "Arctic Breakthrough" there is little that is really new. Professor Neatby does however illuminate the tales with a graphic description of personalities and characters involved in the search; men like aloof, ambitious M'Clure, pious Miertching, dour Scottish-Canadian Kennedy, the romantic Frenchman Bellot,

the eccentric Britishers King and Belcher, the generous Americans, De Haven and Kane, the indefatigable whaler Penny, the Arctic veterans John and James Ross and a host of others.

The author relates how Dr. John Rae of the Hudson's Bay Company made a number of extensive overland journeys. In 1853-54 he found the first evidence of the missing expedition, obtaining much information from the Eskimos in the Pelly Bay area. As a result Lady Franklin entrusted command of a search expedition to Captain Francis Leopold McClintock, who was later made an Admiral and knighted. Sailing in the 177-ton *Fox* in 1857 he returned to England in 1859 with conclusive evidence on the fate of Franklin. McClintock stated that after the Franklin expedition had been hemmed in by ice for a long time and many men had died of scurvy and other ailments, the survivors had been forced to abandon the ships. Then followed a tragic trek down King William Island to the Great Fish River. McClintock had discovered skeletons and other relics, and Eskimos who had witnessed the death march told him, "They fell down and died as they walked along".

Dr. L. H. Neatby is Professor of Classics, Saskatchewan University. "Search for Franklin", with its illustrations, maps and bibliography is a splendid addition to the four other books he has written on Arctic exploration.

A. Stevenson.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON NORTHERN SEA ICE AND RELATED SUBJECTS. J. D. BRADFORD and S. M. SMIRLE, compilers. *Canada, Marine Operations, Ministry of Transport, and Marine Sciences Branch, Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources, 1970. 8½ x 11 inches. 188 pages.*

This bibliography of 1620 entries may be seen as updating and replacing the U.S. Navy's *Bibliography on ice of the northern hemisphere* (U.S.H.O.Pub. 240, 1945), a work of comparable size. Both are basically concerned with ship operation. But whereas the earlier work was arranged regionally, this one (reflecting the advance in sea ice studies) is arranged thematically. The subsections are Mechanics and strength; Operations and ship design; Observations, subdivided into Atlases and periodicals, Early (1825-1945), Recent (1945—) and Drift and movement; Environment, subdivided into Meteorology and Oceanography; Forecasting and reconnaissance; Nomenclature; and Miscellaneous.

There is an index of authors, both individual and corporate.

It is fair to say that the most important work in sea ice studies is included here. A distinct advantage is that the bibliography includes much material that is either unpublished or on the borderline between published and unpublished: departmental reports, and such-like. This is specially useful for distributional data in the "Observations" section. It is also good to see so much Russian material included.

A spot check against the library catalogue of the Scott Polar Research Institute showed that the relevant works of four glaciologists active in this field (I. S. Peschanskii, B. A. Savel'ev, P. A. Shumskii, W. F. Weeks) totalled 37 in the bibliography, 45 in the SPRI catalogue. The difference over entries on ship design and associated ice topics was of at least the same order, even though some of the bibliography entries are rather slight and ephemeral pieces of journalism not included in the SPRI catalogue. All bibliographies have omissions, of course (and so does the SPRI library), so this need not necessarily be too serious. Indeed, a bibliography may attempt to weed out once-relevant material which happens to have been superseded. A more damaging omission, however, is Risto Jurva's important paper on Baltic ice in *Fennia*, Vol. 64, No. 1, 1937, pp. 1-248. An underlying problem here is that in respect of many physical properties, sea ice is not fundamentally different from ice in other locations; so it was obviously hard to draw the line in the section on "Mechanics and strength", which includes some general papers (by J. W. Glen, for example), but not others (J. F. Nye, P. A. Shumskii).

The most irritating faults are at the lowest level, of literal accuracy, lay-out, and style. There are mis-spellings: Cotle (entry 179) for Cotell, Aleeksev (592) for Alekseev, Sadkov (1200) for Sadko, Laktionev and Drenliug (439) for Laktionov and Dremljug. Titles of papers are not exact (296), and are generally not given in the original language. Transliteration from Cyrillic is inconsistent: Khejsin (430), Kheisin (431). Entries for papers often lack pagination (7,56,64,72,73,81 etc.), and sometimes lack the title of the book they appeared in (219, 222) or adequate information to locate the work except by writing to the publisher or the library where it was catalogued (23, 835). Certain abbreviations are not listed (R for Russian, G for German). Style and punctuation are not consistent, and italics are used for the title of a paper and not the book or journal it appears in, the reverse of normal practice. All this adds up