

had profound ramifications for Inuit land claims.

There are two relatively minor criticisms of this volume. The first is that an adherence to standard scientific referencing, as opposed to end notes, would have been much appreciated by this reader. The present system was distracting, especially with the relevant notes being presented not at the end of each chapter but at the end of the volume.

The other is that this material as a whole is so strong (again, kudos to each contributor) that the volume could well have borne an overview chapter that integrated the salient points common to the socio-political circumstances of all these peoples. Admittedly, this is very much an academic's bias, but such a chapter would have been very useful to those seeking to adopt *Polar peoples* to an advanced undergraduate classroom audience. As it is, this book has considerable potential for upper-level students studying northern peoples and may well prove a worthy successor to Graburn and Strong's *Circumpolar peoples: an anthropological perspective*, now two decades old. (George W. Wenzel, Department of Geography, McGill University, Burnside Hall, 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 2K6, Canada.)

SHADOWS ON THE WASTELAND. Mike Stroud. 1993. London: Jonathan Cape. 182 pp, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-224-03846-X. £14.99.

More than just a re-telling of the tale of the crossing of Antarctica with Ranulph Fiennes, this is the story of the Stroud/Fiennes relationship from their unsuccessful North Pole adventure to the end of their Antarctic expedition. The crossing of Antarctica, 95 days of manhauling across 1350 miles, was an incredible feat, but this book, by way of an introduction, also includes both men's attempts to walk unsupported to the North Pole.

For many readers of books of this genre, it is the relationships between the characters that are of the greatest interest. Few can imagine the environment in which these tales are set, nor relate to the effort of not merely surviving but also travelling on foot hundreds of miles — pages of 'white hell' descriptions lose their interest very quickly. Stories about people, however, are frequently fascinating, as they are in this book. The author, Mike Stroud, is a doctor, the fourth man of the 'In the Footsteps of Scott' expedition. Stroud's companion, the man he admits to elaborately planning to kill at one point, is 'arguably Britain's greatest living explorer,' Ranulph Fiennes.

The book is written in a much more accessible style than Fiennes' own book — less of the 'epic tale of derring-do,' and more down to earth. The tone of the book and the two men's relationship is set out early on: a television crew sent to the airport to meet Fiennes' new companion for an attempt on the North Pole embarrassingly fails to identify him, since he is not the 'brute of a companion' that Fiennes, who has never met Stroud, expects.

It is easy to identify with Stroud, to sympathise with him as he is forced to conform with Fiennes' way of doing things — forced, for example, to abandon their radio on

one of the North Pole journeys, days before Stroud's child is due to be born. Fiennes has decided it is too much weight and must go; Stroud, desperate to keep in touch, can only carry it alone for a few more days before he is crushed by its weight and has to discard it. When he abandons the radio he cannot even tell his base that this is what is being done. Inevitably, the relationship between Stroud and Fiennes comes to dominate the book, with arguments about who is making the greater effort, who is responsible for the decisions, and, post-expedition, who led the way for most of the trip.

This book is subtitled 'Crossing Antarctica with Ranulph Fiennes' and sells in competition with the Fiennes book. Really they should be sold as a box set — or better still the padding cut out of both and combined into a single volume — for about the same cost. To be fair to Stroud, however, his book contains only a brief equipment list, unlike the Fiennes book, which contains many superfluous pages of padding. To appreciate some of the detail of Stroud's book, it is worth reading Fiennes'. But if only one can be purchased, this is the one. (Stephen Wells, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

WHALING AND HISTORY: PERSPECTIVES ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE INDUSTRY. Bjørn L. Basberg, Jan Erik Ringstad, and Einar Wexelsen (Editors). 1993. Sandefjord: Sandefjordmuseene (Christensens Hvalfangstmuseum publication 29). 214 pp, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 82-990595-6-9. NOK 250.

This excellent collection of papers is the result of a conference held in 1992. It fills an important gap in the literature of whaling history, particularly in that dealing with the earlier period. Especially noteworthy are an essay by Uwe Schnall on 'Medieval Scandinavian laws as sources for the history of whaling' and another by Ole Lindquist with the somewhat verbose title 'Whaling by peasant fishermen in Norway, Orkney, Shetland, the Faeroe Islands, Iceland and Norse Greenland: mediaeval and early modern whaling methods and inshore legal regimes.' These two papers provide the reader unfamiliar with Old Norse and the early Scandinavian languages with a complete body of evidence documenting the practice of whaling 800 years ago or more. Lindquist's work is to be incorporated in a PhD thesis, but shows a very mature level of scholarship.

The other paper dealing with an early period, 'Scrimshaw: an introduction and overview, AD 800–1960,' by Stuart M. Frank, is unfortunately mistitled, as it really does not go so far back. Although equipped with a useful bibliography, the author unfortunately does not reference his sometimes quite unusual view by precise textual citations. A fuller treatment of the early development of scrimshaw is still awaited.

Einar Wexelsen's paper 'Working conditions and work-related injuries and illnesses on board Norwegian floating factories after World War II' is an important addition. However, one looks here, as elsewhere, for the utilization of the corpus of life-history material contained in Nor-