

REVIEW

MANUSCRIPTS IN THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

[A review by Harry King* of *Guide to the manuscripts in the National Maritime Museum, Vol 1. The personal collections*, edited by R. J. B. Knight. London, Mansell, 1977, 234 p. £12.50.]

Since its foundation over 40 years ago the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich has acquired by donation, loan and purchase one of the world's finest collections of manuscripts relating to the sea, seamen and maritime history, occupying over 2 750 metres of shelving. As well as Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and other groups' administrative papers the museum's collection is rich in personal papers, to which this volume of the guide is devoted. A second forthcoming volume will cover the remaining categories. The text of the guide consists of 300 short biographies of individuals with brief descriptions of their papers, the length of each description being dependent on the extent of the manuscript material available. Only a small proportion of the collections are of direct polar interest—names like Belcher, Bougainville, Franklin, McClintock, McClure, Nares and Pelham Aldrich are examples. Other information provided includes the provenance, the length of shelving occupied and references to published sources. Chronological, general and ship indexes provide additional access to the contents of the collection.

Researchers who already have access to standard works of biographical reference may well feel that more space could usefully have been given to the detailing of the manuscripts and less to the biographies. Others, less well served by reference libraries, will welcome the convenience that this synopsis of seamen and their papers provides.

LITTLE BEARD OF UNGAVA

[A review by Jack Cram* of André Steinmann's *La petite barbe*. Montreal, Les Editions de l'Homme, 1977, 314 p, illus. \$8 Canadian. Published in French.]

When André Steinmann, OMI, arrived among the Inuit of Ungava in 1938, he found them little changed from their ancestors as reported by Turner in 1894. Today, these same Inuit are an active, organized political and cultural force in the affairs of northern Quebec. Little has been written describing the period of change, so this book is an important social document by an observer who for 40 years has lived intimately with the Inuit. It is also the autobiography of one man's struggle to balance the humility and subservience demanded by his vocation with the impetuosity and arrogance of his own nature.

The role of the priest as hunter, carpenter, trapper, dentist, dog runner, doctor, musician, magician and nurse is described with happiness or sorrow, but always with authenticity. During an epidemic of measles in Koartak, the only job for the priest was to build and fill childrens' coffins. Rage against the vagaries of government welfare is suppressed during a description of famine in Wakeham Bay when the author suggests, with Don Camillo-like directness, that the Lord might have done worse than to share with his followers the secret of the loaves and fishes.

The Inuit emerge as tough, stubborn but infinitely patient individuals. Each one hunts when he feels it is time. Each one shares the proceeds of his hunting because he chooses to and not because of any atavistic communal urge. They teach and are mentors to the young priest because they want to be of help to a stranger and not through either fear or awe.

Like many controversial innovators, André Steinmann has seen his ideas seized, developed and institutionalized by others. Having founded the first school in Povungnituk, he saw it totally absorbed into the federal school system to the point where he was forbidden to teach in it because

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of his religious affiliation. Such is the cold hand of Ottawa. He founded the first co-ops in northern Quebec, but was 'shown the door' by southern managers when he objected to the uses to which they were being put.

The book, generously illustrated with diagrams of traditional hunting implements and dark but unique photographs, is one man's attempt to describe his successes and failures among people he loves. The author saw as his duty to help the Inuit become '*mâitres de leur destinée*'. He can retire knowing that the process is well under way.

OBITUARY

CHARLES J. GREEN, the last but one surviving member of Shackleton's *Endurance* expedition, died in Beverley Hospital on 26 September 1974, at the age of 85. He joined the *Endurance* at Buenos Aires as cook and with the loss of the ship in October 1915 was set the task of providing meals for 28 men, with little equipment. He used an improvised blubber stove, and seal and penguin meat, with sparing use of provisions from the wreck. After five months on the pack ice there was a further four winter months on Elephant Island, when he provided occasional variation in diet by using limpets boiled with seaweed. In addition to his skill as a cook he had a cheerful nature, and his contribution towards the health and survival of the party was considerable. The fact that Shackleton wanted him in the *Quest*, and that Green was anxious to go, says much for the mutual respect between leader and man.

Those who knew him only in his later years, living in retirement in Hull, remember Charles Green, 'the Antarctic Chef' (his own description), as a genial man, always willing to talk about his Antarctic experiences.

F. Wilfred White

Rear Admiral **GEORGE J. DUFEK**, retired, who commanded the United States Naval Support Forces in Operation Deepfreeze in the Antarctic from 1955 to 1959, died on 10 February 1977 in the Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland, at the age of 74. He was born in Rockford, Illinois, on 10 February 1903, educated in Rockford and entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1921. After being commissioned as an ensign in 1925, he served aboard the battleship *Maryland* and then completed four years submarine training. Following this he began flight training and was designated a naval aviator in 1933. In 1939 he volunteered for Rear Admiral Byrd's third expedition to the Antarctic and was made navigator of the sailing vessel the *Bear*. He helped to organize various assaults in Africa, Sicily and southern France during World War II, and commanded the aircraft carrier *Antietam* in the Korean War. In 1955, after several expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic, he was put in charge of the United States forces participating in the Antarctic phase of the International Geophysical Year, during which he directed the construction of seven bases for use by American scientists. One of these was at the Geographical South Pole. In 1956 he successfully landed a ski plane at the South Pole and was the third person, and the first American, to set foot there.

Admiral Dufek was regarded as the navy's leading cold-weather expert at the time of his retirement in 1959. His work in the Antarctic during the IGY won the praise of federal, naval and scientific authorities, and was described by Dr Lawrence M. Gould, director of the IGY, as the 'greatest logistic achievement in the history of Antarctic exploration'. In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal, awarded by President Eisenhower, he received the Antarctic Expeditionary Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars and Combat 'V', and many other awards.

WILLIAM R. MACDONALD, 52, internationally known polar mapping expert with the US Geological Survey, died on 9 November 1977, in Anne Arundel General Hospital in Annapolis, Maryland, after an extended illness. He was born in Laurel, Maryland, and educated in Washington, DC, where he studied at George Washington University and the US Department of Agriculture Graduate School. He joined the USGS in 1942, working with the Alaskan Branch. After