

some mysteries remain: stone runs are still somewhat enigmatic). Darwin's remarks on the behaviour of *Dusicyon australis*, the Warrah or Falkland Fox, are especially interesting, as the species became extinct in 1876. In 1833 the principal introduced species in the Falkland Islands was cattle (still extant but largely replaced by sheep introduced in 1840). Darwin comments on the 'struggle for existence,' notes their abundance, and refers to the absence of 'droughts, or injurious fleas, or ticks or bats [vampires, as in South America], and the cattle are magnificent animals and have multiplied greatly.'

Darwin also made enlightening descriptions of the population and events during the turbulent period of his visits. In 1833 he reported the British flag was flying, a French survey vessel wrecked, and administrative arrangements somewhat unsettled. One observation was prophetic, although almost 150 years premature. On 30 March 1833 he wrote: 'By the awful language of Buenos Ayres one would suppose this great republic meant to declare War against England!' Notes about the settlers, gauchos, the Port Louis murders (particularly of Matthew Brisbane), and the despoilation of property, are of particular interest as they were made with the same accuracy as his natural history observations. On his first meeting with Matthew Brisbane, Darwin noted details about the South Shetland Islands and other Antarctic archipelagos that Brisbane had visited.

The author provides a good introduction in which he indicates how studies of insular biology were highly significant in the development of Darwin's theories of the origin of species and evolution. Although the *Islas Galapagos* provided stronger evidence, the inception of the concept may well have been in the Falkland Islands. A description of Darwin's methods indicates his careful observations, strongly comparative treatment, deductive analysis, emphasis on progress and change, refining of ideas with further evidence, and willingness to change opinions. Concluding sections provide a concept of the long-term significance of Darwin's visits and include a comprehensive bibliography with a list of unpublished sources. The illustrations are from Darwin's journals and the author's photographs, the maps (some based on Captain Robert Fitzroy's surveys) are well provided, the design of the book is generally acceptable, and the dust cover removable. (R.K. Headland, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

CROOKED PAST: THE HISTORY OF A FRONTIER MINING CAMP: FAIRBANKS, ALASKA. Terrence Cole. 1991. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. 163 p, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-53-6. \$8.95 (US).

Originally published in 1981 as *E.T. Barnette: the strange story of the man who founded Fairbanks*, this is a reprint of the 1984 second edition rather than a new work. Cole's entertaining account of the life of E. T. Barnette uncovers

much that its subject would presumably preferred to have been left in decent obscurity. But Barnette was in many ways not untypical of his time, a former inmate of an Oregon penitentiary and one of many who joined the Klondike gold rush of 1897 only to reach Dawson City too late to stake out a worthwhile claim. Like others, Barnette then tried Alaska — in his case the Tanana Valley rather than Nome — where, after many vicissitudes, he proved luckier as a tradesman than as a miner, founding a trading post at the confluence of the Tanana and Chena rivers, which developed into Fairbanks. Barnette's great good fortune occurred when he was forced to establish his settlement here, where a major gold rush was shortly to occur, rather than further up the Tanana as he had originally intended. This book is of more than purely local interest, and this broader interest is undoubtedly better expressed by the new title than by its predecessor, misleading as this title change may be for unwary librarians and Alaskan bibliophiles.

SOVIET STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE NORTH. Kirsten Amundsen. 1990. London: Pinter Publishers. xii + 153 p, hard cover. ISBN 0-861870-18-2. £37.50.

Books of this kind are easily overtaken by events, and the danger is increased when the subject is the former Soviet Union. This book evidently went to press in 1989, and there is therefore no mention of the dissolution of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union nor of the similar fate of the Warsaw Pact, to name just two events of fundamental importance to Dr Amundsen's thesis. A main strand in her argument is that the Soviet Union (in 1989 she could not call it anything else) could well be continuing to plot an assault on Scandinavia, something that nation is known to have done in World War II. Not many, I reckon, will be inclined to follow the author this far. But she adduces some interesting figures on such topics as the recent frequency of accidents involving submarines in the Baltic, and the book's main value, one could argue, is in bringing together this sort of information.

A few quibbles: 'the north' in the title would more accurately be 'Fennoscandia and the Kola Peninsula': there is no discussion here on the Pacific sector, the central Arctic Basin, or even Greenland. Nor is it correct to say (page 19) that 'the Murmansk Fjord can be kept open throughout the year only with the aid of icebreakers.' Dr Amundsen writes clearly and economically, her documentation is exemplary, and one can only feel sympathy for her — and her series editor — for appearing to lose out in this lottery of a subject.

ARCTIC EXPLORATION & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1900–1932. Nancy Fogelson. 1992. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press. xiv + 221 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-912006-61-7. \$15.00 (US).

On the surface, this book promises to be an important work, linking Arctic exploration and international relations in the first third of the twentieth century. The effect