



THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT - MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 87-88

May

No. 6

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ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS STAMPS TO BE ISSUED IN WASHINGTON 12 SEPTEMBER 1988

MID-WINTER PICNIC

at

STRONGHOLD Comus, Maryland

Sunday, June 19th, 1988

2 PM to sundown

Honorary Members:

Ambassador Paul C. Daniels
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould
Count Emilio Pucci
Sir Charles S. Wright
Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans
Dr. Henry M. Dater
Mr. August Howard

We are planning to hold a Mid-winter picnic at Stronghold, an old-time favorite spot, and hope enough of you will want to attend so we can meet the minimum requirement. *PLEASE send your reservation with a check - \$16 per person - by 12 June 1988 - to Ruth J. Siple, 905 N. Jacksonville Street, Arlington, VA 22205.*

Paul C. Daniels

Memorial Lecturers:

Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1964
RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1965
Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, 1966
Dr. J. Campbell Craddock, 1967
Mr. James Pranke, 1968
Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
Sir Peter M. Scott, 1971
Dr. Frank Davies, 1972
Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
Dr. Robert L. Nichols, 1981
Dr. Robert H. Rufford, 1982
Mr. R. Tucker Scully, 1983
Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, 1984
Dr. Mark F. Meier, 1985
Dr. Claude Lorius, 1986

The meal will be catered by Comus Inn and will consist of sweet and sour meatballs, fried chicken, baked ham, breaded fish fillets, au gratin potatoes, 4-bean salad, tropical fruit salad, dinner rolls, coffee-tea-milk, and chocolate cake.

To get there, take Route 270 North towards Frederick. Exit at Hyattstown-Comus, circle under 1-270, follow Route 109 for 3.3 miles to Comus. Turn right on Route 95 and go 2.5 miles. Cross inter-section, and 1/4 of a mile farther you will find a road turning off to the right, going upslope. Pass the first house, then turn into the parking lot below the next house - Stronghold. Bring your own lawn chairs, and bring your own libations to see you through until dinner is served late in the afternoon, around 4 PM.

The 1988 Memorial Lecture will be presented in Columbus, Ohio the last week in October by the noted polar historian, Peter Anderson, Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State University, where we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd. Plan now to be in Columbus late October!

A memorial service for the late Albert Paddock Crary will be held in the Herring-Cole Library at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York on June 25th at 2 PM. After the service there will be light refreshments. Attendees are requested to notify Mildred (3010 New Mexico Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20016) so she can alert the University. Interment of ashes will be in the Crary family plot in the Pierrepont Cemetery at 4 PM.

This Newsletter was made possible by our failing to use several book reviews written during the year, so this is basically a pseudo book-review newsletter. It also gives us the opportunity to reprint a popular item, a listing of book dealers handling polar books.

Some people want a Mid-winter picnic back at a very popular spot, Stronghold. If there's a valid reason for having it, your reservations will tell us, and we'll go ahead. If we can't meet a minimum number of attendees, we will cancel. Our last effort at Horsehead Sanctuary turned out to be a bust when only a handful attended, in spite of an exciting place and a great catered seafood meal.

One must remember that the Antarctic Society isn't what it was ten years ago; we are now a truly national organization, not just a local one. Our local membership has not increased in years, in spite of our offering an excellent lecture program. Meanwhile, our Washington-based membership has aged, becoming more and more stay-at-homers.

This is our last Newsletter of the spring, and we'll see you folks in the fall. Have a good summer - we will!

POLAR BOOK DEALERS. We are certainly no authority on polar book dealers, but being a prejudiced person by nature, we have our favorites and not-so-favorites. As an Antarctic, you have to feel kindly towards old Colin Bull, even though he was a Brit. He is the only Antarctic scientist who is attempting to feather his own nest through sales of books. We were very sympathetic towards Bob Peterson, as his prices were the best, but his very infrequent catalogs leave one frustrated. Jay Platt puts out great catalogs, and his prices are fairly reasonable, but it seems that an immediate telephone call is often not soon enough, as he has a hungry bunch of buyers waiting for his catalogs. A lot of book buyers favor Bob Finch, but it's against our religion to have to pay for a polar book catalog, so we don't see his. David Belknap has a relatively large polar offering, and his prices seem to be somewhere between Jay's and Finch's. Our advice is, if you see something of interest in any of the catalogs, don't hesitate, call immediately, as he who sends in an order by mail will probably end up getting nothing. Thanks to John Millard, Art Ford, Warren Zapol, and Billy-Ace Baker for bringing to our attention some of the dealers listed below.

UNITED STATES

Antipodean
(David & Kathy Lilburne)
P.O. Box 189
Cold Spring, NY 10516
(914) 424-3867

David Belknap - Books
P.O. Box 1382, GMF
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 269-5061

West Side Book Shop
(Jay Platt)
113 West Liberty Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(313) 995-1891

Jean Farmer, Booksellers
7644 Forrestal Road San
Diego, CA 92120 (619)
287-0693

Blue Dragon Bookshop (Bob Peterson)
P.O. Box 216 Ashland, OR 97520
(503) 482-2142

UNITED STATES (cont.)

Colin Bull, Polar Books
P.O. Box 4497 Rolling
Bay, WA 98061 (206)
842-9660

High Latitude (Bob Finch)
P.O. Box 11254
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
(206) 842-0202

OVERSEAS

Bluntisham Books
Oak House, East Street
Bluntisham, Huntingdon, Camb., PE17 3LS
England
(phone) 487-840449

Francis Edwards
The Clocktower Bookshop
The Pavement, Hay-on-Wye
via Hereford HR3 5BU
England

Explorer Books
Fallow Chase, Durfold Wood
Plaistow, West Sussex RH14 OPL
England

XIV The Green
Calne, Wiltshire SN11 8DQ
England
(phone) 0249-816793

Patrick J. Walcott - Books
60 Sunnybank Road
Sutton Coldfields, W. Midlands B73 5RJ
England
(phone) 21-382-6381

Francois et Rodolphe Chamonal
40 Rue Le Peletier
75009 Paris
France
(phone) 878.14.41

Librarie Jean Polak
Marine et Voyages 8
Rue de L'Echaude
75006 Paris France

Messrs. Berkelouw
P.O. Box 352
Bowral, NSW 2576
Australia

Kenneth Hince
823 Glenhuntly Road
Caulfield South, Victoria 3162
Australia

Gaston Renard, Fine & Rare Books
G.P.O. Box 5235BB
Melbourne, Victoria 3001
Australia
(phone) 3-417-1044

ANTARCTIC CLASSICS COLLECTION (in association with Bluntisham Books). There are several elegantly reprinted and bound (in the period style of the turn of the century) Antarctic classics which some of you may want to obtain for your personal libraries. *AURORA AUSTRALIS* was the first book printed in Antarctica, prepared on the ice in 1908. This archival facsimile is the first public edition, has 216 pages and is bound in brown cloth-covered board, blocked in scarlet and gold on front and spine. Shackleton, Priestley, Mawson, David, Mackay and others on the expedition made contributions to the publication. Our own John Millard in Toronto, a genuine bibliophile, wrote the introduction. If you happen to be one of those poor souls who has an undying thirst to know more about Sir Clements Markham, past President of the Royal Geographical Society, and champion of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, there is another book entitled *ANTARCTIC OBSESSION*. Obsessed with a goal dating back to 1870 of seeing the British explore Antarctica and reach the South Pole, Markham's confidential and outspoken accounts have been published for the first time, thanks to Sir Peter Scott who gifted the manuscript to the Scott Polar Research Institute. This volume has 208 pages, and is bound in red cloth, blocked in gold on

front and spine. The American prices listed are \$48 for *AURORA AUSTRALIS*, and \$29 for *ANTARCTIC OBSESSION*. If you are interested, contact Archival Facsimiles Ltd., Robert P.S. Easton, 230 East Ontario, Chicago, IL 60611, (phone 312-988-9331), and he will tell you how many greenbacks he wants for the books. Let's hope he types a reply because his penmanship is horrid, looking like a series of waves hitting the beachhead of Normandy.

A WALK TO THE POLE (reviewed by Steve Dibbern). Ed Note: We asked Steve to review this book because we knew he had read it, that he had been at McMurdo - even to the Brit's camp at Cape Evans - while footsteps were being taken to the Pole, and that he would be as free of prejudice about the book as any true Antarctic could b'

It is difficult to have a neutral opinion about the Hear and Swan book. *A WALK TO THE POLE*, Crown Publishers, \$24.95, published in the UK as *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SCOTT*. Perhaps it was wise to rename it for publication here since the term 'footsteps' will raise the blood pressure a few points for almost anyone associated with the Antarctic, government or otherwise.

I should point out at the beginning that I enjoyed the book; it was interestingly written, and above all the photography alone is worth the entire price of the book. I believe that Mear (the primary author) has successfully recounted the expedition as he saw it, and has admirably tried to also portray the feelings of his cohorts. The problem, and at the same time the main interest, is that he did it so thoroughly that the reader is subjected to a long series of egotistical, whining diary entries concerning the incompatibility of the five main proponents. Surely there has never been a less congenial group of people setting out to do the same task - or were they? Possibly not. If Roland Huntford's books are to be even partially relied upon, maybe they were following more closely in Scott's footsteps than they thought! In regard to personalities, there is an interesting and revealing Psychological Report by Elizabeth Holmes-Johnson, PhD, LCDR USNR, as an appendix.

Incongruent feelings abound in the book. There are many references and innuendos concerning the ease of travel and somehow 'evil¹ level of comfort enjoyed by the *#!\$(\$= AMERICANS. On their winter trip to Cape Crozier, however, they were quite happy to stay several days in a hut in Windless Bight. Then there is the infamous incident on the Beardmore Glacier; they spotted an American geological party (about which they had been forewarned). Drama! 'It was - I was sure, there was no doubt - a figure ... I pondered what this awful event might mean.' (There is even a photo of the disappointment on one of the members face). They describe 'private grief,' being 'on the verge of tears' - 'Then the tents came into view, and I found myself cussing and in tears. I had worked too hard for this.' To wash away their tears they decided to stay several days in the American camp to rest and eat the Americans' food. This incident may help point out the theme of the book. They felt that they were on a 'crusade' which only they had the depth of feeling for and insight to understand, and that everyone else was an illegitimate, somehow 'unclean' usurper of Scott's mantle. But when the chips were down either for comfort, as on the Beardmore, or for safety, as after the sinking of their ship and subsequent flight to New Zealand, they accepted hospitality and then saw fit to bite the hand that fed!

NSF is thoroughly vilified, as well as Dr. Wilkniss personally. This book tells only one side of the story, and I'm sure that the other side won't receive much wide publication. It appears that at least if nothing of value comes from this expedition (other than this attractive book), it will be that

even as the 'footsteps' were still stepping, NSF was attempting to gain a consensus of opinion on what the U.S. government's position should be in regard to this and other such small, marginally equipped, non-scientific expeditions. The larger question of tourist expeditions is obviously also to be dealt with.

I recommend this book to all who are interested in Antarctica. It is an intense study of adversity not only from the elements, but also a badly organized, poorly led and ultimately a paranoid group of people. They chose to vilify NSF and Dr. Wilkniss while ignoring the overwhelming facts of their own failings. To paraphrase Cherry-Garrard's famous book: If you march your Winter Journeys you will have your reward, so long as all you want is ... fame and fortune for an ill-planned stunt gone wrong! P.S. Wilson, Bowers and Cherry-Garrard FOUND their penguin eggs!

ANOTHER GOOD ANTARCTIC BOOK FROM DOWN UNDER - GOING TO EXTREMES. The Aussies do a great job of selling Antarctica, and have come up with another pictorial/historical masterpiece - if you are Australian. It follows somewhat the format of the Reader's Digest's *ANTARCTICA*, also published in Australia, although it is much more provincial. There are eight sections, with about forty individual accounts, plus some thirty maps. There is a good cross section of photos from the heroic age, plus modern colored spectaculars. Probably the most noteworthy thing about it is that this one book capsules the whole Australian effort in Antarctica; a secondary feature is the coverage on Sir Douglas Mawson, a nonpareil Antarctic.

The book was written by Jonathan Chester, described on the flyleaf as one of Australia's most experienced and intrepid expeditioners. Basically he is a freelance photographer and writer who saw a marketable item and capitalized on it. The book was printed in Hong Kong, published in Australia by Doubleday. The recommended Australian price is \$39.94, a bit on the high side. It evidently is being distributed abroad by Corgi and Bantam Books. If you have any Australian Antarctic interests, or are one of those who has to own every book on Antarctica, go out and buy it. It will look good on your coffee table, and it will impress your guests, as chances are they have never seen it, nor will ever see it elsewhere.

NORTHERN LIGHT - (Rolf Bjelke and Deborah Shapiro). We normally would rather shoot ourselves in the foot than give publicity to an Antarctic adventurer's book, but this one is sort of interesting. It all began when this bimbo sees a strange looking yacht in some harbor in the South Pacific, and rows over to see who's there and where they came from, and where they were going. To make a long story less long, they (Bjelke and Shapiro) combine forces, talent, and other things and eventually sail out of his homeland of Norway on something they call a circumpolar trip. No one is in a hurry, as his life is the water and hers is uncommitted, so they go as far north as they can, then sail as far south as they can. Some two years later they find themselves 320 nautical miles down the Antarctic Peninsula, having covered some 33,000 miles. She is a pretty good photographer, and along the way they get some real fine shots. The book, published in 1985 by Clarkson N. Potter, is 116 pages long, with 150 photographs, and is distributed by Crown Publishers. We don't know the price, as we saw a library copy. If you like yachting, you'll probably like this book.

Rolf is one of those practical guys, and his liaison with Deborah was based on her yachting abilities and compatible personality, rather than on her physical attributes. So they evidently got along just great. Probably the perfect odyssey, sailing off on a timeless cruise with a free-spirited woman who can do it all, and doesn't care if the sail never ends.

MILDRED RODGERS CRARY REVIEWS *OVERFLIGHT*. We had trouble finding someone who wanted to review *OVERFLIGHT*, as nearly everyone who had read it said they didn't care for it, nor did they care to or want to review it. However, we finally persuaded Mildred Crary, a novelist in her own right, to review the book. She has a knowledge of Antarctica as well as a professional writing interest. The review is rather lengthy, but we think you will find many of Mildred's comments right on target and will enjoy her review.

OVERFLIGHT, A Novel by Charles Neider (1986), 218 pp., New Horizon Press, P.O. Box 669, Far Hills, NJ 07931. [Paperback edition, Ballantine/Fiction 1988] Coupling his own "unforgettable and deeply traumatic experience" in a near-fatal helicopter crash in 1971 in Antarctica with a real-life crash of a tourist sight-seeing plane in 1979, Charles Neider wrote this suspense novel apparently to make sense of the experience in his life. The plot, based on the coincidence of two plane crashes on the dangerous slopes of an active volcano, Mt. Erebus, concerns attempts by Stevenson, a historian and the protagonist, to cope with survivor's guilt and to find meaning in these experiences.

Neider handles suspensefully a New Zealand tourist plane crash, which Stevenson, the protagonist, survives. Stevenson conceals psychotic behavior so Breslin (USARP representative and the only "heavy" in the book) will not send him home. Visiting the crash site to scatter the ashes of several victims, Stevenson survives a helicopter crash. Awaiting rescue, he hallucinates conversations with Erebus, the ghost of George Vince of Scott's first expedition, his dead mother, and Robert Falcon Scott.

Stevenson concludes his survival of two crashes on Erebus "was too improbable.... The crashes were the result of magic - black, not white." He searches for a "common denominator" - "one which would, furthermore, explain why Amundsen had been so easily successful in reaching the Pole [in 1911] whereas both Scott and Shackleton had had such a terrible time of it." Suspense fans will feel little satisfaction to hear that Mt. Erebus has bewitched him, as he thinks it did Scott, who camped "in close sight of the volcano," as opposed to Amundsen, far away at the Bay of Whales. This explanation puts the novel into the sub-genre of supernatural suspense, a category not high among literary classifications, despite Neider's literary ambitions.

Neider visited Antarctica several times as a guest of the U.S. Navy and the National Science Foundation. He prides himself on writing "a novel which, so far as I know, is at this time (April 1986) the only one with a completely authentic Antarctic background." He comments, "I had a superb opportunity to [write the novel] authentically.... it was one chance in a lifetime to do it first (I liked the idea of an American getting the jump on the British, who had had a long head start), and to do it in such a way that it could not easily be improved on....I was in a position, if I was humble and worked hard, to make it believable."

Has Neider read all the Antarctic-based novels in Bergy Bits' extensive bibliography (compiled principally by Fauno Cordes and supplemented by Rob Flint, in the August 1983 issue of this bulletin)? Has he consulted the polar book stores (listed in the May, September, and October 1986 issues)? To suggest that authors cannot write authentically about places they have never visited would be to rule out all historical fiction, not to mention the Bible's Revelation of Saint John.

Neider's disclaimer says, "All of the characters and most of the events of *OVERFLIGHT* are fictional." However, he uses real events and real living people. His fictional Kiwi Airways of New Zealand tourist flight 50 crashes on Erebus on 29 November 1979, with 248 people killed and one survivor (the narrator).

The real Air New Zealand tourist flight 901 crashed on Erebus on 28 November 1979, and all 257 people aboard perished. Stevenson's second fictional crash on Mt. Erebus, on Wednesday, 12 December 1979, echoes Neider's real experience on 9 January 1971.

Neider unnecessarily brings real people, Dr. Larry Gould and Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., into the story and even uses Dr. Gould to promote the protagonist's request to visit the crash site. "Larry's opinions are pure gold with us," says Breslin. Neider's descriptions of people are circumstantial and believable and possibly as little disguised as the two plane crashes, but it would be distasteful to figure out the real people behind Kate (the woman doctor with whom the hero sleeps), the USARP "rep" Breslin, the commander of the Navy Task Force Westcott, and especially the two incompetent pilots, Ogilvie and McIver. Breslin, a bureaucrat serving an apparently unloved NSF, is the closest character to a villain. The pilots who stupidly crash their planes are fictional, perhaps because Neider hopes to avoid legal difficulties.

No such qualms prevent Neider's using long-dead historical figures, such as Byrd, Scott, and Amundsen, as he sees fit. Stevenson puts words in Scott's mouth during a long hallucinated conversation. One historical figure in particular is ill-served by misrepresentation. The protagonist visits a fictional Sir Henry S. Wild whom he identifies as "the leader of the search party which had found Scott's tent in November 1912." He says that Wild, 88, lived "in a small, simple house in a grove of arbutus near a saltwater pond" with his daughter Meg on Saltspring Island one of the Gulf Islands off Vancouver. Although the other members of Scott's party mentioned in *OVERFLIGHT* are given their real names, Wild is a transparent fiction for Sir Charles Wright (who actually discovered Scott's tent). Before his death in 1975, Wright lived much of the year with his daughter Pat on Arbutus Road, Ganges, Saltspring Island, B.C. Neider provides an interesting, detailed, and realistic account of Stevenson's two-day visit with an interview of the fictional Sir Henry S. Wild.

Why, then, does he so thinly disguise Wright as the fictional character, Wild? Because he puts words into the mouth of the old explorer that would substantiate the supernatural elements of the novel. Neider clearly wants us to know who Wild really is and to have Wild/Wright authenticate Stevenson's mystical belief in the haunting power of Erebus, to have the old scientist share his superstition. A passage in the novel indicates that the real daughter may have raised an objection "A little later, when Meg was standing apart from us, he suddenly said, 'I'll tell you something I've never told anyone...'" There follow Wild's words about what they found inside Scott's tent: "Scott's left eye...slightly open," "effect... extraordinary," "looked alive," "uncanny," "he looked...haunted," "Haunted..." By fictionalizing the incident, having Wild tell Stevenson something he has never told anyone, and placing the daughter out of earshot, Neider can use our knowledge of Wright's reality to make us believe that Wild/Wright agrees with and validates Stevenson's supernatural interpretation.

Neider unintentionally characterizes Stevenson as a know-it-all: he alone carries along a survival bag on both tourist and helicopter flights. He warns the tourist plane's pilot of the impending crash on Erebus. He knows better than the helicopter pilot that their high altitude will stall the engine and cause the second crash. He directs survival measures after the pilot fails to take charge.

Neider writes, "Aside from sudden changes in weather, the worst enemies in Antarctica are ignorance, stupidity, vain pride." Stevenson's self-pride is based on his own foresight, careful preparation, and fore-knowledge of the dangers in Antarctica. In his definitive work, *THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH*, Roland Huntford meticulously documented Scott's ignorance, stupidity, vain pride, and lack of

judgment and preparation. Both Neider and his fictional counterpart, Stevenson, nevertheless regard Scott as a consummate hero despite these qualities, the very opposite of those both author and protagonist admire. It is as though Neider never read – or chose to ignore – the most recent (1984) and authoritative work on Scott. Stevenson excuses Scott's failures by saying that Scott was "haunted" and "bewitched" by proximity to Mt. Erebus; he thinks of himself also as haunted and bewitched by Erebus.

Stevenson takes a very in-group attitude about his knowledge of Antarctica. Old Antarcticans as well as ordinary readers will be irritated by the condescending tone of such obtrusive explanations as " 'Kiwi' refers to New Zealand or a New Zealander," "USARP (pronounced you-sarp)" – how else? – and many others. With misinformed Latinate pedantry, Neider repeatedly uses "sastrugus" for the singular form of "sastrugi," as no Antarctic ever would because these ice ridges never occur one at a time. In any case, the singular form is "sastruga" or "zastruga", from Russian.

Neider inserts intrusive passages in the narrative, some useful, some overly didactic, and some beautifully descriptive. He gives blocks of historical information in asides to the reader. To bring in set pieces of evocative description, showing the reader the colors, prospects, and geological variety of Antarctica, he sends the hero on sight-seeing trips irrelevant to the ongoing action. His beautiful descriptive passages contrast with careless writing, such as this jumble of metaphors: "Actually, although I was alarmed, I was fascinated by nature's inventiveness, her ability to bring a human tragedy slowly but definitely to fruition, to gather the components until they formed a critical mass that exploded like a bag of pus bursting."

The plot requires a fairly detailed knowledge of the topography of the area, including the Ross Ice Shelf, McMurdo Sound, Ross Island, and Mt. Erebus; and Neider gives it to us straight in tour-guide fashion. The information is essential but too complex for a reader to follow. A map (e.g., a simplified version, 10% reduced, of the Molenaar map of the "McMurdo Sound Area, Antarctica") on the inside cover or the back of the dust jacket would not have cost more to reproduce than Neider's self-portrait on the dust jacket.

It is disappointing that an author with Neider's reputation, accomplishments, opportunities, and ambitions has not written a more honest novel about the Antarctic he professes to love.

(© Mildred Rodgers Crary 1987)

ANTARCTIC TRAVELER PUBLISHES BOOK ON BIRDING. Aileen Lotz, former Executive Director of the Zoological Society of Florida, and past member of the Board of Directors of the Tropical Audubon Society, has recently published *BIRDING AROUND THE WORLD: A Guide to Observing Birds Everywhere You Travel*. One can get it for the price of \$12.95 paperback and \$20.95 hardcover from Dodd, Mead & Company, 6 Ram Ridge Road, Spring Valley, New York 10977. Supposedly it is the first guidebook for birders who would go to where exotic species "populate the sky, rustle the trees, charm the weary traveler." It covers all seven continents, islands, and the oceans, and is a common-sense book for fun lovers (or is it a loving book for common-sense birders!). Buy this book, and then keep your eyes open downstream for her companion book on North America.

Aileen, incidentally, made her second trip to Antarctica last year, going on Society Expeditions' WORLD DISCOVERER. She wants to write a book on Antarctica, and I'm sure that whatever she attempts, with her command of the written word, will be a good one. Of Antarctica she wrote, "Just making it down there twice was two thrills in a lifetime ... brief words can't ever express the intense excitement and gratefulness I feel for having the opportunity of visiting Antarctica."

THE HOLE IN THE SKY by John Gribbin (reviewed by John Lynch). A Bantam New Age Book, May 1988 (\$4.50) - available from Crown Books at a discount.

Gribbin is a PhD astrophysicist with a degree from Cambridge University, who has, for many years, written for the British publications, *Nature* and *New Scientist*. He is well-known for a number of popular science books, such as *IN SEARCH OF SCHROEDINGER'S CAT* and *IN SEARCH OF THE DOUBLE HELIX*.

The subject of *THE HOLE IN THE SKY* is depletion of the ozone layer by manmade chemicals, with a focus on chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) and their role in causing the annual "Antarctic Ozone Hole" as well as global ozone depletion. The book also discusses other problems, including greenhouse gases. I noticed only a few minor errors, e.g. NOZE should be the National Ozone Expedition, not Experiment. In my opinion the book is excellent: clearly written, well focused and more up-to-date than seems possible. The view taken by Gribbin is definitely alarmist, with a clarion call for immediate action, but on this subject I am also an alarmist, and share most of Gribbin's worries.

As the cover of the book says, "The Sky is Not Falling - It's Disappearing!"

THE PENGUIN PRINCIPLES by David S. Belasic and Paul M. Schmidt. This is really not an Antarctic book per se, but is "A Survival Manual for Clergy Seeking Maturity in Ministry." It was brought to our attention by one of my ex-roommates at Little America V, Reverend Bruce J. Lieske, who felt that, after wintering over with Bert Crary, Gene Harter, Wild Bill Cromie, Sam Wilson, Pat Unger, Blackie Bennett, Ron Taylor, Walter Boyd, and Muckluck Milan, there was a much greater need to fulfill in the ministry than in becoming an atmospheric scientist. But we do want to quote from the book on a specific question, "Why is a parish pastor like a penguin?" It seems there are six valid answers: "penguins have a way of looking dignified and ridiculous simultaneously; penguins are sensitive to heat; penguins have treacherous enemies; penguins are relatively defenseless; penguins have a homing instinct; and no matter what happens to penguins, they keep their heads high." If you don't like the list, tell the authors - Belasic is a Lutheran minister in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Schmidt serves another Lutheran church in Spokane, Washington.

ANTARCTIC NOVELS. Fauno Cordes (355 Arballo Drive, San Francisco 94132) is our official unofficial clearing-house for Antarctic novels; she has a listing of over a hundred..... It seems everyone is writing an Antarctic novel. Moe Morris, the old VX-6 pilot of Deep Freeze 64-65-66 published *ALPHA BUG* (Presidio Press) in 1986 and supposedly published another, *THE ICEMEN*, in 1987. Susan Solomon, the celebrated NOAA ozone scientist, wrote a novel about McMurdo life after her first trip to the area. Mildred Crary has written two-thirds of *OUTSIDE THE LAW*. The late Captain Ed MacDonald also wrote a polar novel about icebreakers.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS. There seems to be a growing interest in children, and that has parlayed itself into children's books on Antarctica. From a most reliable source, we understand that Emanuel and Ann Rudolph (Dept. of Botany, Ohio State University, 1735 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43210) are prisoners of books in their own home, those books having evidently encapsulated most of their living space. Several years ago they published a bibliography of children's Antarctic books, in English, with over a hundred on their list. Guy Guthridge is interested in enlarging the Rudolph's efforts into an even longer bibliography. So if you have a listing, why not send it on to Guy (Manager - Polar Information, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550)?

DISCONNECTED RAMBLINGS ON BOOKS. You must have read in Peter Wilkniss's Dear Colleague Letter #11 that Stephen J. Pyne's *THE ICE: A JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA* was listed by the New York Times, 6 December 1987, as one of the sixteen best books of 1987. This vindicates our review in the March 1987 Newsletter when we wrote, "This book could very well win some sort of a literary prize." Then we went on to say, "Hopefully it will then be translated into layman's language..." I have yet to meet a person who has read every page, as reading that book is like walking through waist-deep snow..... *Gil Dewart*, Wilkes '57, Mirnyy '60, has written a very interesting account of his years at those stations, and, hopefully, it will be published before everyone forgets that there ever was a Wilkes Station *Pat Wilson*, whom Brash Ice would describe as a comely blonde from Texas, is about to embark on a children's biography of the late Paul Siple. She has discussed the writing of the book with Ruth, and will send out an outline and an early chapter to potential publishers this spring. Pat feels that children should have more role models, and while cruising on a tour ship to Antarctica, decided that Paul would be an ideal person The late *Bert Cray*'s draft on his Arctic and Antarctic career has been read by several polar experts, including Bunny Fuchs and Gordon Robin. Most people who have looked at the manuscript seem to favor editing, but Mildred is fearful that any editing will destroy Bert's scientific intentions. Mildred wants the book published, but doesn't want to sacrifice science for popularity..... *Colin Bull*, the old college dean who lost his faculties and moved to Rolling Bay, Washington, is dabbling at putting Sir Charles Wright's diaries into publishing form; but being part-construction worker, part-landscaper, part-husband, part-book salesman, is so subdivided that it is taking much longer than he anticipated..... A former publicist at NSF, *Eugene Rodgers*, is supposedly writing a book on the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition. He sent out questionnaires to all of the survivors, and the way it looked to us, he was only interested in writing an expose. We think it's lousy when someone gets carried away with his own personal vendettas and does a crucifixion on someone. Why not report on the good that comes out of expeditions, instead of the negatives? One of our Society members, *J. A. Van Bekhoven* of Belgium, is also writing a biography on Byrd *Roland Huntford* is currently writing his next polar biography, this one on Fridtjof Nansen. I guess they don't come any better than Nansen, although we were hoping his next book would be on Sir Douglas Mawson. Regardless of what you may or may not think of Huntford, one has to admire the thoroughness of his researching, even if they don't agree with his personal interpretations of history. We read Huntford's biographies with one finger in the references to learn just where he got his information *Charlotte Evans*, who wrote several articles this past winter in the New York Times about the Antarctic, is an interesting soul. We enjoyed the humor which she introduced into her articles. We also admire her adventurism, being willing to go to strange places without a contract, and then gambling on being able to survive by selling articles to papers. Her next port-of-call may be Sydney, Australia While walking along the waterfront in Camden, Maine recently, we looked in the window of a real swanky bookstore, The Owl and the Turtle, where we saw a copy of the latest David Lewis book on the Frozen Seas Expedition..... Whatever happened to Stephen Carter Jackson and the Polaris Press? Is *Fram* still in existence? We don't know if this Newsletter will be popular or not. We do know that many of our members can read, that some of them actually read Antarctic books. We had some unpublished reviews, and since we had to get a newsletter out for the Mid-winter picnic, decided to kill two birds with one stone.

FAREWELL UNTIL SEPTEMBER. Have a great summer! We will! Summers are wonderful if you can avoid recreational vehicles on the highways; escape with your life when trying to avoid rude Boston drivers; have the patience not to blow your top when idiotic Floridians drive 45 miles per hour in the passing lane on high-speed turnpikes, never, never, never pulling over - how did they ever get licenses? Please don't come to Maine unless you have a home there, as we already have too much traffic. Cheers!