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**ARCTIC ORDEAL** — The Journal of John Richardson, surgeon-naturalist with Franklin, 1820-1822.

Edited by C. STUART HOUSTON, with illustrations by H. ALBERT HOCHBAUM. McGill-Queen's University Press. xxxiv, 349 pp. 1984. \$29.95 (Available from the Blue Jay Bookshop, Box 1121, Regina, for \$26.95).

Dr. Houston has presented us with another excellent volume on the somewhat less famous, but no less intriguing first Franklin expedition. Almost ten years to the day since publication of his *To the Arctic by Canoe* (McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 1974) this volume amazingly covers very little of the same material since Richardson's journals begin on 21 August while those of Hood which were dealt with in *To the Arctic by Canoe*, end on 13 September. Thus this current volume is not a duplicate of the previous, but an extension, beginning where the previous one left off.

John Richardson in his journals recorded the day to day activities of the expedition as well as his own record of specimens and observations on the long trek northward into previously unexplored land. It is a story of the trials and tribulations of a group of 20 men which set out and of the 9 who were still alive on their return. Unlike Franklin's narrative, Richardson's journals provide a personal record, not designed for public viewing as was Franklin's. Richardson's journal thus tells us in an informal and readable style the events of the last year of the expedition. This, combined with Dr. Houston's knowledgeable commentary, provides for an interesting and vivid account which is of interest not only to the specialists but to anyone interested in history of northern exploration.

The format is attractive and is enhanced by a series of excellent maps and realistic sketches by Albert Hochbaum. There are six appendices — four by Houston on birds, mammals, fish and plants and one on lichens by John W. Thomson and another on geology by Walter O. Kupsch.

Overall, I was impressed by this book. It is well edited and produced, and by comparison on today's market, very reasonably priced. Highly recommended. — Reviewed by *Wayne C. Harris*, Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan. S0A 3J0

**CHARLES BROLEY:** An Extraordinary Naturalist

JON GERRARD 1983 White Horse Plains Publishers, Headingly, Manitoba. 58 pp. illus. \$4.00.

A biography of the man who sounded the alarm when DDT was reducing the reproductive success of the Bald Eagle, saving the species from the brink of extinction.

## THE BALD EAGLE IN CANADA

Proceedings of Bald Eagle Days, 1983

Edited by JON M. GERRARD and TERENCE N. INGRAM 1985 White Horse Plains Publishers, Headingly, Manitoba. 272 pp., illus. \$20.00.

The Proceedings of Bald Eagle Days, 1983 presents status reports, and articles on management and research on Bald Eagles. In addition a special section on Charles Broley describes his impact on the studies of eagles.

**FISHING IN THE WEST:** A Guide to Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. David Carpenter, 1984. Western Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 185 pages plus many angling zone maps.

“One time, Dave Carpenter, visiting here from Alberta, drove with me into the Catskills, showed me a poisonous snake, told me the history of all these famous trout streams that he’d never seen but knows so much about.” The note in Robert Kroetsch’s *The Crow Journals* floated like a bit of flotsam in my mind although, at the time of reading, the word “trout” did not register, swimming away into the nether depths. What possible interest, I vaguely wondered, has David Carpenter - writer of fiction and professor of English - in the reverine environment, seeing that among the *literati* so few are alluvial fans?

With this book the mystery is solved. A true fisherman is drawn to streams and lakes, impelled whether in the Catskills or the Cypress Hills to read their waters, albeit in modern times by peering through polaroid sunglasses. He sees, beneath the surface, the sunflecked shallow riffles where the river runs straight, and the deep mysterious pools where it curves. He knows a thermocline from a thalweg.

And indeed, the author’s “compleat” familiarity with his subject is well illustrated, offering something for every “Piscator:” - pictures, descriptions, and anecdotes about the nineteen most wanted fish of the prairie provinces, maps and lists of lakes and rivers where they can be found the methods of tying knots to assure that lures stay attached to lines, methods of ice fishing, and of fly fishing, as well as sections composed by Bill Robertson and Leroy Royer on the preparation, smoking and cooking of fish, and by Michael Taft on the folklore of angling, the latter compendium of illegal techniques employed by oldtimers to put meat on the table. A short list of references and a handy index of fishing subjects and fishing places completes the opus.

Most delightful are the first thirty pages in which Carpenter presents his intimate knowledge of western sports fish and their habits, rekindling in the memory of this boyhood fisherman the peculiar excitement (akin to the lust aroused by prospecting for gold) of angling in the rapids of the Oldman River for Mountain Whitefish, in the Highwood River for Culthroat Trout, and for Dolly Varden in Willow Creek back near the Livingstone Range in Alberta. The fishing rod, says Carpenter, is a magician’s wand, and in the act of fishing something enchanting wells up. Thoreau spoke of the faint signals from the underworld transmitted through his fishing line “which come to interrupt your dreams and link you to Nature again”, and Carpenter opines that the connection to nature can never be more intimate than at the moment when the fish takes the lure.

Then, realistically, he reneges on such hyperbole by remarking that “the hard part is teaching people to love the fish that they are trying to fool.” No intimacy without affection. Descriptions of some of his fishing pals, as well as the cover photo showing a burly lad from the Great White North giving vent to that Toyota feeling, buoyed heavenward by a lunker pike in either hand, poignantly remind us that the passion for chasing fish (or waterfowl, or deer) is not inherently virtuous, gracefully balletic though the hunt may be when pursued with style. Thus there are good reasons for curbing the enthusiasm of fisherman in National Parks if, thereby, a more affective intimacy with Nature is encouraged.

Perhaps, however, as the tea-sipping lady remarked to her companion in the *New Yorker* cartoon showing a male in hot pursuit of a butterfly, “It’s better than chasing you-know-what.” Isaak Walton seemed to think so, but then, he too, was hooked —. Reviewed by *J. Stan Rowe*, Department of Crop Science and Plant Ecology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 0W0