place does the story of the death of Toni Kurz
on the Eiger have in a book about Canada's
mountains?)

The photographs are beautiful in this book
and it will certainly be appreciated by anyone
who is interested in the mountains. It is a great
book to pick up and leaf through, but it could
have been so much more.

Jon W. Jones

BERING'S VOYAGES WHITHER AND
WHY; RAYMOND H. FISHER; University of
Washington Press; Seattle and London; 1978; 217
xii pp., maps, appendices, bibliography, index;
$17.95.

On June 4, 1741, Captain Vitus Bering in St.
Peter and Captain Aleksei Chirikov in St. Paul
sailed east from the Kamchatka port of
Avatcha. The ships became separated, but by
the time Chirikov had returned to Kamchatka
in St. Paul and the survivors of Bering's crew
had struggled back to Siberian shores, both in
the autumn of 1741, these officers of the
Russian Navy and their crews had
accomplished what is traditionally accepted as
the European discovery of Alaska. Until
publication of Professor Fisher's Bering's
Voyages, the two-volume work of F. A. Golder
(Bering's Voyages, An Account of the Efforts of the
Russians to Determine the Relation of Asia and
America, American Geographical Society
Research Series No. 1, New York, 1922,
reprint Octagon Books, New York, 1968) has
been the most authoritative English language
treatment of the purpose and conduct of the
1741 voyage.

Golder's view, shared by many, was that the
1741 sailing was undertaken to more
definitively answer the question "are Asia and
America joined?", the basis for a 1728 Bering
expedition, and one which Golder felt had not
been answered to the satisfaction of the
Russian government.

Fisher's Bering's Voyages challenges that
position by citing evidence that the separation
question had been answered by the 1648
voyage of Semen Dezhnev and then examining
with thoroughness and detail whether or not
the results of Dezhnev's investigations were
known to those chartering Bering's
explorations; and then, in successive chapters,
"The Intended Route and Destination",
"The Evidence from the Voyage",
"Bering's Proposals", and "The Second Kamchatka
Expedition: Plans and Objectives". A final
chapter concludes that the purpose of Bering's
1728 voyage was to reconnoiter the coast of
North America and that the purpose of the
1741 voyage was to establish Russian
sovereignty in northwest America.

Dr. Fisher is Professor Emeritus of History
at the University of California at Los Angeles,
author of The Russian Fur Trade, 1550-1770
(University of California Press, 1943), several
articles having to do with the settlement and
exploration of Siberia and northwest America,
and a guide to the records of the
Russian-American Company held in the
National Archives of the United States. His
years of study have resulted in a publication
which will require rethinking of many
previously held opinions about attitudes of the
Russian government toward exploration and
settlement on the North American continent.

It is disappointing that the care which the
author devoted to his scholarship is not
evidenced in the printing of Bering's Voyages,
for this reviewer's copy, at least, was marred
by having pages 180, 181, 184 and 185 blank.
This destroys the usefulness of Appendix I
(Bering's Account of His First Voyage) and
Appendix II (Kirilov's Memorandum on the
Kamchatka Expedition), and it is hoped that
the publisher noted and corrected this flaw in
other copies.

William S. Hanable
Chief of the
State of Alaska's
Office of History
and Archaeology.

THE MOSSES OF ARCTIC ALASKA;
STEERE, W. C.; Bryophytum Bibliotheca 14, J.
Cramer, Postfach 48, 3301 Lehrhe, West Germany;
1978; i-x, 508 pp. (DM 150, -).

Until recently, the flora of the North
American arctic was very poorly known. Not
only was there an imperfect knowledge of the
species that were present but, in particular,
little was known of the distribution and
ecology of these species. Furthermore, most
publications are scattered in journal articles,
many of which are hard to find or have been
little publicized. Books by A. E. Porsild on the
Canadian Arctic Archipelago, I. L. Wiggins
and J. H. Thomas on the Alaskan Arctic Slope,
and the superb flora by E. Hulten on Alaska
and neighbouring Territories have gone a long
way to bring together knowledge on the
vascular plants but until the present book,
similar treatments have not appeared on the
algae, fungi, lichens and bryophytes.

The author, William Campbell Steere, is one
of the best known and respected botanists in
the world as evidenced by the lengthy article
on his life and work that H. Crum published in
The Bryologist in 1977 (80: 661-694). Steere
devoted part of ten field seasons from 1951 to
1974 to the study of Alaskan arctic bryophytes
with research staged from the Arctic Research