north the settlements were too small and scattered for effective resistance to be mounted. But in the thrust around Lake Baikal and down the Amur river the greed and cruelty of the invaders provoked local opposition that was quickly reinforced by the armies of China. The rapacious intruders were thrown back, and for a hundred and seventy years held off from the region of the lower Amur.

In Kamchatka the resistance of Koriaks and Kamchadals was finally quelled, not by arms but by the ravages of smallpox. The Chukchi of the extreme northeast were strong enough to obtain tolerable terms upon their submission to the Tsar.

The Russian conquistadors, like those of Pizarro, were lawless and disreputable examples of matchless courage, energy and endurance. But one feature of their eastern drive was wholly heroic and honourable. In 1733-42 naval detachments on foot or by boat mapped the Siberian Arctic shore eastwards past the mouth of the Kolyma, while Bering and Chirikov further extended discovery by crossing the Pacific. Chirikov left his mark on North American history by making his landfall and establishing a discoverer’s claim near 54°40’ of north latitude.

The history of these events now under review is the work of two scholars, the late George V. Lantzef, Professor of Russian History at the University of California, Berkeley, and Richard A. Pierce, who holds the same chair at Queen’s University, Kingston. Professor Lantzef wrote approximately the first half of the book, and gathered materials for the rest. Professor Pierce has revised the first seven chapters, and added the last six which are based on the joint researches of the two authors.

The actual text of this history is compressed into 212 pages. To expect the authors to furnish vivid narrative or critical portraiture in a work so condensed is to ask too much. All that they can promise they have performed by producing an informative summary of events that is complete, coherent, and — with some qualification relating to the obscurity and complexity of Russian history prior to the Tatar conquest — a masterpiece of lucidity. For the last-named quality Professor Pierce is indebted not only to his late colleague’s labours and his own gifts but to the generosity of his publisher and the pains taken by his cartographers, Professor Henry W. Castner and Mr. Ross Hough. This book is furnished with no fewer than fifteen full-page maps, which cover every phase of a varied and complex narrative, spare the diligent student much labour and enhance his enjoyment of this most rewarding history. A knowledge of Russian history that is unwarped by prejudice is of the utmost importance today, and the surviving author and his publisher can view with satisfaction a book which presents an important phase of that history in a form that is brief, clear and entertaining.

(Professor Pierce is to be commended for scorneing pedantry and giving us familiar Russian names in familiar form. When he means Peter he says Peter, and not the affected “Pyotr”.)

L. H. Neatby

V. S. KHROMCHENKO’S COASTAL EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA, 1822. EDITED BY JAMES W. VANSTONE. TRANSLATED BY DAVID H. KRAUS. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, 1973. 6% x 9¾ inches, 95 pages, illustrated. (Fieldiana: Anthropology, Volume 64). No price indicated.

For a number of years James VanStone has been involved with nineteenth century anthropological and historical research in southwestern Alaska. His numerous publications, derived from his own archaeological and ethnographic research among the Eskimos and Russian historic sources, have provided one of the most thorough studies of Eskimo and Russian relationships during the fur-trade years in this huge region. The volume reviewed here is a continuation of his historic contributions.

V. S. Khromchenko, with A. K. Etoin, undertook the exploration of the southwestern Alaskan Bering Sea region in 1821 and 1822. The journal of the 1822 voyage translated here is the only one available from either voyage. It was originally published in a Soviet periodical, Severnyi arkhiiv.

In addition to making the journal readily available to others, VanStone has edited the able translation of the journal by David H. Kraus in order to place Khromchenko’s “achievements and the related achievements of others (particularly A. K. Etoin) in the framework of the development of the fur trade and the expansion of Russian influence in Alaska” (page 2). In so doing, he hopes to bring to the attention of researchers “important and generally neglected events in the history of Russian America” (ibid.)

VanStone has provided a detailed introduction which contains an historical summary of earlier explorations in southwestern Alaska and a review of the two major expeditions, one headed by Vasilev and one by Khromchenko, to the southern and central
anthropologists, as it provides details of goods bartered between Eskimos and Europeans. The brief descriptions of the various Eskimo groups are among the first for most of the Eskimo populations of southwestern Alaska. The description of the Nunivak Island people is particularly important in this regard, as it is the earliest one available. The Eskimo work lists are also important as they are the earliest for this region.

The publication, then, has two important features. The first is that of the journal itself, which provides early trade, ethnographic, linguistic, and geographical data. The second is VanStone's introduction and explanatory footnotes, as these give a consolidated summary of events and persons in the early nineteenth century history of Russian America. Thus, this most recent work becomes a significant addition to the literature on southwestern Alaska.

Joan B. Townsend


This book is timely, both in terms of the rise of interest in the Arctic Ocean and surrounding seas and in terms of its date of publication during the year before the Third Law of the Sea Conference. Its author, who has academic experience in Canada, the United States and Europe, appears well qualified to attempt an overview of this topical area of international law.

The book is divided into seven parts followed by a very brief conclusion. The parts are:

I. Innocent passage in the Arctic
II. Straight baselines for the Canadian Arctic Archipelago
III. Historic waters in the Arctic
IV. Freedom of the seas in the Arctic Ocean
V. The legal status of ice shelves and ice islands in the Arctic
VI. Oil pollution control in the Arctic
VII. The Arctic continental shelf and seabed.

These provide an excellent organizational framework for a comprehensive treatment of the principal juridical features and problems of Arctic waters. In most of the sections, special Arctic aspects are developed from a consideration of general principles and practices of international law, with frequent reference to the positions and actions of the five coastal states of the Arctic Ocean. The U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. and, as the titles suggests, Canada, receive particular attention.

A feature of the book is the writer's sum-