

Soviet Antarctic Expedition: Information Bulletin

Volume I (1964, 404 pp., \$17.50), Volume II (1964, 318 pp., \$15.00), Volume III (1965, 377 pp., no price available). Elsevier Publishing Company.
Volume IV (1965, 399 pp., \$36.00) in six individual issues of two Bulletins each. Published by the American Geophysical Union.

In 1954 the Special Committee for the International Geophysical Year noted that the Antarctic was the area of the globe most in need of scientific exploration. In 1955 the Soviet Government began a series of expeditions, to the Antarctic Continent and coastal waters, that have continued ever since. Fixed observing stations have been operated at half a dozen different sites of which four are occupied today and one of these, Vostok, is high on the ice sheet in the interior of the continent. The preliminary field reports, largely written by the field workers themselves, appear in a series of Information Bulletins published in Russia at irregular intervals under Chief Editor Ye. S. Korotkevich. On the initiative of Professor George P. Woollard, then at the Geophysical and Polar Research Center of the University of Wisconsin, financial support from the U.S. National Science Foundation was used to publish English translations of the first thirty Bulletins in three stiff-bound volumes. From Bulletin number 31 onwards publication is under the supervision of the Russian Translation Board of the American Geophysical Union. Volume IV is complete and the first issues of Volume V are now appearing. They are in paper covers at a steep increase in price.

For those whose interests are in specific geophysical disciplines rather than in the Antarctic in general, the collection is heterogeneous and the standard variable. However the first three volumes each contained a 'Subject Guide' with the following headings: General (eighteen papers in all), Aerial navigation (three papers), Astronomy (one paper), Auroras (ten papers), Geodesy (thirteen papers), Geography (eleven papers), Geology (thirty-eight papers), Geomagnetism (twelve papers), Glaciology (seventy-two papers), Meteorology (fifty-five papers), Navigation (one paper), Oceanography (thirty-four papers), Radio (three papers), Seismology (two papers), Transport (two papers), Biology (forty-six papers mainly in volume 1). This list gives an indication of the type of work which is to be found here: it is a very important publication for the glaciologist but probably not for the seismologist. It would be a simple matter for the newcomer to get up to date on Soviet Antarctic Research in any one of the above disciplines which represent a sensible division of interests. Let none of my later remarks obscure this.

From Bulletin 31 onwards the Subject Guide has been discontinued and at the end of Volume IV there is an Author Index and an Alphabetical Index by Subject which curiously contains fewer than 200 entries when there are 191 different titles in the collected Tables of Contents. One feels that the subject guide must have been less work for the compiler and that it will be more useful to the reader. The high standard of translation has been maintained but this reviewer regrets that the A.G.U. Board have considered it necessary to provide a cover-to-cover translation (unlike the earlier volumes) so that trivial items 'By Radio from the Antarctic', 'Observers Notes' and, worst of all, 'The Antarctic in the Foreign Press' all appear in full. The last probably arrives by double translation from the original American press reports, not always of high scientific accuracy at source.

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