

BOOK REVIEW

William A. Cassidy (ed.): *Meteorites, Ice, and Antarctica: A personal Account*, Cambridge University Press, 2003, ISBN: 0-521-25872-0 hardback, Price: GBP 19.95/US\$ 30.00.

I wish I'd had this book to read when I was sat in my bright orange Scott tent out on the chilly heights of the Antarctic Plateau. Although the history of the US Antarctic Programme's Antarctic Search for Meteorites Expedition (ANSMET) had been described to me at length by my tent mate the Expedition's current leader, Ralph Harvey, it lacked a little something of the gusto that I'm sure Bill Cassidy would have given it.

Bill's book "Meteorites, Ice, and Antarctica" is a lovely blend of science and personal stories that covers the remarkable feat of organizing a yearly two month expedition in deep field camp in Antarctica with scientists seemingly hand-picked for their bad personality traits and complete lack of Antarctic experience. Having spent two month's riding around on orange snow mobiles looking for meteorites, Bill's book strikes a special cord with me, however, this just goes to show that he has captured the essence of the expedition from the scientific goals and objectives, to the incredible personal experience of living and working in the harshest environment this planet has to offer.

If you have any sort of passing interest in meteorites or the Antarctic then this book will please you. From the descriptions of meteorite science to the picture of Bill's very impressive snotsickles on the front cover there is plenty to fascinate. And if, at times, Bill's prose is not the best, the subject is so engaging that you may well find yourself forgiving this veteran Antarctic pioneer and settling down to what is essentially a good read.

MATTHEW J GENGE

*Department of Earth Science and Engineering
Royal School of Mines
Prince Consort Road
Imperial College London
SW7 2BP UK
E-mail: m.genge@imperial.ac.uk*

