ever the story begins to bog down in the clichés of the unconscious.
Unfortunately, the plot tends to become aimless for lack of a sense of "logical" progression toward a resolution of the mental games. Campbell, in fact, plays with the idea of an endless loop of madness (130), but sidesteps into more dramatic fantasy. In a way, the reliance on traditional spiritual beliefs to effect an ending to the story is reminiscent of Patricia Grace's *Potiki* and Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, and, like those books, Campbell's demands an extra effort to suspend disbelief on the part of the rationalist reader. Here, on the face of it, high drama is followed by all the trite sentimentality of an island homecoming and a waiting redemptive lover. It seems pretty unsatisfactory. However, the constant shifting of tenses, of levels of reality, of mood, of place suggest perhaps that the literary modes are being ironically set in counterpoint as well, so that we have a deliberate mix of the "Western" fictional model of mental breakdown (à la Janet Frame or *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*) and the Pacific tradition of high-drama entertainment such as the Samoan *fagogo*. If this is the case, we not only have an artful attempt by a bicultural writer to reach both of his potential audiences, but we have an ending that is decidedly ambiguous: two possible tragedies coexisting with romantic comedy.

I am still not certain of my final response to this novel, but it does deserve a wide readership, which it repays with enjoyment, both at the level of simple storytelling and also in the appreciation of what looks like an elaborate writerly shape-changing in which artlessness and artifice form an intriguing mix.

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Speaking from the forbidden city of Vladivostok, closed to Westerners for decades because it serves as home port to the Soviet Union's Pacific fleet, Mikhail S. Gorbachev in July 1986 outlined dramatically a new direction in Soviet foreign policy. He shifted attention away from Europe momentarily to remind his audience that the Soviet Union is also very much an Asian power, one that intends to increase its role as such in the next century. A flurry of activity followed the much-acclaimed Vladivostok speech, including a quickly convened conference of diplomats and scholars in Australia to discuss the implications of a heightened Soviet presence in the Pacific. Trade and diplomatic negotiations since 1986 have begun to make explicit Gorbachev's posturing, while journalists and political scientists alike expend significantly more energy than before on the image of the Soviet Union as a country situated firmly on the Pacific Rim.

Gorbachev gave a political geography lesson to the majority of observers
who have concentrated their interests on the Soviet Union's more densely populated and industrialized European sector. Establishing that “the situation in the Far East as a whole, in Asia and the ocean expanses washing it, where we have been permanent inhabitants and seafarers of long standing, is to us of national and state interest,” the general secretary of the Communist party also provided a brief history lesson. Glynn Barratt, professor of Russian at Carleton University, has devoted an academic career to reconstructing an aspect of Russian history that seemed forgotten until Gorbachev's reminder. Those with a sudden and long overdue interest in the Russian presence in the Pacific Basin fortunately have a corpus of materials gathered, translated, and analyzed by the prolific Barratt to draw from. The sources for Barratt's studies are the Russian voyages of scientific discovery undertaken early in the nineteenth century. Although the monograph under review, like all in the projected four-volume series, was in part informed by the Vladivostok speech, it constitutes part of an ongoing academic study rather than a response to a recent fashion. It is to be hoped, however, that the new interest in this topic will give Barratt the broader readership his work merits. Ultimately political scientists will learn from Barratt rather than ethnographers, but Russian voyages into the Pacific during the heyday of scientific exploration furnish the important historical setting for the current presence there.

The first volume of the series focused exclusively on early Russian contacts with Australia, whereas volume 2 is subdivided into three sections covering in turn Easter Island, New Zealand, and the Austral Islands. Each section consists of background sketches that include how the trips were planned and biographical information about the commanders, followed by translations from the journals of both sailors and scientists on board during the expeditions. The volumes are connected by the person of Captain F. G. Bellingshausen, whose Antarctic Expedition in 1819–1821 in search of a polar passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans returned with the richest accumulation of scientific observations. Bellingshausen was following in the wake of I. F. Kruzenshtern and Yu. F. Lisianskii, who retraced Captain James Cook's path to Easter Island in 1803–1806. The present Soviet work stations in Antarctica bear the names of Bellingshausen's ships, the Vostok (East) and the Mirnyi (Peaceful), affording the “relative antiquity” of the Soviet Union's scientific interest in the Pacific.

Politics, too, boarded these vessels. The tsarist government desired more from these outings than samples of flora and fauna or graphic renderings of native tattoos, and the tension between scientific and political motivations simmered below the surface. The difficulty of provisioning its outposts in the Far East by overland passage over the Siberian tundra prompted the Russian government to seek a sea route connecting the farthest points of its Eurasian empire, and the seaborne fur trade in the Pacific appeared sufficiently lucrative to entice Russian participation. Sustaining a position in the Pacific, however, would require a naval presence that could safeguard
Russian interests and possibly support expansion, a subject mentioned in this volume that Barratt has written about at greater length elsewhere.

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, the scientific purposes of the voyages had the important political function of bringing to backward Russia an intellectual respectability from the more advanced West. For example, it was hoped that Bellingshausen would "win laurels and political advantage from a scientific voyage of discovery in the tradition of Cook and Bougainville" (xvi). A crisis of autocratic politics prevented this. As Barratt's study of the voyage that almost ended up in Trotsky's proverbial "dustbin of history" makes clear, the Russians following Cook's navigation charts collected an impressive amount of raw ethnographic data. But the second officer of Bellingshausen's ship *Vostok* was found to be a Decembrist, a member of the group of conspiratorial young officers who wanted to overthrow the Russian autocracy in 1825. Tainted by association with a few revolutionaries, although he did not end up with his shipmates in Siberia, Bellingshausen was forced to see many of the scientific recordings of his journey exiled to tsarist archives. They were exhumed by Soviet scholars in the 1960s, and Barratt acknowledges the fruitful exchanges with Soviet academics that have helped him throughout this project. Not all relevant archival material has been made available, so Barratt's future research may benefit from Gorbachev's better-known policies of glasnost and perestroika.

Readers who turn to Barratt's research because of their interest in the origins of Soviet influence in the Pacific may be disappointed at the relative paucity of analysis of Russian political motives in relation to the amount of ethnographic materials. But collecting scientific data was the purpose of these trips, and others can use Barratt's work as primary sources. His careful translations of personal journals make for fascinating reading in addition to their worth to ethnographers. The first Russian voyagers can stand accused of cultural insensitivity in their recorded observations, but they captured invaluable aspects of Polynesian cultures that South American slave traders would soon obliterate. The Russians viewed, for example, remnants of fortified villages at Rapa more than a century before Thor Heyerdahl sailed to the Austral Islands, and they pioneered studies of the Maori in New Zealand. Barratt's series on Russia in the South Pacific preserves the political undercurrents that influenced navigation, but, like the captains he describes, he maintains an even keel that holds the scientific purpose of the voyages paramount. As the Soviet presence expands, this might become increasingly difficult for Barratt.

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