

partly obscured in printing. On Map 5, arrows along *U-307*'s route would have helped, and some names are extremely small. Map 7, enlarged from an official Norwegian map, has numerous illegible and incomplete names.

All in all, however, this is an engrossing and most worthwhile book about an extraordinary High Arctic expedition. *War North of 80* tells as complete a story as is likely to emerge about the German Arctic weather stations, especially about the last and most successful, Haudegen (1944–45). This book is a must for historians concerned with World War II, as well as for those interested in polar exploration and geomorphology.

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NY HERRNHUT I NUUK 1733–2003: MISSION STATION, RÆVEFARM, EMBEDSBOLIG, MUSEUM, UNIVERSITET (NEW HERRNHUT IN NUUK 1733–2003: MISSION STATION, FOX FARM, OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY). By KATHRINE KJÆRGAARD and THORKILD KJÆRGAARD. Nuuk: Iisimatusarfik/Grønlands Universitet og forfatterne, 2003. Also available in Greenlandic (NUUMMI NOORLIIT 1733-2003). 140 p., b&w and colour illus., notes, bib., index. Softbound. DK 128.

Kathrine Kjærgaard is a theologian and Thorkild Kjærgaard is a doctor of history, and both are teaching at the Greenland University in Nuuk.

The purpose of the authors is twofold: to tell the story of the original Moravian building at New Herrnhut and, through this, to narrate the story of Nuuk's metamorphosis from an isolated outpost (almost the end of the world) to the modern university city of today. The major part of the book narrates the history of the Moravian mission in Greenland. Established in 1733, this German mission quickly became a dangerous competitor to the Danish Lutheran mission, which had worked in Greenland since 1721 and thus paved the way for further evangelism among the Inuit. The book gives a superb insight into aspects of Moravian Christianity, which, in contrast to the Church of Denmark, was a laymen's movement, with weight on sentiment, the sufferings of Christ, blood, and tears—but also music and art.

The Moravians started from scratch in Greenland, but with their self-sacrificing, dynamic energy they soon overtook the Danish mission in numbers of converts. For a long time, their station was the largest building in Greenland. The authors go through the architectural history of the original and subsequent buildings, illuminating the narrative with plans and backing it up with various prints of interior scenes and equipment lists. The Moravian brothers were skilled crafts-

men and built in an easy, recognizable style that is seen everywhere they raised their houses, be it in Greenland or, for example, in Nain, Labrador. The buildings were made in Europe, dismantled, shipped to Greenland, and reassembled there. The authors also point out that one of the chief Moravian architects, Christian David, spent some time in Greenland. Their intimate knowledge of the architecture makes this discussion an essential part of the book, and their enthusiasm is catching.

The development of the Moravian settlement is both well documented and very interesting. The founder of the movement, Count Zinzendorf, was strongly influenced by ideas of the Enlightenment, such as the passion for categorization and classification (seen, for example, in the Linnaean system). These ideas, brought to Greenland, were reflected in the division of the Moravian congregation into so-called "choirs" according to sex, age, and marital status, and in the distinguishing colours of the ribbons in the women's caps.

The authors point to several reasons for the success of the Moravian mission. One reason is its roots in the theatre-happy 18th century, which promoted drama and staging. Examples are the music, the singing from door to door on Christmas Eve (not to mention the lowering of an angel from a hatch in the ceiling precisely at midnight, to the blasting sound of a group of trumpets). The Moravians introduced instrumental music in Greenland, especially brass instruments and violins. No wonder that this more colourful presentation of Christianity was attractive. They were also active in gardening, and of course they established a school. They had a print shop, and the authors point out that the Moravians published the first book ever printed in Greenland.

Another interesting feature to which the authors draw attention is the internationalism of the Moravian mission in contrast to the provincialism of the Danish mission. The Moravians had connections to sister missions around the world, and they kept contact with the centres in Europe through regular letters and periodicals.

Interesting too is the 19th-century division of the Greenlanders into two groups: those living around the Moravian mission, and the rest, living in closer contact with the Danish mission. This division had a consequence: the Moravian Greenlanders lived a more traditional life, and it was among them that the so-called "Greenlandic soul" was to be found when the awakening of national, Romantic feelings in Greenland gave rise to collections of myths and sagas.

The authors follow the Moravians up to their departure from Greenland in the year 1900 and point out that a major reason for their departure was the Danish animosity to Germans after their defeat in the war of 1864, when a substantial part of Denmark was lost to Prussia.

The remaining part of the book describes alterations to the original Moravian building for various uses. It served as housing for teachers, missionaries, and travellers such as Knud Rasmussen, and for a long period it was home to the manager of a fox farm established in the surroundings. After World War II, it became the official residence of the first chief constable in Greenland. This chief constable promoted the

long-nurtured idea of establishing a museum in Nuuk. His plan bore fruit after he left, when the building became Greenland's first museum. In 1978, the museum moved to its present location in the "Colony Harbour," and after a thorough restoration, the Moravian building opened in 1987 as the University of Greenland.

This volume is not a textbook, but it is packed with knowledge and facts. It places the Greenland Moravians in an international framework and relates them to movements of the time like the Enlightenment, national Romanticism, and of course, religion. The book is highly recommended in itself for anyone who wants to know about these matters and as a gateway to further knowledge through the extensive, up-to-date bibliography.

The quality of the layout, print, and illustrations is good, but the size of the book (15 × 21 cm) makes some of the plans and maps, which were not printed in full-page size, difficult to read properly.

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#### BERING: THE RUSSIAN DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

By ORCUTT FROST. New Haven, Connecticut and London: Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-300-10059-0. xxii + 330 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Hardbound. US\$30.00.

The Bering Sea and the Bering Strait between Alaska and Asia were named by the famous English explorer James Cook (1728–79) for Vitus Bering, the leader of major expeditions that explored and mapped eastern Siberia and the west coast of Alaska. Professor Orcutt Frost has written a fascinating biography of this great Danish explorer.

Vitus Bering was born in 1681 and entered the Russian Navy in 1703. He served the Russian Empire until his death, which occurred on Bering Island in the western Bering Sea during his return trip from Alaska in 1741. No other Dane has given his name to so large a part of the globe.

The first third of the book deals with Bering's life and career during his first 59 years, but additionally gives some insight into the Admiralty, the Orthodox Church, and the regime of the Russian Tsar. This section describes Bering's duties related to his appointment as commander of the First Kamchatka Expedition, an enormous logistical challenge, as well as the conflict between the attitudes of the officers, soldiers and craftsmen on one side and the academicians with their claims for their daily wine, etc., on the other. Bering's difficult tasks were to organize the transport through unmapped mountainous areas and establish new quarters for the hundreds of men involved in the expedition, which included setting up a residence, barracks, warehouses, shops, guardhouses, clinics and even

chapels. These tasks were additionally complicated by misleading or conflicting orders from the Russian bureaucracy and a lack of support from local administrators.

The geographic exploring and mapping of eastern Siberia were Bering's first priorities, and he had little interest in ethnological and environmental conditions. Frost's account of the expeditions through Siberia is somewhat confusing to follow and would have benefited from more and better maps and photos of higher quality.

Frost gives the reader quite new information about Bering's private life and new facts about the two Russian Kamchatka Expeditions that have emerged as the result of geopolitical changes and the opening of Russian territories. For example, the Danish-Soviet Expedition found Bering's grave on Bering Island in August 1991, 250 years after his death. And several letters written by Bering and his wife in 1740 have been uncovered in the archives of the Russian foreign ministry, to which scientists were granted access in 1996.

At an international workshop at the University of Copenhagen in December 1998, entitled "Recent Results and New Perspectives in the Study of Vitus Bering and the Two Russian Kamchatka Expeditions," new information was discussed, including the private letters referred to in Frost's sixth chapter, "Letters Home." These letters were published in English for the first time in the proceedings of the workshop, edited by Peter Elf Moller and Natasha Okhotina Lind (2003).

The final two-thirds of Frost's book deals with Bering's last expedition from Kamchatka to North America, with *St. Peter*, under his own command, and *St. Paul*, under Aleksey Chirikov. Frost describes in detail the journey of the two ships and also comments on the problems encountered, basing his account on information from the vessels' logbooks, final reports by senior officers, reports and publications by the biologist Georg Wilhelm Steller, and other journals compiled from diaries kept during the voyage.

After the departure from Kamchatka, Bering was back in his right element: at sea. He had spent years organizing the expedition, fighting not only the practical logistical problems, but also the conflicting orders from Moscow. One would have expected Bering to be relieved at finally being at sea on the *St. Peter* with 77 men on board; however, he was not only aloof, but remote. Bering took his responsibilities very seriously.

After two weeks, the two ships lost contact with each other. Independently, Chirikov on *St. Paul* observed islands in the Alexander Archipelago on 15 July, and Bering on *St. Peter* observed the St. Elias mountain range of Alaska on 16 July. On 20 July, *St. Peter* anchored off the shore of Kayak Island in the Gulf of Alaska, and crew from the ship visited the Island. Drawing from several reports, Frost describes and gives interesting comments on the conflict between the young, enthusiastic, impatient, and inexperienced academician, Steller, and the older, responsible (but also tired) commander, Bering.

Frost not only details the different landings on Alaskan Islands and the accounts of Steller's investigations, but also judges his work on the basis of what we know today. Further-