

TROPIU BOGORAZA: NAUCHNYE I LITERATURNYE MATERIALY [On Bogoraz' Path: Collected Scientific and Literary Materials]. Edited and collated by L.S. BOGOSLOVSKAIA, V.S. KROVOSHCHIEKOV, and I.I. KRUPNIK. Proceedings of the Chukotka Branch of the North-Eastern Integrated Research Institute, Far Eastern Division, Russian Academy of Sciences 10. Moscow: Heritage Institute-Geos, 2008. ISBN 5-86443-123-X. 352 p., maps, b&w illus., appendices, list of contributors. In Russian, with Summary and Table of Contents in English. Softbound.

This large-format volume, edited by three of the foremost experts on Chukotka, is one of the most important recent collections on the history and culture of the indigenous peoples of this region and one of the more interesting collections on the history of science in Russia's Far East. The collection is framed as if it were a sort of festschrift to mark the work and legacy of the well-known Russian ethnographer Vladimir Germanovich Bogoraz (1865–1936). However, almost two-thirds of the volume consists of previously unpublished or reprinted articles from difficult-to-access periodicals on the lives of Russian Cossack, Chukchi, and Siberian Yupik peoples written by scholars who had very little connection to the legendary ethnographer. Previously unpublished transcriptions of accounts from authoritative elders and the work of indigenous historians and scholars form a significant portion. The volume also presents samples from previously unpublished photographic collections. This already rare volume (published in 600 copies with a publication subsidy from a local merchant) will be well covered by anyone interested in this region.

Formally, the volume is divided into five sections: a short section on Bogoraz and his students, a second section on Chukot reindeer herders, a third section on Chukot sea-mammal hunters, a general section on the traditional culture and languages of the region, and a final archival section that presents two previously unpublished reports. It must be said that this formal division is somewhat artificial. The book features republished work of Bogoraz in all but the last section, and each of the sections on Chukot native peoples tends to combine articles that would easily fit in one of the other themed sections. In fact, one gets the impression that the sections were originally designed as four or five separate collections, which were brought together into one volume to take advantage of a rare opportunity to bring this material to the public. There are 48 selections in the collection.

Of special interest to readers will be a series of articles by Vladislav Nikolaevich Nuvano on the history of various Chukot villages and regional groups. There is an interesting set of first-hand accounts of the resistance to collectivization in the region uniquely balanced with two archival accounts from the Russian officials in charge of these operations. The section devoted to sea-mammal hunters dominates the volume and presents the largest range of material, with what it would seem to be unpublished or at least untranslated work by Krupnik, Bogoslovskaiia, and their local consultants.

The work here ranges from overviews of traditional hunting brigades to a nutritional analysis of local diets. The fourth section presents an interesting collection of new and in some sense radical analyses of traditional toponymics (A.A. Kochnev), a set of articles on mortuary ceremony (V.N. Nuvano, S.S. Gagarin), and a rather strange “debate” between two linguists, Australian Michael Dunn and St. Petersburg-based Aleksei Alekseevich Burykin, on the legacy of the Soviet school of linguistic research. The history of Bogoraz' scientific legacy that frames the volume (most of which has been published previously) takes a revisionist stance. Underscoring the fact that the bulk of Bogoraz' scientific work was published in English, it implies that those Russian scholars who followed him, although their contribution is rarely acknowledged, contributed most to the contemporary state of knowledge about Chukotka's Native people published in Russian. The strongest article in this section is the previously published biography of Bogoraz' student Aleksandr Forstein (1904–68), which includes what I understand to be a previously unpublished set of his photographs.

The English summary of the volume follows the structure of the Russian preface, but unlike the latter, places its emphasis on “the golden core” of the living memory of Chukotka's elders. The English table of contents likewise has been edited to stress the connection between Chukotkans and Alaskan Native peoples by opting to use the spelling of Siberian Yupik names used in Alaska.

Beyond its unique content, this book is an interesting milestone in itself in the history of Russian ethnography. It is one of only a few works published in Russian that attempt to place primary texts from authoritative elders at front stage (this genre is much better known in North America than in Eurasia). Further, it styles itself as a continuation of a window of reform in Russia by publishing critical accounts of collectivization and by contributing to the rehabilitation of previously repressed scholars. The editors correctly note that this style of academic publishing has carved a rather deep niche for itself in Western and Central Siberia but has been conspicuously silent in the Far East. The guiding metaphor—that of being a collection that follows Bogoraz' path—implies that the authors here are continuing the work the Bogoraz started during his exile and contract research in the Imperial period and during his zenith in the heady days of the early Soviet period. By reintroducing Russian readers to a fragment of Bogoraz' opus published overseas, the editors hope to bridge the gap that was introduced when scientific contact with North American and European “bourgeois” scholars was cut. To that end, the Russian-language contribution by the only foreign scholar is an interesting case. Dunn presents a well-documented criticism of one of the fundamental grammars of the Chukot language, identifying the structural formalism of Russian linguistic science as an obstacle to the true understanding and reproduction of a living language. The article is followed by an unreferenced and rather unscholarly rebuttal by Burykin questioning the linguistic competence of the author (and

the scientific competence of indigenous scholars besides) and criticizing him for not knowing the tangled institutional history of the St. Petersburg-based linguists that lay behind this one unfortunate text. Bogoraz himself certainly suffered for daring to criticize authorities. One wonders if the editors of this volume should have been so enthusiastic about clearing and remarking all of his paths.

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ARCTIC SCIENTIST, GULAG SURVIVOR: THE BIOGRAPHY OF MIKHAIL MIKHAILOVICH ERMOLAEV, 1905–1991. By A.M. ERMOLAEV and V.D. DIBNER. Translated and edited by WILLIAM BARR. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2009. xiv + 591 p., maps, b&w illus., appendices, bib., glossary, index. Soft-bound. Cdn\$ and US\$44.95.

The celebrated Soviet scientist Mikhail Mikhailovich Ermolaev, whose life as an Arctic scientist spanned the period from just after the foundation of the Soviet Union in 1924 until his death during the year of its collapse, is the subject of this biography, conscientiously translated by William Barr. During Ermolaev's long life, his work involved a range of related academic disciplines from geology to geophysics and geochemistry and was conducted both out in the field in the far North, in a university setting, and in the GULAG prison camp system following his re-arrest in 1940.

After a first chapter on Ermolaev's early life prior to his 1925 voyage to Novaia Zemlia, the bulk of the book is concerned with his career in the field during the 1920s and 1930s and the period from 1938 to 1954, during which he was first imprisoned and then, after a brief period of freedom during 1940, became an inmate of the GULAG camp system and exile. Events in Ermolaev's life are described alongside elements of his scientific work, with further details on the latter in particular provided in Barr's notes and in appendices.

From this reviewer's perspective, the material on Ermolaev's arrest in 1938, release and re-arrest in 1940, and subsequent work within the GULAG system is particularly interesting, both in terms of the role of the system in the Soviet "conquest" of the Arctic and considering Ermolaev's experiences as a case study of its functioning. Here family materials provide a context that reinforces the emotional suffering endured by many families during the era of the "Great Purges" in the USSR.

The authors of this biography, Ermolaev's son Aleksei and V.D. Dibner, a colleague of Ermolaev's late in his life, had access to privileged personal materials, including what

appears to be a considerable amount of correspondence—much held by the family and some obtained from archives of the security services. Unfortunately, neither of the authors is a professional historian, and hence the attribution of material to sources in the endnotes is weak. On occasion, the authors have resorted to the Soviet-style device of presenting what is no doubt paraphrasing as direct speech. Although the authors do not eulogize their subject (as one might expect given the relationship of the authors to the subject and the very traditional Russian academic biographical style), this biography lacks a critical edge that might have made for livelier reading and indeed provided a more multi-dimensional portrayal of Ermolaev. The author's conscious avoidance of critical comments by the subject about other figures certainly contributes to making some of the material a little "dry." Some of the material on Ermolaev's early and later life, which is likely to interest a far more limited audience than the core of the book, could perhaps have been omitted to abridge these hefty 591 pages.

William Barr has done an excellent job of translating this work, which is also well illustrated. It is not entirely clear, however, what the purpose of the book is, other than serving as a memorial to Ermolaev. This goal may appeal to family, friends and colleagues, but many readers of this English translation are more likely to be interested in Ermolaev's perspective on Soviet Arctic exploration and development and his experiences of the tumultuous period of the "Great Purges" and late Stalinism. Though I accept that there was an honourable attempt to be sensitive to the desires of the family in production of the English translation, more ruthless editing and additional endnotes by the translator could have given those topics more prominence—perhaps leading to greater exposure for this prominent figure in Arctic science.

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ARCTIC DOOM, ARCTIC BOOM: THE GEOPOLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ARCTIC. By BARRY SCOTT ZELLEN. Santa Barbara, California: ABC CLIO Publishing, 2009. ISBN 978-0-313-38012-9. xi + 232 p., notes, bib., index. Hardbound. US\$49.95.

Zellen, a former journalist and newspaper editor who worked for the Inuvialuit in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, during the 1990s, argues that the Arctic has reached a "tipping point" in terms of both climate change and consequent geopolitical (read: military, economic, and politically strategic) importance on the international stage. With the loss of sea ice, melting permafrost, warming ambient temperatures, and consequent changes in flora and fauna