

artist David Ruben Piqtoukun, and a short afterword by John Ralston Saul on the problems of perception (of contemporary Inuit art) caused by ethnocentrism and how he feels that Canadians have overcome this problem through recognition of our mutual relationship to the land. Kudos to his optimism.

Not having seen the exhibition, I don't know if the omissions in this book—the commentary on individual works and the relationship of the essays to the collection—will be rectified there. I believe, however, that an exhibition catalogue should be a record able to stand on its own, and in this sense the book fails. In its useful histories, its innovative analyses, it succeeds. The photography is outstanding, with sculpture illustrated from creative angles and in sharp definition. Every sculpture is shown in colour, with no attempt to lower costs by using character- and definition-robbing black and white illustrations. There are some minor typos and omissions; for example, I noted the absence of sculptor Manasie Akpaliapik's biography and list of works. Although not a conventional exhibition catalogue, it is nevertheless a handsome contribution to the ongoing study and documentation of a major force in contemporary Canadian art, and it celebrates a significant gift to the AGO's collection.

REFERENCE

Martijn, C.A. 1964. A Canadian Eskimo carving in historical perspective. *Anthropos* 59(3-4):546–596.

Jane Sproull Thomson
12 Moodie Cove Road
Trenton, Nova Scotia B0K 1X0, Canada
jsthomso@ucalgary.ca

DAILY LIFE OF THE INUIT. By PAMELA R. STERN. Santa Barbara, California: Greenwood, ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2010. ISBN 978-0-313-36311-5. 206 p., map, b&w illus., glossary, appendix, further reading, index. US\$49.95.

In the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century, anthropologists often attempted to capture and portray the essence of entire cultures in their expansive ethnographic monographs. These volumes described and explained the institutions around and within which social and cultural life was lived and ordered (religion, politics, economics, education, language, the arts, and so on). Contemporary monographs are often more problem-oriented, with anthropologists pondering particular questions related to specific aspects of a culture or society. Pamela Stern's *Daily Life of the Inuit*, while largely based on secondary rather than primary research, harks back to the earlier days of the discipline, as the author attempts (in general, successfully) to capture the essence of Inuit life as it is lived in the 21st century. Much as her intellectual forefathers would have done, Stern includes chapters covering such subjects as family,

intellectual, economic, material, political, and religious life, sports and recreation, and the arts. In so doing, she sets out to capture the essential aspects of culture that are shared by the 150 000 people collectively known as Inuit, whose homelands stretch across the Arctic from eastern Siberia, through Alaska and Canada, to Greenland.

Following an Introduction that rapidly runs the course of Inuit history and prehistory, from pre-Dorset culture through first contact with Europeans to the contemporary drive for self-determination, an excellent Chronology lists every major event in Inuit history from 8000 BCE to December 2009! Each of the 12 chapters forming the core of the book follows a similar pattern: an explanation of traditional practices is succeeded by an account of how these practices have been transformed or replaced through processes of colonialism, modernization, and globalization. Those chapters that focus on more traditional areas of Inuit scholarship, such as kinship, religion, hunting, and subsistence, are stronger and more thorough, drawing, as they do, on a greater body of work than the book's later chapters, which explore such aspects of Inuit culture as sports, the arts, and health care.

In general, Stern's book is excellent both as an introduction to Inuit culture and as a reference for those who are already grounded in the subject. She explains fundamentals of contemporary Inuit culture clearly, and for the novice who wishes to delve deeper, she includes a Further Reading section, which lists printed and online resources, as well as films and DVDs. One highlight for this reviewer was the author's detailed descriptions of the various paths to self-determination taken by Inuit in different regions of the Arctic (Chapter 6). Likewise, Chapter 12 contains accessible and useful explanations of the history and roles of such organizations as the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the Arctic Council. This is an invaluable reference at a time when distinguishing between the functions and personnel of the many acronym-laden organizations across the Arctic can be challenging.

While one can often be tempted to ignore glossaries and appendices, the reference value of those contained within this volume is superb. The glossary provides insightful descriptions of many Inuktitut terms, and the appendix contains enlightening descriptions of the many communities and settlements mentioned in the text. A thorough list of web resources is also included.

The book, however, is not without its flaws. While accepting that a book of this size and scope cannot possibly explore every aspect of Inuit culture, this reviewer felt there were a few glaring omissions. In her discussion of family and community life, Stern neglects to mention customary adoption, a universal Inuit practice that serves to create and enhance kin and other social relationships. And though she discusses games such as hockey and basketball, she neglects to mention contemporary games of chance, such as bingo and raffles, that play important cultural and economic roles in many communities, and which are played in ways that reflect long-held Inuit values and norms. Likewise,

little attention is given to snowmobile racing or dogsled racing, two sporting activities that are widely practiced and that confer honour on successful participants. While Stern is perhaps a little too keen to point out the specifically Inuit take on virtually all contemporary recreational (and other) activities, from sports to modern music, she neglects many daily activities that clearly have been transformed to reflect Inuit values and mores.

It is not surprising that the book is heavily weighted towards Alaska, Greenland, and most of the Canadian Arctic, given the quantity of related scholarship and the comparatively high populations of these regions. However, the daily lives of those Inuit from Labrador and Siberia receive little attention, and the political status of these two regions is generally neglected.

The book is at times repetitive. This, however, is difficult to overcome, as Stern is keen (and rightly so) to express the interconnectedness of all aspects of Inuit life. For example, in times past Inuit conferred with or deferred to *angakkuit* (shamans) over matters political, economic, religious, and medicinal, and so we find similar descriptions of the roles of *angakkuit* appearing in several chapters.

Finally, this book is diminished somewhat by poor copy-editing, with minor errors cropping up on almost every page, and an index that is far from exhaustive.

Despite these shortcomings, this is an enjoyable and worthwhile read. For those with a general interest in the Arctic or those new to the study of Inuit culture, this book will provide a great many insights into Inuit life, both as it was lived in the past and as it has been transformed and is now lived in the 21st century. Stern captures the dynamism and richness of Inuit culture, portraying a people who, though geographically remote, are and have long been interconnected with the rest of the world through politics and economics, and who continue to face the social and environmental challenges of the 21st century with dignity and strength. And while *Daily Life of the Inuit* is too broad in focus to delve deeply into any one area of Inuit life, it will also serve as a good reference for the more specialist reader. Having this volume on one's bookshelf would provide the comfort of knowing that one could quickly confirm the key dates along the path to Greenlandic self-rule, for example, or find a handy explanation of Inuit naming practices to share with one's junior students.

In writing a book in the style of the early ethnographies, Stern has given us a delightful account of modern Inuit life. Unlike earlier ethnographers, however, who were often concerned that the cultures they described were in decline, Stern leaves us in no doubt that 21st century Inuit culture remains vibrant and strong.

Martina Tyrrell
2 Samsons Cottages
Battlegate Road
Boxworth, Cambridge CB23 4NH
United Kingdom
ukaliq30@hotmail.com

FIELD TECHNIQUES FOR SEA ICE RESEARCH.

Edited by HAJO EICKEN, ROLF GRADINGER, MAYA SALGANEK, KUNIO SHIRASAWA, DON PEROVICH, and MATTI LEPPÄRANTA. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-60223-059-0. xx + 566 p. + DVD. 29 contributors, b&w and colour illus., references, index. US\$65.00.

In light of recent attention paid to the climatic and socio-economic implications of sea ice variability and reduction, particularly in the Arctic, this book attempts a standardized handbook on sea ice research techniques for practicing students, scientists, and engineers. It is a synthesis of field techniques for the in situ measurement of the physical, climatological, and biogeochemical properties of sea ice, as well as approaches to monitoring and understanding the complex relationships of sea ice with people and the environment through programs based on data gathered via remote sensing and automatic measurement stations (AMS) or by observers on ships or in a community. The unique role of models in both the design and interpretation of field measurements and the theoretical investigation of sea ice is thoughtfully addressed. Such a guide for conducting sea ice research is much needed, given the importance of sea ice variability in the broader global climate and the attention now being paid to the rapid decline of summer ice in the Arctic and the potential to develop economic activities within, or adjacent to, the sea ice cover. The book serves not only as a reference for applied researchers who design and implement field studies working directly with sea ice, but also as a summary for interested stakeholders of how our understanding of sea ice in space and time is limited by our ability to measure it.

After a brief introductory chapter, the authors set the scene in the second chapter by outlining the sea ice systems services (SISS) approach to studying sea ice, which ties measured sea ice variables to the interrelated needs of citizens, scientists, industry, and government. They provide a richer context for conducting sea ice measurements by considering human management of ecosystems and the role of science in guiding policy. This contextual information—engineers may reflexively be inclined to disregard this—gives readers a basis for formulating research problems and developing and executing science plans specific to sea ice research (not to mention writing effective research grant proposals).

Measurement and observation techniques, which form the core of this text, are given as 18 subsections in chapter 3. Each contributing author provides a unique and original perspective on the need to measure or indirectly monitor a particular set of sea ice variables, though the formula of defining a given set within the SISS framework is unfortunately lost after the first two sections (on snow observations and ice thickness and roughness measurements). Despite this, editing is to a high standard, and the diverse approaches to sea ice research are fully covered, with a comprehensive list of references at the end of each section.