

ICEVISIONS: REFLECTIONS ON ICE – OBSERVATIONS AT JÖKULSÁRLÓN GLACIER LAGOON. By KLAUS KRETZER. Skaftafell, Iceland: Klaus Kretzer, 2011. ISBN 978-9979-70-831-5. 123 p., 56 photographs, commentaries, quotations, index, notes, citations. Hardbound. US\$32.50, Order on-line at: <http://www.atlas-books.com/marktplc/03283.htm>.

ICEVISIONS is a self-published, large format book of ice photographs with text and selected literary quotations in English, French, German, and Icelandic. Klaus Kretzer, author, photographer, and publisher, has achieved a masterpiece of photographic art ranging from landscapes of Jökulsárlón, the well-known, rapidly enlarging glacier lake in southeast Iceland, and its mountain backdrop, together with exquisite, often abstract, close-ups of ice in many forms.

In the introduction he explains how he came to be captivated by the challenge of representing ice in many of its remarkable forms. As a visitor to Iceland from Germany he managed to find a job working with the Jökulsárlón tourist service. He became fascinated with the close-up forms and startling colours of ice but was dissatisfied with his early photographic efforts. As he accompanied photographers from all over the world, piloting them in a rubber boat amongst the icebergs on the lake, he had the good fortune to meet a professional Swiss photographer. Christian Mehr became his mentor, even lending him equipment. However, three years of effort failed to attract a publisher—even in Iceland, renowned for its prodigious production of high-quality photographic books. Such specialization on ice was not the best way to find a publisher. So he decided to go it alone.

Many of the 56 photographs, whether the wider landscapes or the abstract ice forms, deserve to be enlarged and framed as they would grace any living room. The blues and greens of the close-ups are breathtaking and warrant wide recognition. The layout of the book is itself a work of art, and the author acknowledges his colleague Petra Bachmann for assistance in this aspect of the production.

Excellent commentaries on the photographs themselves include an account of the formation of the glacier lake in the 1930s and its subsequent development, assisted by Dr Helgi Björnsson, Iceland's leading glaciologist. Each photograph is accompanied by an appropriate quotation. The sources range from the Old Testament, Ovid, and St. Brendan to Henry David Thoreau, Lt. James Fitzjames (who was with Franklin in 1845), Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Frost, Mark Twain, Mary Shelley, Robert Falcon Scott, and Barry Lopez, amongst others.

The book was exquisitely printed and bound in Reykjavik. Klaus used Fuji Velvia film with no filters. His equipment included a Nikon F90 and Nikkor lenses: 80–200 mm, f2.8 AF-D; 35 mm, f1.4 AI-S; and 28 mm, f2.8 AI-S.

This reviewer found the book fascinating. It was a rare pleasure to be able to sit quietly and dream of ice, great poets, and early explorers, and to rejoice in one's own

excursions to glaciers and mountains and the people who live among them or visit them. Klaus has the best of both worlds, as he lives among ice and mountains with his wife, Regina Hreinsdóttir, who is Superintendent of nearby Skaftafell National Park.

Jack D. Ives

*Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Carleton University
412 Thessaly Circle
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 5W5, Canada
jack_ives@carleton.ca*

SATELLITE IMAGE ATLAS OF GLACIERS OF THE WORLD: ASIA. Edited by RICHARD S. WILLIAMS, Jr. and JANET G. FERRIGNO. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2010. U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1386-F. ISBN 978-1-4113-2609-5. 349 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., numerous contributors, references. Available from U.S. Geological Survey, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, USA.

This United States Geological Survey publication is another major chapter that, along with its other 10 chapters (A to K), will eventually provide an exhaustive inventory and analysis of the world's glaciers and ice sheets. It is the ninth chapter to be published. A review of Chapter K (Alaska) published in the September 2009 issue of *Arctic* (Ives, 2009) emphasized the superb editing; excellent production and reproduction of photographs, satellite images, and maps; and consummate care in the minutiae of selection and presentation of images. The same can be said for the Asia chapter.

The basis for the world inventory is an exacting selection of satellite images dating from 1972 to 1981. For Chapter F (Asia), image sets were distributed to leading professionals by country to achieve coverage of most of Asia. This has resulted in sub-sections on the former Soviet Union, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bhutan. The largest sub-section by far is that devoted to the former Soviet Union, including the present-day republics of Central Asia, the entire Caucasus, Siberia, and the Russian High Arctic. Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Indonesia, and other parts of Asia will be included in a separate chapter, although it appears that Burma (Myanmar) may have slipped between the cracks. The supporting text for each of the Soviet, Chinese, and Indian sub-sections, including ground and air photographs, maps, and tables, have been contributed by leading glaciologists and their co-workers from the relevant countries, notably, V.M. Kotlyakov, Shi Yafeng, and C.P. Vohra. The remaining sub-sections have been prepared by United States and Japanese glaciologists and their co-workers, notably, J.F. Shroder, K. Higuchi, and S. Iwata. This is without doubt a reflection of regional political uncertainties or lack of country expertise, or both.