On page 267, in commenting on the unfortunate experience of Abraham Ulrikab and his Labrador countrymen in Europe, the editors refer to Abraham's journal (2005), written "in Inuktitut and intended for his relatives and for the missionaries...." It should be noted that the Inuktitut original has not survived, and it is uncertain whether the intended Labrador Inuit audience ever saw it. The journal is known today only through a German translation of that now-lost original and an English translation of that German version.

The book is well illustrated and includes relevant maps. It is attractively produced and bound. This book will be used by Arctic scholars as the only book in English to detail the life of Wilhelm Weike, and moreover, as a book that places in the forefront his common-man's observations and perspectives on the year that shaped Boas's career. But it will also be an enjoyable read for the layman and for students at the high school level and above.

And who was Wilhelm Weike? In the editors' words, he was "cook and baker, laundryman and cleaner, joiner and carpenter, bullet-pourer and gun-cleaner, smith, tailor, oarsman, dog-team driver, hunter and even nurse and scientific assistant" (p. 247). Moreover, he was "a very precise and careful observer" (p. 241), tasked with keeping a journal of the occurrences of an extraordinary year in the Arctic, and a man who carried out his duties with enthusiasm, warmth, and humour. He added to our knowledge of a critical period in the history of Nunavut.

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FROM FAR AND WIDE: A COMPLETE HISTORY OF CANADA'S ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY. By PETER PIGOTT. Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn Press, 2011. ISBN 978-1-55488-987-7. 312 p., map, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Hardbound. Cdn$35.00.

In *From Far and Wide* Peter Pigott charts the history of Canada's Arctic sovereignty from the time of the earliest British explorers to the present day. It is one of a number of Arctic histories released over the past few years as the increasing importance of the region continues to generate excitement and interest amongst both academic and popular audiences. While this interest has certainly been beneficial overall, a potential pitfall lies in publishing work simply because it covers a popular subject.

The first error in *From Far and Wide* is in the title itself, which claims that the book is a complete history of Canada's Arctic sovereignty. In fact, nothing could be farther from the truth. This monograph is filled with factual and interpretational errors, shockingly lax scholarship, and severe omissions. When all is considered, *From Far and Wide* must be judged to be the worst historical study of Canada's Arctic sovereignty ever produced. This is certainly a very heavy criticism, but this reviewer does not make it lightly.

Perhaps the most revealing shortcoming of this work is the research and source material upon which it rests. Mr. Pigott states that in writing this book he has drawn heavily upon the works of Peter C. Newman, Farley Mowat, Robert Service, Jack London, and Pierre Berton (p. 13). This list is not simply illustrative, but essentially exhaustive. Almost nowhere in his bibliography or sparse footnoting are found the major works by any of the authors widely considered to be experts in the history of Arctic sovereignty. No work by Grant is used or cited in discussing the early Cold War defence projects, nothing by Perras for the Aleutian campaigns, or Lackenbauer when discussing the Rangers, or Elliot-Meisel for the Northwest Passage, or Cavell and Noakes for the 1920s and 1930s. Rob Huebert's work is absent in the section on the Polar Sea and Franklyn Griffiths is not used at all, while Ken Coates and William Morrison receive only one citation on the subject of the Yukon.

This dearth is representative of *From Far and Wide*'s shockingly poor footnoting and citation. The work gives no references for direct quotations and no attributions for ideas that are clearly lifted from other works; sections on the DEW line, for instance (p. 230), are lifted right from Western Electric's, *The DEW Line Story*. The bibliography is filled largely with sources such as magazines and newspapers and is shorter and weaker than what would be expected from a 20-page student paper.

The writing itself would have benefited from additional proofreading as spelling and grammar mistakes creep into each chapter. Some mistakes are new words, such as "equamity" (p. 30); other mistakes are simply careless, such as saying that Dawson was the most populous city east of Winnipeg (p. 88).

In addition to these proofreading errors, there are numerous flaws in the work's interpretation, leading to factual errors and a constant stream of questionable or unprovable statements and poor analysis. For example, in discussing the newly formed Northwest Mounted Police, Pigott states that they formed in 1873 to guard the prairies and when "neither the revolt by the Métis nor the American annexation occurred" the government sent them North (p. 64). In fact there was a Métis revolt—Pigott himself even mentions it 10 pages later. In his final chapter the "myth" of the Northwest Passage is revealed as *From Far and Wide* tells the reader that, in fact, the Panama Canal provides a shorter route than the Passage (p. 284). This is simply false and Pigott fails to support his statement with any sort of citation or explanation. In discussing the DEW line, Pigott says that the system was made obsolete by the advent of cruise missiles (p. 229). It was actually made obsolete by ICBMs, a rather different type of missile. Ironically, it was the development of the cruise that gave the system a new importance in the 1980s. Later, the statement that Canada's Allies were "loath" to transfer the technology needed to build nuclear submarines in the 1980s is also wrong as both the British and French were actively seeking to make the profitable transaction (p. 249).

From Far and Wide makes many sweeping statements that cannot be supported or proven by available evidence, and the author often ascribes motivations and thoughts to the historical actors in his narrative. For instance, he writes that Sir John Franklin's men were "driven mad by the darkness and claustrophobia" of the Arctic (p. 36). This is hard to support because they left no memoirs. Strangely, Pigott contradicts himself on the next page when he cites a document placed in a cairn that winter by one of Franklin's scouts stating that all was well (p. 37). In a similar vein he asserts that the Hudson's Bay men must have despised the British explorers who did not stay as long in the region as they did (p. 21). This grand statement is completely unsupported—a typical problem that is indicative of this work as a whole.

As noticeable as the factual and analytical errors are the numerous glaring omissions throughout the work. If one is to attempt a complete history of Arctic sovereignty more than 250 pages are required, as Shelagh Grant showed us with her recent tome *Polar Imperative* (2010).

These omissions are not limited to important events or actors but include entire subjects that are vital to an understanding of Arctic sovereignty. On the subject of the Arctic waters, which has dominated the issue of sovereignty since the 1960s, there is absolutely no discussion about the legal principles that underlay the Canadian claims and the American disputes of those claims. The difference between territorial and internal waters is never mentioned, and there is no discussion of the history of straight baselines and the Fisheries Case. There is no mention of the well-documented internal political soul searching that took place as Canada weighed its Arctic concerns with its stated support for the freedom of the seas, and there is no reliance whatsoever on experts like Donat Pharand, who have contributed so much to this field. The *Manhattan* and *Polar Sea* incidents—the two most important events in terms of Arctic waters sovereignty—are given very short reviews with no attempt at analysis. There is no discussion of the fear in Ottawa in the late 1940s for its sovereignty (or the reasons behind those fears) nor is there any detailed examination of the joint Arctic weather stations, which are mentioned and described but not actually linked to the broader question of sovereignty.

Indeed the greatest failing of this work is not the technical problems or omissions but its complete inability to explain to a reader how any of the events being discussed actually relate to Canadian Arctic sovereignty. It is assumed throughout that the mere presence of Americans in the North must be a threat, yet it is never explained why precisely that is. Never is there any real discussion of what was transpiring behind the scenes in Ottawa and Washington. Did the Americans ever truly intend to threaten Canadian sovereignty? How did the Canadian government formulate policies to meet such threats? How exactly did the DEW line or the influx of prospectors into the Yukon affect Canadian sovereignty? Questions like these are addressed by authors such as Grant, Lackenbauer, and Kikkert, but Pigott never consulted their important works—something that could have greatly improved *From Far and Wide*.

This work certainly does not recommend itself to an academic audience. It would be better suited to a general audience less concerned with extensive footnoting and more interested in a shorter account of the subject. But even as a general narrative, *From Far and Wide* largely falls flat. The flow is choppy chronologically, and the book ends abruptly, with no attempt at a conclusion. The final chapter is composed of largely disconnected elements ranging from diary excerpts to a kind of in-depth glossary that leave a reader unsure as to precisely what message *From Far and Wide* was ever seeking to convey. Readers are wise to turn to other recent books—*Arctic Front* by Coates et al. (2008) or *Polar Imperative* by Grant (2010)—for more comprehensive, fact-based, and coherently written narratives on Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

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