

achievement for an author who is not a polar specialist yet has undertaken research covering such a large geographical area over many centuries. However, minor errors are quite frequent, and although most of them are very minor indeed, the cumulative effect makes the book unsuitable as a reference work. Among the major errors is Hatfield's acceptance of the claim that Sir John Franklin's wife, Jane, was responsible for the 1854 articles in which Charles Dickens denounced John Rae's reports of cannibalism on the last Franklin expedition. The originator of this story, Ken McGoogan, admits that there is no documentary proof of his allegations, and the published edition of Dickens's letters shows that he outlined the essential points of his articles more than two weeks before his supposed meeting with Lady Franklin.

While the British Library provided Hatfield with a rich abundance of fascinating material, there are drawbacks to his reliance on one major source. The choice of topics was clearly influenced by the availability of good illustrations. For example, the northern expeditions led by John Douglas Moodie of the Royal North West (later Royal Canadian) Mounted Police in the early 20th century receive attention mainly because Moodie's wife, Geraldine, was a brilliant photographer and the British Library owns several of her prints. Moodie's more flamboyant and famous contemporary, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, who traveled much farther north, is omitted, probably because the photos taken on his expeditions are amateurish in comparison and belong to other institutions.

The section on Moodie provides good examples of the small errors that occur throughout the text. Hatfield refers to him as "Captain J.D. Moodie," when in fact he was usually called "Major Moodie" from the military rank he attained during his service in the Boer War. His police rank was superintendent. Hatfield writes that Geraldine Moodie "visited her husband during his tenure as leader of the Canadian government's Arctic mission" (p. 199). But Moodie actually led two official expeditions, in 1903–04 and 1904–05; his wife remained at home during the first, but accompanied him on the second. The northern diaries of both Moodies are now available online through the website of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary and could have been used to good effect if archival sources had been consulted.

The typeface chosen for a book is rarely worthy of comment in a review, but this case is an exception. The author was not well served by the designers of his volume. The main text is in an antiquarian font, evidently intended to evoke the appearance of early modern printed narratives, while the chapter titles are in an equally unusual and gimmicky sans-serif style and the captions resemble something from a 1980s computer printout. The overall effect of these ill-assorted fonts is extremely irritating, and unfortunately, the clash of styles does mar the general impressiveness of the book's appearance.

Nevertheless, *Lines in the Ice* will delight general readers and polar specialists alike. My own favourite illustrations are the coloured woodcuts from Gerrit de Veer's account

of Willem Barentsz's voyages, first published in 1598 (p. 50–53), and every flip of the pages leads to other images that are nearly as entrancing. Yet perhaps being entranced by the Arctic's beauty is a dangerous pleasure. It might have been wise to balance the delight not only with cautions expressed in words, but also with a few downright unattractive images of conflict, exploitation, and environmental pollution.

Janice Cavell
Historical Section, Global Affairs Canada
 125 Sussex Drive
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2, Canada
 and
 Carleton University
 1125 Colonel by Drive
 Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada
janice.cavell@international.gc.ca

THE FROZEN SAQQAQ SITES OF DISKO BAY, WEST GREENLAND, QEQERTASUSSUK AND QAJAA (2400–900 BC): STUDIES OF SAQQAQ MATERIAL CULTURE IN AN EASTERN ARCTIC PERSPECTIVE. By BJARNE GRØNNOW. Copenhagen: Museum Tusulanum Press, 2017. ISBN 978-87-635-45617. Monographs on Greenland 356; Meddelelser om Grønland, Man and Society 45. 490 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., appendices, references. Hardbound. DKK 498; €67; US\$70.00.

The Frozen Saqqaq Sites of Disko Bay is a gorgeously illustrated volume and a self-described "classical ethnography" of material culture, which is fittingly arranged by functional tool categories that are reflective of the completeness of artifact assemblages usually only seen among living communities. From an archaeological perspective, this book offers a new perspective into the Arctic Small Tool Tradition (ASTt), which previously was focused through a narrow lithic lens.

Encyclopedic in nature, and covering the entire temporal occupation of Saqqaq culture in Greenland, Grønnow's volume offers a complete overview of Saqqaq material culture (c. 2400 to 900 BC), including an extraordinary suite of organic tools that were preserved by permafrost. The exacting nature of the artifact descriptions and the accompanying analysis provide important insights into the sophisticated material culture of the Saqqaq peoples, and shed new light on otherwise unknown elements of daily life of these Arctic pioneers.

In this comprehensive treatment of Saqqaq material culture, Grønnow provides detailed descriptions of the incredibly well preserved sites of Qeqertasussuk and Qajaa, which are not only of national significance, but arguably of world significance. A comparison to Independence I and Pre-Dorset cultures sets Saqqaq in a broader cultural context and provides the basis for an examination of

cultural connections within the early ASTt in both the Eastern and Western Arctic, including its relationship with the Denbigh Flint Complex.

Also included are a thorough assessment of radiocarbon results and an analysis of their limitations. While this section of the book may be somewhat technical for non-specialists, it is a valuable contribution to the overall discussion and offers the non-specialist reader a look into the considerable temporal obstacles that continue to challenge Arctic scholars.

Of personal interest to this reviewer is the section on utensils, and particularly the wooden ladles and spoons, which share a remarkable resemblance to a complete specimen, carved from a single piece of spruce, that was preserved at the Dorset soapstone quarry in Fleur de Lys, Newfoundland (see Erwin, 2005). As a late ASTt specimen, the Dorset ladle is surprisingly similar to those of the Greenland examples, as well as a testament to the remarkable carving skills that were required to fabricate these kinds of finely crafted items.

Likewise, Grønnow's question "Where are the Children?" (p. 339) is a fascinating, yet frustrating topic for which he admits that "perhaps we have not cracked the 'code for children' in the Saqqaq archaeological record yet, or alternatively the archaeological picture may reflect that the concept of childhood in Saqqaq times was different from the Inuit's concepts." Though it is noted that glimpses of children are potentially offered by tiny round soapstone lamps and a few models or miniatures, the author also suggests that perhaps "Saqqaq society did not consider 'childhood' as a social category"—which, if true, is a curious explanation that might be further explored cross-culturally. Of course, there are abundant miniatures elsewhere in late ASTt assemblages, such as the Dorset site of Shuldhham Island 9 in Labrador, though most of these specimens have been interpreted as shamanic in use (Thomson, 1985). A notable exception are the crudely made and misshapen "little pots" and little pot scars at the Dorset quarry in Fleur de Lys, where there is evidence of children at play as they practice the art of soapstone vessel production (see Erwin, 2010). Though one might have expected that the organic preservation at Qeqertasussuk and Qajaa would yield further insights into the elusive world of Saqqaq children, unfortunately, their whereabouts at these sites remains unclear.

As a culmination of 30 years of work, *The Frozen Saqqaq Sites of Disko Bay* offers insights into the remarkable research program at Qeqertasussuk, which serves as a benchmark for collaboration and multidisciplinary research in Arctic archaeology. In conveying the importance of a holistic approach to research, the work at Qeqertasussuk is a model for Arctic archaeologists, particularly for those in Canada, who have until recent years toiled in relative isolation. While the results of faunal, insect, pollen, and macrofossil studies have been published elsewhere, it is notable that references to these works serve as a valuable introduction to these related studies.

This very well documented and fully referenced book also includes in its appendices Anne Lisbeth Schmidt's catalogue of worked skin fragments from Qeqertasussuk, Anne Birgitte Gotfredsen's faunal analysis from Qeqertasussuk, Area C, and Bruno Frolich and Niels Lynnerup's analysis of human remains. These reports not only contain valuable primary scientific data that are drawn upon by Grønnow, but should also be of interest to specialists in each of these fields.

A publication of the finest quality, the hardcover edition is a beautifully produced volume that befits the truly remarkable sites that it reports upon. Of particular note are the numerous finely drawn line illustrations of the artifacts, which are superior in their detail compared to photography. This highly anticipated volume is recommended for anyone with an interest in past Arctic cultures, and it should be indispensable for students of Arctic archaeology. The inclusion of *Chaîne opératoire*, which describes the operational order of manufacture for artifacts, for example, will also be of particular value to those interested in experimental use studies and for the production of museum-quality reproductions. Both encyclopedic in breadth and scholarly in depth, this book is representative of state-of-the-art archaeology and should have a relatively wide audience for what is essentially an academic publication.

REFERENCES

- Erwin, J.C. 2005. Revisiting the Dorset soapstone quarry in Fleur de Lys, Newfoundland. In: Sutherland, P.D., ed. Contributions to the study of the Dorset Palaeo-Eskimos. Mercury Series, Archaeology Paper 167. Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization. 121–131.
- . 2010. Dorset Palaeoeskimo quarrying techniques and the production of little pots at Fleur de Lys, Newfoundland. In: Brewer-LaPorta, M., Burke, A., and Field, D., eds. Ancient mines and quarries: A trans-Atlantic perspective. Oxford: Oxbow Books. 56–66.
- Thomson, C. 1985. Dorset shamanism: Excavations in northern Labrador. *Expedition* 27(1):37–49.

John C. Erwin
 Provincial Archaeology Office
 Department of Tourism, Culture,
 Industry and Innovation
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
 PO Box 8700
 St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 4J6,
 Canada
johncerwin@gmail.com