

interesting and problematic venture. One question that comes to mind is how significant in regime formation is personal contact and exchange in the construction of trust, which is vital to the operationalisation of particular regimes. Finally, what role do Young and other interested scholars think that NGOs and other non-state organisations can play in potentially 'shaming' governments if they fail to live up to their commitments to environmental protection or cultural pluralism. This process of shaming becomes all the more important in the case of soft-law arrangements.

Arctic regimes is, therefore, a thought-provoking book and should be welcomed by scholars. Moreover, it also stimulated in this reviewer further questions about not only the contemporary condition of polar and world politics but also the strategies that are adopted to represent these complexities. (Klaus Dodds, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.)

Reference

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FROM MIDDLE AGES TO COLONIAL TIMES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOHISTORICAL STUDIES OF THE THULE CULTURE OF SOUTH WEST GREENLAND 1300–1800 AD. Hans Christian Gulløv. 1997. Copenhagen: Dansk Polar Center. 501 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 87-90369-21-1. DKK 475.

This is a splendid book with a rather strange title, which appears to lodge Inuit cultural history within a wholly European temporal perspective. However, it is also one of the most important books to be produced on Greenlandic archaeology in many years, and Arctic specialists around the circumpolar rim will find it of immense and lasting utility. This may be the longest and heaviest edition ever of the distinguished *Meddelelser om Grønland* series, and in some important ways it harks back to the key publications of the 1920s and 1930s on Greenlandic archaeology, which have long since been recognized as classics. Like these classic publications, this monograph presents both an impressive amount of highly detailed data and wider generalizations on Inuit culture and history. This volume reports a vast amount of research carried out in the capital district of modern Greenland, fully publishing both completely new material and some material earlier presented only in Danish or Kalallit, and contains a very helpful capsule summary of research on Inuit culture carried out in the district since 1945. With the publication of this volume, Danish Arctic archaeology brings to international notice a large body of excellent, but often under-reported, sustained work of basic science.

Presentation of the basic archaeological data for southwest Greenland (and the Nuuk district in particular) is one of the clear strong points of the work, with detailed site plans, house excavations with piece plotted finds and full profiles, and updated site distribution maps. Particularly

valuable and impressive are the many high-quality illustrations of finds by the author, done to a standard not seen recently in most archaeological publications. This combination of clear and systematic presentation of house forms and excellent and comprehensive artifact illustrations will certainly someday make this volume a well-thumbed (and probably rare) standard in the professional libraries of northern archaeologists still unborn, and already make it a critical purchase for any current Arctic specialist.

However, this book is far from a simple illustrated catalogue of southwest Greenlandic archaeology (however comprehensive and well-organized), but a thoughtful and mature discussion of settlement and subsistence in a key region through a usefully long period of time. Its depth of presentation rests upon the results of more than 25 years of research by the author and his colleagues in Denmark and Greenland. The depth of detail and local expertise contained in the book is impossible to convey in a short review, but the example of a combined set of a locational map of sources of economically useful stone (Fig. 68) and a temporal diagram of changing stone material use based on excavated artifacts (Fig. 69) may illustrate the book's combination of local knowledge and long-term analysis of artifacts and geological source material in the laboratory. Again and again, the reader will benefit from this sort of combination, and great amounts of information will be found tucked away in the well-drawn maps and graphs.

In its generalized chapters, the volume explores the interface between archaeology and history/ethnohistory, following widespread trends in other parts of the circumpolar north. In Nuuk district, as in Labrador and the central Arctic, the former research emphasis on paleo-eskimo research and deep history appears to be fading in the face of a resurgence of research in the Thule–historic periods. As in Canada and the broad North Atlantic, this reorientation is in part driven by scholarly interest in a new 'historical ecology' at the productive interface between increasingly well-documented climate change, sequence and consequence of human adaptive decisions, and world-system penetrations (all of which require the denser data sets of the more recent past). As in Canada, the reorientation in Greenland is in part driven by popular local interest in Thule ancestors and the lives and land use of eighteenth to early twentieth-century people whose names and genealogy are known and valued by modern communities. The challenge of doing both good scholarship and effective fulfillment of community expectations concerns many in the north, and this book makes a significant contribution in this area.

An extremely useful appendix by Jeppe Møhl on the faunal remains from Illorpaat in the outermost portion of Godthaabfjord excavated 1972–1975 provides an excellent overview of a very important stratified midden deposit. As Møhl describes, unlike most Inuit archaeofauna in Greenland, these deposits are dominated by harp seal and bird (mainly murre) rather than ringed seal. The midden deposits produced a large identified collection, of

which more than 47,000 can be linked to layers dating from ca 1445 to the eighteenth century. As has been noted in other parts of the Arctic, Møhl observes very convincing temporal variability in species taken, apparently related to patterns of climate change in this largely ice-free zone. An expanded version of this appendix providing more discussion of the interactions of animals, hunters, and climate would be welcome, and it is hoped that this fine piece of zooarchaeology can be expanded in its own format in the future.

Overall, this clearly represents one of the most valuable books dealing with Greenlandic archaeology to be published for some time. Anyone with a concern for Inuit archaeology should acquire a copy while it is still in print. (Thomas H. McGovern, North Atlantic Biocultural Organization, Bioarchaeological Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021, USA.)

THE SILENCE CALLING: AUSTRALIANS IN ANTARCTICA 1947–97. Tim Bowden. 1997. St Leonards, NSW, and London: Allen & Unwin. xxvii + 593 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-86448-311-3. £40.00.

Flicking over the pages of a thick volume described as a history, and glimpsing long lists of names, makes one's heart sink. Such an impression proved entirely misleading with Tim Bowden's *The silence calling*. Having started, I read it, with enjoyment, right through — quite contrary to the code of practice of reviewers. As evidence of this involvement, I can state that in no less than five places in the text the reader is informed that the Lambert Glacier is the biggest in the world.

The persistent efforts of that greatest of Antarctic scientists, Douglas Mawson, to persuade the Australian government to consolidate its claims to 42% of the continent eventually led to the setting up in 1947 of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) as a civil service division fated to be passed on to a succession of different government departments. This is the point at which this history, which takes its title from a poem by Mawson, begins. Thereafter, Mawson continued to play an active but lesser and occasionally unhelpful role — as when he suggested that expeditions should be funded from commercial undertakings such as whaling. The first 19 years of the organisation were directed by another indomitable man, Phillip Law. It is well recognised that Antarctic science is highly dependent on politics and the story of Law's efforts to beat the system runs through most of the early chapters. A senior civil servant wrote of Law that he 'leaves the distinct impression that he does not *want* to act as a servant of the Government; he *wants* only to explore the Antarctic.' The provision of shipping proved particularly difficult, and for many seasons a chartered vessel, *Kista Dan*, was used with an unsuitable tank landing craft for servicing Heard and Macquarie islands. The first permanent foothold on the continent, Mawson Station, was commissioned in 1954, and the first RAAF flight took

place from there in 1956. The International Geophysical Year, 1957–58, saw the USSR setting up three stations on Australian Antarctic Territory and consequently solving Law's political problems for him for the time being. The account of the subsequent negotiations leading to the Antarctic Treaty is interesting — the USSR supporting the concept of Antarctica being a nuclear-free zone, whilst Australia, with others, opposed it. Law retired from ANARE in 1966, frustrated by the government's refusal to allow his division to be responsible for its own research. The Mawson Institute, based in the University of Adelaide and modelled on the Scott Polar Research Institute, might have provided a research centre independent of government, but Law was convinced of the importance of keeping logistics and much of the science under his division's control. In spite of the efforts of Fred Jacka, who had worked on upper-air physics with ANARE, the Institute never became anything more than a collection of Mawson memorabilia and a director.

Law's successors in ANARE had no less trouble with bureaucracy and chaotic politics. A move of headquarters from Melbourne to Hobart was proposed in 1974 but was not completed until 1981. There was a black period with discontent in the Division, criticism from without, and dissension on policy within the government. Management consultants were unleashed on the Antarctic Division, and there was uproar over tenders for a new ice-breaking ship, culminating in police investigation, which, however, found no evidence of improper procedures. There was more trouble over the painstakingly thought-out Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities (CRAMRA), adopted by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in 1988. When it was first discussed by the Australian Cabinet, there was some objection on conservationist grounds, but a majority agreed that Australia should sign it. However, when it was found that France had reservations and when conservationists mounted an emotive campaign against it, the Convention was doomed. Had it been called the Convention for the Protection of the Antarctic Environment, a reasonable suggestion that was regarded as flippancy when the title was being discussed, there might well have been no trouble. Once again, science was overridden by politics. CCAMLR, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which came into force in 1982 and established its headquarters in Hobart, has, happily, been more successful in maintaining its scientific integrity. Another contentious issue faced by ANARE at that time was that of women in Antarctica, the first of whom, a medical officer, wintered on the continent in 1981. The story of what these unfortunate but resolute females went through is distressing. It was perhaps aggravated because their advent coincided with a rebuilding programme so that the ratio of 'tradies' — builders, carpenters, and mechanics with their traditional 'blokey' culture — to the more civilised 'boffins' was high. Now, women are accepted without question in every kind of ANARE activity. In spite of all these