

in length from a few paragraphs to just under 10 pages and reach broadly across the North in time, space, and culture. Several black-and-white photographs are scattered throughout the book, and two colour sections reproduce several of Brown's photographs and paintings.

Most of the stories focus on men. Several report on tragedies, such as the 1875 murder of Oblate Brother Alexis Renard and a 14-year-old orphan near Lac La Biche, or the accidental drowning of Father Joseph Frapsauce on Great Bear Lake in 1920. Others retell well-known tales that have been recorded elsewhere, such as the exploits of Thanether (more commonly referred to as Thanadelthur), the Chipewyan woman captured by the Cree at the time the fur trade was just reaching into the North. Some names, such as those of Nahanni prospector Albert Faille or barrenland trapper Gus Krause, are well known to Northerners today, and as the stories that Brown recounts have not been recorded before, they make a significant contribution to tales already associated with these men. In one story, Brown provides an affectionate portrayal of his father-in-law, Paul Steen, a man whom he never met but learned about through Margaret's stories, and whom he compares to Robinson Crusoe because of their shared penchant for long-distance travel.

Most of the remaining stories focus on remarkable individuals undertaking remarkable deeds. Brown entertains us with tales of Russian trader Jake Jacobsen; Mikkel Polk, a Saami reindeer herder who helped establish the herd near Inuvik (that still exists today); and Hamar Nelson, a Norwegian trapper renowned for his long-distance overland travels, to name just a few. Northern historians will find useful details about many individuals who still play prominent roles in local oral tradition but are inadequately recorded in the printed historical record. A prime example is the story of Tom Throne, a Texan who lived in the Mackenzie Delta for many years and is still remembered by Gwich'in elders.

Preparing to read the stories, I had expected to learn more about northern Aboriginal individuals, but only a few are included, and I would regard this as the book's only weakness. Nonetheless, it is a sweeping collection of interesting stories, written in an entertaining style, that will enlighten and enhance local knowledge of places, people, and events from the Northwest Territories and northern portions of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

As author, artist, photographer, and filmmaker, Brown has faithfully recorded 50 years of Northwest Territories history, a time of dramatic and rapid change, and he has captured this sense of urgency in many of the stories included in *Free Spirits*. The book will sit comfortably on any northern bookshelf and makes a significant contribution to the growing genre of northern biography.

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GEOGRAPHIC NAMES OF ICELAND'S GLACIERS: HISTORIC AND MODERN. By ODDUR SIGURÐSSON and RICHARD S. WILLIAMS, Jr. Reston, Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey, 2008. ISBN 0-607-97815-9. USGS Professional Paper 1746. x + 225 p., maps, colour illus., references, appendix. US\$16.00.

This book is based upon the authors' lifetime experiences with glaciology, particularly Iceland's glaciers, and landscape photography. The authors' primary intent was to compile the geographic names of all the different types of glaciers of Iceland and to organize them into eight Regional Glacier Groups based on the earlier initiative (1985) of the late Sigurjón Rist, which is included as an appendix in this volume.

All the modern place names of Iceland's 269 glaciers are listed: they include 14 ice caps, 2 contiguous (i.e., connected) ice caps, 109 outlet glaciers, 8 ice-flow basins, 3 ice streams, 55 cirque glaciers, 73 mountain glaciers, and 5 valley glaciers. Also listed are 38 named snow patches and 14 named *jökulhlaup* deposits. (*Jökulhlaup* 'glacier leap' is an old Icelandic word. It is also defined as 'glacier lake outburst flood,' but in the present context it relates to conspicuous deposits that remain following a flood.) A good example of a *jökulhlaup* deposit is *Svartijökul* ('black glacier'), located in the district of Öraefi, southeastern Iceland.

The book contains 190 oblique air and ground photographs in colour, as well as satellite images that provide vivid visual representation of all 269 glaciers. The preferred glacier place name with modern spelling is shown in bold upper-case letters, if an ice cap, and in bold lower-case letters if an outlet glacier or one of the other types. A similar form of differentiation is used for surging glaciers and ice streams. The total as of 2008 excludes six named glaciers that "disappeared" during the second half of the 20th century.

The systematic recording of historical names, fully referenced wherever possible, is an extremely valuable and interesting addition. An outstanding example is Snæfellsjökull, mentioned many times in the sagas, although sometimes by a different name (e.g., Snjófell). The name "Snæfellsjökull" has always fascinated this reviewer since, as a boy, he learned the name "The Snowy Joker" given to it by his Grimsby (UK) fishing trawler friends. It is a conspicuous landmark from the sea, and from Reykjavík itself.

The derivations of the glacier names are also given: often glaciers were named for a nearby farm (Skaftafell-sjökull, from the neighbouring farm of Skaftafell), a river, or a mountain. These derivations include information on the antiquity of knowledge concerning Iceland's glaciers, often going back more than a thousand years. In this context lies one of the many valuable contributions of the work. As a whole, it provides a very useful baseline for any future assessment of glacier change in relation to the current worldwide climate warming.

The authors explain that Iceland's glacier names waited several hundred years to become familiar to non-Icelanders (and, presumably, non-Danes). Increasing awareness had to await their publication on maps, although a Mercator map (1569) depicts "Snauel Jokel" for Snæfellsjökull. Unlike many other countries, Iceland has no formal institution (such as the U.S. Board on Geographic Names or the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) with authority to certify the accuracy of spelling, location, and provenance of place names on the country's official maps. For this reason alone, this publication is a vital source document.

The photographs of the glaciers deserve special mention, from both scientific and aesthetic points of view. Practically all are the work of Sigurðsson and display his outstanding dual ability as glaciologist and photographer. The reproductions, many at half-page size, are excellent, with a very few exceptions that appear "muddy."

The current volume is the second of a trilogy. This reviewer is also familiar with the first volume, a coffee-table format book on the Icelandic Ice Mountains, in which Williams and Sigurðsson (2004) produced an extensively annotated translation of Dr. Sveinn Pálsson's 1796 treatise. Pálsson's work was previously available only in Danish and Icelandic, which accounts for Iceland's not being recognized as dominant in the development of the discipline of glaciology. Pálsson, for instance, was arguably the first "glaciologist" to record the hypothesis that glaciers "flowed down in a semi-melted or thick and viscous state...glacier ice, without actually melting, has some kind of fluidity, like several resins..." (translation by Williams and Sigurðsson, 2004:68).

This second part of the trilogy is basically a textual, photographic, and cartographic source book on glaciers. The authors draw no conclusion concerning the recent response of Iceland's glaciers to present-day climate change. Presumably this topic will be addressed in the third part of the trilogy (Sigurðsson and Williams, in press) due to be published later in 2009.

A book on the glaciers of a small country and their names might seem of limited interest to all but a tiny glaciological coterie. Such should be far from the case. Sigurðsson and Williams are producing a series that should be of special interest not only to glaciologists, geographers, and geologists, and students in those disciplines, but also to the far wider potential readership concerned with climate change. Iceland, over the last decade, has become an attraction to

a rapidly growing following of tourists. Many of them will surely be attracted to Iceland's glaciers, which occupy about a tenth of the country's land surface and are an essential and easily accessible part of its natural beauty.

*Geographic Names of Iceland's Glaciers* is also published in Icelandic. It is accessible online through the following URL address of the U.S. Geological Survey: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1746/>.

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THE ARCTIC: THE COMPLETE STORY. By RICHARD SALE. Photographs by PER MICHELSEN and RICHARD SALE. London: Frances Lincoln Limited, 2008. ISBN 978-0-7112-2707-1. 632 p., maps, colour illus., index. Large format. Hardbound. US\$60.00; £45.

This book represents an extremely ambitious endeavour, namely the production of what is effectively a single-volume encyclopedia on the circumpolar Arctic. One has to admire the author's chutzpah in even attempting such a task; however, except in selected areas, the results are less than impressive.

The book is divided into five major sections. Part 1, "The natural environment," handles definitions of the Arctic, geology, snow and ice (including permafrost), climate, and atmospheric phenomena. Part 2 covers human history—Native peoples and exploration. Part 3, which deals with habitat and wildlife, includes 200 pages of detailed descriptions of all birds and mammals, both marine and terrestrial. Part 4, entitled "A traveller's guide to the Arctic," presents a brief overview of the history and wildlife of each of the Arctic