

Widdowson and Howard also fail in their own reflexivity. If authors do not reveal their own partiality, readers should be cautious about accepting their arguments and conclusions. In this book, some arguments and conclusions are extraordinarily astute, while others seem to offer little more than unreflexive accounts of the “aboriginal industry.” One can only wonder how much more powerful the dialogue would have been if the authors could have situated their own subjectivity within the narrative (i.e., acknowledged that they have also benefited from the aboriginal industry).

Although the conceptual and theoretical overviews (i.e., postmodernism) and arguments lack academic rigor and consistency, Widdowson and Howard’s message regarding poverty, rights vs. responsibility, and various forms of abuse deserves diligent consideration. Their familiarity with pertinent issues within aboriginal studies and governance cannot, nor should it be, dismissed. Their approach serves these intentions well, and attuned readers should be encouraged to draw out relevant considerations that may supplement and flesh out theory. The conclusion resembles the book by Saul (2008), which encourages Canadians to re-examine their history and celebrate the *Métisage* of our socio-cultural and political fabric.

If we are to address the narratives of the victims and survivors in aboriginal society, while celebrating healers and success cases, we will need to move away from confrontational and divisive dialogues and promote forums where difficult issues like some of those outlined in this book can be addressed in an environment of mutual respect and tolerance. These forums should foster discussions, while also celebrating successes and empowerment.

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ABANDONED IN THE ARCTIC: ADOLPHUS W. GREELY AND THE LADY FRANKLIN BAY EXPEDITION, 1881–1884. By GEOFFREY E. CLARK. Book and DVD. Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Portsmouth Athenæum, 2007. Book: ISBN 0-9740895-2-4. 81 p., maps, colour and b&w illus., bib. Softbound. US\$20.00. DVD: 90 minutes, A Cocked Hat Ventures LLC film.

The author of *Abandoned in the Arctic*, Dr. Geoffrey E. Clark, first became fascinated by the story of Adolphus W. Greely and the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition following a visit to Ellesmere Island in 1988. Dr. Clark’s research into the history of the expedition and its tragic conclusion for most of the members led to additional trips north, culminating in a retracing in 2004 of the Greely party’s retreat southward from Fort Conger to Pim Island.

In the book, the author describes the bizarre sequence of events that brought Greely and his expedition to Lady Franklin Bay on the northeast coast of Ellesmere Island in August 1881. The book begins with a brief outline of Greely’s early years, his enlistment as a volunteer in the Army, and his part in the American Civil War. After the war, Greely continued his military career in the newly established U.S. Signal Corps, where he came to the attention of Captain William Henry Howgate, a tireless promoter of establishing an Arctic research station. The proposed station, to be run by the Signal Corps, was to be located in Lady Franklin Bay on the northeast coast of Ellesmere Island. At this site, members of the British Arctic Expedition under the command of George Nares had discovered seams of coal during their wintering in the area between 1875 and 1876. As it turned out, Howgate’s plans collapsed, following discovery of his embezzlement of Signal Corps funds. However, most opportunely, an Austrian Naval officer, Karl Weyprecht, was just then promoting an international programme of polar research. The United States became part of the International Polar Commission, and Congress adopted Howgate’s plans as part of the American involvement in the First International Polar Year. Lieutenant Greely, who was to have led the Howgate expedition, was appointed to lead the Lady Franklin Bay expedition.

During the British Arctic Expedition, Sir George Nares had brought his two ships, HMS *Alert* and HMS *Discovery*, through the Kane Basin and Kennedy Channel to northern Ellesmere Island and the edge of the Polar Basin. Getting both ships that far north was an extraordinary feat, as was the successful return of both vessels to the south the following summer. Now, five years later, replicating Nares’s successful voyage, Greely brought his expedition vessel, *Proteus*, to the wintering place used earlier by *Discovery*. Close to shore, amidst supplies and refuse left behind by the British Arctic Expedition, Greely and his men erected an impressively large expedition house. They named the place Fort Conger.

In brief and well-illustrated sections, the author highlights the many extraordinary episodes of the Greely expedition: the establishment of Fort Conger, Lt. Kislingbury’s

desperate and unsuccessful attempt to reach the departing *Proteus* as she headed south, the personality clashes in close quarters, and the surpassing of the British “Farthest North” by a few miles. According to expedition plans, a supply ship, the *Neptune*, was scheduled to reach Fort Conger during the summer of 1882; however, after failing to get through the Kennedy Channel, it cached only a small part of its precious cargo and headed back south. During the summer of 1883, a second relief expedition was sent north. The lead ship, *Proteus*, was crushed in the pack ice just east of the Bache Peninsula: the crew barely managed to escape with a minimum of supplies, which they later cached on nearby Pim Island. Failure of the supply and relief ships to reach Fort Conger resulted in Greely’s often second-guessed decision to abandon the station in the fall of 1883 and struggle southward along the Ellesmere Island coast in search of supplies and rescue. The epic journey from Fort Conger to what became their final camp on Pim Island lasted nearly two months. Only seven men survived the winter on Pim Island, and one of them died onboard Commander Schley’s ship, *Thetis*, following their rescue. The survivors were taken to St. John’s, Newfoundland, and subsequently to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where they arrived to a celebratory reception on 2 August 1884.

It is no wonder that the desperate retreat from Fort Conger caught the author’s attention, providing the material for the adventuresome 2004 re-enactment, superbly presented in the documentary. The six-person expedition party, using three kayaks, was led by Stephen Smith, a biologist and seasoned Arctic kayak tour leader. One of the expedition members was James Shedd, a great-great-grandson of Adolphus Greely.

The retracing of the retreat south in kayaks was a dangerous undertaking. Having traveled (albeit in a zodiac inflatable boat) in the icy waters off the east coast of Ellesmere Island, I can attest to the dangers of sudden and deceptively swift movement of ice floes. The danger of traveling in small crafts in this part of the Arctic was suddenly thrust upon the expedition when the adventurer-videographer, Scott Simper, was suddenly pinned in his kayak between the rocky ice foot and a large ice floe. The kayak was crushed, and Scott was severely injured and medically evacuated south. James Shedd took over as videographer until the party reached Pim Island.

The documentary version of *Abandoned in the Arctic*, scripted, produced, and directed by Gino Del Guercio, is excellent. The re-enactment scenes on Pim Island are not overdone, and the appearance of Greely’s great-great-grandson, wearing Greely’s glasses, adds a marvelous element to the presentation of this intriguing event in the history of Arctic exploration. The book and the documentary film explore the issue of cannibalism on Pim Island and the U.S. Government’s attempts to cover up the evidence that had been so obvious to the rescue party when the bodies were retrieved from the shallow graves on Pim Island. For the reader and viewer noticing the absence of any mention of the first two stone dwellings constructed by the Greely

party at Cape Wade (Eskimo Point) south of Pim Island, the 2004 expedition was aimed primarily at producing the documentary film about the Greely story and the epic journey that ended so tragically on Pim Island. The book is well written and illustrated, and the film production is superb. For anyone interested in the Arctic, its history, and its spectacular scenery, I highly recommend this documentary film and its accompanying book.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED

ASPECTS OF OKVIK: FOUR ESSAYS ON THINGS OF BERING STRAIT, edited by DON E. DUMOND. Eugene, Oregon: Museum of Natural and Cultural History and Dept. of Anthropology, University of Oregon, 2008. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 68. Available from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, University of Oregon, 1680 15th Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97403-1224. 309 p., maps, b&w illus., appendixes. Softbound. US\$28.00.

THE BIG THAW: TRAVELS IN THE MELTING NORTH. By ED STRUZIK. Mississauga, Ontario: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2009. ISBN 978-0-470-15728-2. x + 278 p., map, colour illus., index. Hardbound. Cdn\$29.95; US\$26.95.

BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING: HUMAN ECOLOGY IN THE ARCTIC. By KARIM-ALY S. KASSAM. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-55238-253-0. Northern Lights Series No. 12. xiii + 270 p., foldout map, b&w illus., references, index. Softbound. Cdn\$34.95.

COLD: ADVENTURES IN THE WORLD’S FROZEN PLACES. By BILL STREEVER. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2009. ISBN 978-0-316-04291-8. xii + 292 p., maps, notes, index. Hardbound. US\$24.99; Cdn\$27.99.

FACE TO FACE: POLAR PORTRAITS. By HUW LEWIS-JONES. Foreword by Sir RANULPH FIENNES; Afterword by HUGH BRODY; New photography by MARTIN HARTLEY. Cambridge: The Scott Polar Research Institute, 2008. ISBN 978-0-901021-08-3. 288 p., b&w and colour illus., further reading, index. £25.

HIGH-ARCTIC ECOSYSTEM DYNAMICS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: TEN YEARS OF MONITORING AND RESEARCH AT ZACKENBERG RESEARCH STATION, NORTHEAST GREENLAND. Edited by HANS MELTOFTE, TORBEN R. CHRISTENSEN, BO ELBERLING, MADIS C. FORCHHAMMER and MORTEN RASCH. London: Academic Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-12-373665-9. Advances in Ecological Research, Vol. 40.