

NORTHERN NEWS

New Website on Moravians in Labrador

The libraries of the universities of Toronto, Memorial, and Laval have collaborated on the production of a website that documents the history of the Moravian missionaries in coastal Labrador. With about 6000 pages of textual material and 1000 photographs online, the website, titled *The Labrador Inuit through Moravian Eyes*, traces the history of the missionary settlements and the interaction of the Moravians with the Inuit of coastal Labrador. The joint project was funded in part through the Canadian Culture Online program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. *The Labrador Inuit through Moravian Eyes* website is available at <http://link.library.utoronto.ca/inuitmoravian/>.

Polar Medal Awarded

Professor Tavi Murray, a professor of glaciology in the School of Environment and Society at Swansea University, received the Polar Medal from Her Majesty The Queen at a ceremony held on February 28 at Buckingham Palace. Dr. Murray, only the eighth woman to receive this prestigious medal, conducts research on fast-flowing glaciers and ice streams and glacier instabilities in the Arctic, the Antarctic, and the European Alps.

Originally established in 1857 as the “Arctic Medal,” the award was renamed the Polar Medal in 1904 and bestowed on members of Captain Robert Falcon Scott’s first expedition to Antarctica. Dr. Murray joins a distinguished list of about 4000 recipients, which includes Antarctic explorers Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

AINA NEWS

Arctic Back Issues Digitized

As of March 2007, all back issues of the journal *Arctic* from Volume 1, Number 1 published in 1948 to Volume 57, Number 1 (2004) are freely available on the *Arctic* Contents (and *Arctic* Search) pages of the AINA website. More than 2300 articles, notes, commentaries, and obituaries from the back issues are now mounted on the AINA publications server. For current issues, Portable Document Format (PDF) files of papers and notes are made available three years after publication, at which time issues are marked with a PDF icon. All *Arctic* PDF files are also available via links from their records in AINA’s ASTIS database. More than 7000 ASTIS records now provide links to PDF files using URLs or DOIs.

The scanning of 181 back issues (over 17,500 pages) was carried out by WOW Document Management Services (DMS) of Kingston, Ontario, who provided a PDF file for each issue. All files underwent optical character recognition to allow search capabilities, while maintaining the

appearance of the original document. Once the files were received from WOW DMS, they were separated into individual PDF files for each article and appropriate Document Properties were added using Adobe Acrobat.

We are deeply grateful to AINA member Joan S. Tait, whose generous private donation to the Arctic Institute provided a substantial portion of the funding for the scanning of *Arctic* back issues. Having free access to all articles published in *Arctic* since 1948 will be a tremendous resource for northern researchers, students, and all those interested in the Arctic regions of the world. We are especially pleased to see the completion of this project in time for the start of the 4th International Polar Year 2007–08.

AINA sponsors Calgary Opera’s Frobisher Community Symposium

January is usually a quiet month as people recover from a busy holiday season, but this January was a notable exception for the staff and supporters of the Arctic Institute. January 27, 2007 marked the world premiere of Calgary Opera’s production of *Frobisher*, John Estacio and John Murrell’s new opera on an Arctic theme, and the Arctic Institute was front and centre in the organization of the Opera’s Community Symposium.

On January 15, we hosted the first of three community symposium events: a timely and heated debate on climate change. An expert panel composed of Dr. Sean Marshall, Dr. David Keith, Dr. John Kendall, Dr. Karim-Aly Kassam, and Dr. David Swann took the stage in the rehearsal hall at the Calgary Opera Centre, presenting an audience of over 150 people with the latest in both accepted and controversial scientific and cultural debate on the issues surrounding climate change. The panel discussion, moderated by the CBC’s David Grey, proved engaging and challenging, inspiring a very active question-and-answer period at its conclusion.

The second of our community symposium events, an engaging Friday-night talk from local Inuit art enthusiast Maurice Yacowar, took place on January 17 in the lobby of the Jubilee Auditorium. Maurice’s talk, illustrated by pieces of art from his own collection, was attended by over 100 people—all of whom were delighted by both the intriguing content of the lecture and Maurice’s signature presentation style. Discussion was lively at the reception that followed, and attendees were treated to the chance to view the *Frobisher*-inspired fibre art exhibition by Articulation, also on display at the Jubilee.

Our final community symposium event—and the highlight for many—was the January 23 world premiere of John Houston’s newest film, *Kiviuq*. Houston, to whom many Calgarians were introduced last year when he was the Arctic Institute’s guest for a screening of *Diet of Souls*, screened his brand-new film, a performing arts special on the ancient Inuit legend of Kiviuq, to a sold-out audience at the University Theatre. With special guest Annie Peterloosie, an Inuit Elder and performer in the film, Houston captivated the audience

with tales of Inuit art, culture, and history that few will soon forget. The following day, John and Annie, along with Canadian storyteller Kira Van Deusen, led an Inuit storytelling session at the Rozsa Centre hosted by the University of Calgary's Archaeology department. These events were a rare treat for Calgarians and put a perfect cap on the community symposium.

And, of course, January 27 brought the much-anticipated world premiere of the new Canadian opera, *Frobisher*, which met with sold-out audiences and rave reviews. It was an honour and a pleasure for the Arctic Institute to partner with the Calgary Opera on these events, and we look forward to the opportunity to continue building the connections between northern art, music, science, culture, and community in years to come.