

torical reproductions, provide excellent additions to the writing by allowing the reader to “see” the island and its explorers. The maps, both at the beginning and throughout the chapters, are another matter, as they frequently have a rough appearance and lack the detail necessary to follow the content being described.

Kobalenko has collated a wealth of historical facts, from the well-known to the unheralded, and added personal stories and anecdotes of his adventures to enthuse the reader. *The Horizontal Everest* is quite readable and would probably appeal to the generalist rather than the specialist; however, it is also a useful reference book, with an excellent annotated bibliography that makes it worth its price.

The Horizontal Everest is part travelogue of Kobalenko’s “home” and part well-researched history text; he has seamlessly woven the two together as very few authors have the ability to do. This is an account of one man’s love affair with a very special place, and Kobalenko outdoes scores of past Arctic history books in bringing the personalities and events to life. Ellesmere truly is a remarkable place, and the author manages to convey his sense of awe in a way that readers sitting in their “homes” (probably in far more hospitable circumstances) will appreciate.

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MAPS, MYTHS, and MEN: THE STORY OF THE VINLAND MAP. By KIRSTEN A. SEAVER. Stanford University Press, 2004. ISBN 0-8047-4962-0. xx + 480 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Softbound. US\$24.95.

In the fall of 1965, I was working on a term paper for a geography class at the University of Alaska. As a topic I had chosen the Norse settlement period in Greenland. Naturally the publication of *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation* by Yale University Press, in October of that year, and the Yale Library’s announcement that it had acquired a world map dated to about 1440 and showing the location of the Norsemen’s *Vinland*, were of immediate interest. From the fall of 1965 to the present, debates about the authenticity of the Yale publication and particularly the *Vinland* map have raged unabated.

The author of *Maps, Myths, and Men*, Kirsten Seaver, is a well-known and respected scholar, historian, and writer. An exhaustive researcher, Seaver has spent years gathering and assessing data for this book. The essence of her work is to show that the *Vinland* map is a modern fake and to expose the identity of the mapmaker. Seaver’s research covers a lot of ground and explores the most contentious cartographic issues: the source of the parchment, the wormholes, the scientific ink studies, and the relationship of the map to the *Tartar Relation* and a second document known as the *Speculum Historiale*.

One of the great challenges of presenting a fairly detailed account of a multitude of issues, especially those surrounding a topic well known to only the most ardent students, is organization. A second consideration has to be the targeted audience. Are they the relatively few people who already possess a thorough grounding in the topic, or a much wider readership that must be guided through a considerable amount of history in order to appreciate the validity of the arguments, the relative importance of the players, and the complexity of the mystery before them? Understandably, the author and the publisher have chosen the wider audience.

In the opening chapter, the author explores the concept of *Vinland* as first presented in the 13th-century *Vinland* sagas, as the southernmost of the three areas—*Helluland*, *Markland*, and *Vinland*—that the pioneering Norsemen discovered on the North American coastline. Seaver then introduces the reader to *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation* (1965), the circumstances surrounding its publication, and its authors, two British scholars from the British Museum (R. A. Skelton and George D. Painter) and an American curator at Yale (Thomas E. Marston). For seven years before publication, these three scholars had worked under a cloak of secrecy—an unfortunate arrangement, as it turned out. In subsequent chapters, a good many of the scientific arguments for or against authenticity of *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation* have as their focus the conclusions drawn by these three men. A brief mention of another Yale acquisition, an incomplete portion of the *Speculum Historiale*, is important for the reader to keep in mind, as this text document will eventually be tied to the *Tartar Relation*.

A thorough review of the history of the medieval Norse in the North Atlantic follows this introduction. Aside from exposing the uninitiated reader to this period of Norse history, the material constitutes the means of evaluating the authors of *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation*. Seaver points out that although the authors were experts in their fields and of excellent reputation, they had no particular skills when it came to Norse history, nor did they have the language background required to access primary Nordic sources. Equally damaging was the authors’ inability, due to the secrecy clause, to consult with scholars possessing far greater and more current expertise than they had themselves. Not surprisingly, the publication was sharply criticized by experts such as Haroldur Sigurdsson,

and many others, shortly after its release. In many ways, this chapter is an audacious undertaking, considering the many points of scholarly contention surrounding this topic. Seaver explores a multitude of complex issues with finesse, many new insights, and a good sense of crediting most of the diverse opinions inherent in such an expansive topic.

Having provided the reader with a historical background, Seaver focuses on the primary subject of the book, the story of the Vinland map (Chapters 3 and 4). The author explores both the complex and intriguing investigation of the provenance of the map and the complex series of deals between private collectors and formal institutions that invariably escalated its price tag. Names, places, and dates associated with discussions about the map and its relationship to the two companion manuscripts occasionally take the reader on some detours—interesting excursions, but not always easily followed. Marston's handling of the acquisition of the manuscript comes in for close scrutiny, as does the study of wormholes in the map and the texts. The wormhole evidence, as well as watermarks, paper sources, handwriting analyses, and the relationship of the map to the two text manuscripts, the *Speculum Historiale* fragments and the *Tartar Relation*, are dealt with in greater detail in the fourth chapter.

In the following 60 pages (Chapters 5 and 6), Seaver takes the reader through fascinating discussions and arguments revolving around the Vinland map. Nothing escapes the author's inquiring mind and personal analysis, not even the politics of the pre-launch announcement to a selected audience in Oslo, attended by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad, who in 1960 had discovered Norse ruins at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. Seaver carefully builds her case against the authenticity of the map through her own thorough inquiries and personal ink experiments. She develops a case that is convincing and is supported by the steadily growing scepticism among expert scholars. With each step, one can sense the defences of the Yale publication authors weakening. In Chapters 7 and 8, Seaver explores the Vinland map in even greater detail, as a cartographic image and as a narrative. Enormously informative, these chapters may also be the greatest challenge to the readers' continuing attention. Discussions about temporal and historical dimensions of cartographical styles are far-ranging, as are the reflections of narrative legends, myths, and worldviews. At times the bookmark must be inserted, or else the reader might cry out, "too much data—too many words!" But page by page, often with what are probably necessary redundancies, the objective reader will most likely become convinced that Seaver has demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that the Vinland map is a modern fake.

In the final and longest chapter (9), the reader is well prepared to meet Father Josef Fisher, who according to Seaver is the author of the Vinland map. All the threads come together in what will for many readers be the smoothest part of the book. Seaver's excellent portrait of

the life of the Jesuit scholar is far from devoid of sympathy for Father Joseph, who, for reasons that will surprise many readers, decided to fabricate the Vinland map a few years before Hitler's invasion of Austria in 1938.

Through its sheer scope of inquiry and the breadth of the author's knowledge, the book is a major contribution to historic scholarship. It belongs in the library of anyone even remotely interested in Norse and cartographic history.

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HUNTING, FISHING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AT THE FARM BENEATH THE SAND, WESTERN GREENLAND: AN ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF A NORSE FARM IN THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT. By INGE BØDKER ENGHOFF. Copenhagen: Danish Polar Center, 2003. ISBN 87-90369-59-9. Meddelelser om Grønland, Man and Society 28. Published in cooperation with the Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark (SILA) and the Greenland National Museum and Archives. 104 p., map, 50 b&w illus., bib. Softbound. DKK260,00 + s&h (US\$41.40).

As a zooarchaeologist (archaeozoologist), I was thrilled to see an entire book devoted to faunal remains, and I was doubly excited to see that this monograph was written about the animal skeletal material recovered from an Arctic site. The Arctic generally is perceived as fertile ground for zoological research because of its relatively good bone preservation, and this monograph reinforces this perception. Inge Enghoff has written one of the finest descriptions of Norse subsistence from a true zoological perspective. Her monograph on the Farm Beneath the Sand site is a thorough analysis that adheres to the long tradition of Quaternary zoology in Denmark (Møhl, 1997).

The Farm Beneath the Sand, or *Gården under Sandet* (GUS) as it is known in Danish, was a Norse farm in the Western Settlement of Greenland. More than half of this book's 104 pages are devoted to site and bone photographs, tables, and graphs, which makes this a data-rich publication. The contents of this monograph are not divided into numbered chapters, but rather organized by topical section. Jette Arneborg, the lead archaeologist for the site, provides the archaeological background and context for the animal remains, which include the site chronology and radiocarbon dates (p. 15, Table 1). The remainder of the report, written by Enghoff, is separated into the following nine sections: 1) Setting the scene; 2) Material and methods; 3) Results of the identification; 4) Hunting; 5) Fishing; 6) Animal husbandry: domestic mammals;