Dr. Jackson had sold the U.S. government on the idea of using reindeer sledges for winter mail delivery in Alaska, and to this end now proposed to establish a reindeer station, to be called Eaton Station, some 13 km inland from the settlement of Unalakleet, in turn about 70 km across Norton Sound from St. Michael. He now persuaded over 30 of the reindeer herders, including Sakariassen, to head back north to Alaska to participate in this project. They sailed aboard the steam schooner *Navarro* on 28 June, reaching St. Michael on 25 July and Unalakleet six days later. Here Jackson had assembled a herd of reindeer that had been imported from Chukotka to be used on the mail service. Then, on 5 August, Sakariassen and his companions traveled inland up the Unalakleet River to the proposed site of Eaton Station.

While a small number of the men looked after the reindeer, the majority, including Sakariassen, were living in tents and employed in erecting the buildings of Eaton Station. They moved into the buildings on 12 November, and thereafter had little to do for the winter apart from cutting and hauling firewood.

From 1 November onwards, they became increasingly restless as news of the gold strikes at Anvil City (later Nome) near Cape Nome, where their own Jafet Lindberg had made one of the initial strikes, continued to percolate along the coast to Unalakleet and Eaton Station. Having resigned their jobs, on 8 April 1899 Sakariassen and two companions, hauling a sledge with all their belongings, set off for Cape Nome, some 330 km away. Reaching Anvil City in early May, they spent the summer staking claims and panning for gold, quite successfully, until about mid-September, when freeze-up brought all panning activity to a halt. Sakariassen's journal presents considerable detail on claim staking, on the outbreak of claim jumping, and on the origins of the unusual phenomenon of gold panning on the beach at Nome. Sakariassen departed on board the steamer *Portland* on 18 October, reaching San Francisco on 2 November.

The introduction by Rausch and Baldwin, and even more so Sakariassen's journal, represent an extremely valuable contribution to the history of Alaska and the Yukon. Sakariassen's journal presents a firsthand account, by a very perceptive observer, not only of the bizarre history of the Yukon Relief Expedition, but also of the Nome gold rush, a phenomenon about which little has been written, certainly as compared to the Klondike Gold Rush. Strangely, however, there is no mention in Rausch and Baldwin's introduction of the fact that a considerable portion of the journal is devoted to Sakariassen's experience as a gold miner at Nome. A further criticism is that while many of the endnotes (organized by date and totaling 28 pages) are extremely detailed, and all are well referenced, there is no indication in the text of Sakariassen's journal that it is in fact annotated. Many readers, like this reviewer, will stumble on the fact that there are endnotes only at quite a late stage in reading the book.

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DEADLY WINTER: THE LIFE OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN. By MARTYN BEARDSLEY. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2002 (First published in Great Britain in 2002 by Chatham Publishing, Rochester, Kent). xiv + 272 p., map, b&w illus., appendices, bib., index. Hardbound. US$34.95.

Martyn Beardsley's *Deadly Winter: The Life of Sir John Franklin* begins with a rejection of what the author calls "the modern trend towards revisionist history," which he finds "anachronistic" in its practice of "putting a modern…slant on the actions and beliefs of people living in different centuries and different worlds" (p. x–xi). Beardsley's position will strike a positive chord in readers who feel dissatisfied by the sort of thinking that faults historical figures for not behaving as though they lived in the present.

Its politics aside, revisionist history can at least offer the possibility of new insight and information, and that, in turn, can lead to a more complete understanding of history. Its problem is one of focus, as it tends to look at the past solely through the lenses of the present, and at first, Beardsley appears to reject such narrow scope. But as *Deadly Winter* unfolds, it becomes clear that the author has only rejected the limiting peephole of the present so that he can look, once again, through the even more limiting peephole of the past. So while the reader hoped to get a panoramic understanding of Franklin that only two centuries of insight could provide, Beardsley delivers nothing more than a shallow repetition of the popular Franklin-as-hero stereotype, little changed since the Victorian era.

In spite of his claim to the contrary (p. 235–236), Beardsley seems obsessed with maintaining his own boyhood vision of Franklin—along with Drake and Nelson—as a sacrificial hero winning his "place in British history" (p. x). Instead of being an informed, balanced biography, this book is, more than anything else, a petty exercise in regressive thinking and inadequate research.

This criticism is harsh, but *Deadly Winter* fails in too many ways. Although the biography purports to be current and to deal appropriately with related works on Franklin, Beardsley remains disturbingly unaware of numerous important books and articles that have been published in the past decade, many of them in Canada. For example, he

writes that "almost a generation has passed since the last full Franklin biography, Roderic Owen's *The Fate of Franklin* (Hutchinson, 1978)" was published (p. xii). Yet John Wilson published *John Franklin: Traveller on Undiscovered Seas* in 2001. Similarly, Beardsley devotes nearly a third of the chapters in *Deadly Winter* to Franklin's land expeditions of 1819–22 and 1825–27, yet remains oblivious to the fact that Robert Hood's and George Back's journals from the first land expedition (Houston, 1974, 1994) and Franklin's journals from both expeditions (Davis, 1995, 1998) had already been published to facilitate exactly this sort of project. In these scholarly editions, the journals were carefully introduced and richly annotated, making the texts valuable reference points for Beardsley's lengthy treatment of the expeditions in question, had he been aware of their existence. Ironically, Wilson's biography of Franklin and the substantive introductions to the volumes of journals approach Franklin with the sort of balance Beardsley claims is needed to counter revisionist histories.

Instead, Beardsley relies almost exclusively on Franklin's own published narratives of those expeditions, accounts that were once accepted as authoritative historical documents, but that historians have come to recognize as potentially biased records when used in isolation. These accounts present Franklin in a heroic light for a number of obvious reasons. They were published in the Victorian era for the consumption of a Victorian readership. They were written by Franklin himself, who—although a modest man—sought approbation for his actions from both the Admiralty and the public. Before publication, they were carefully scrutinized by the Admiralty, which wanted the public to see the important work it had been doing in Britain's colonial empire. How Beardsley expected Franklin's land expedition narratives to do anything other than create an image of Franklin as hero is unimaginable.

Perhaps he hadn't bothered to think about it. Or perhaps he dismisses such thinking as "navel gazing," the term by which he disregards Britain's much-needed efforts to reform its penal system in 19th-century Australia (p. 157). Or perhaps he finds questions about the reliability of his main sources a matter of "political correctness" (p. 91), another term he uses to deride ideas that trouble his black-and-white notions about heroism.

This is disappointing, because familiarity with the work of others interested in Franklin could have lent much needed insight to *Deadly Winter*. Yet instead of giving an informed, balanced assessment of Franklin's geographically important land expeditions, Beardsley only takes a few stabs at Pierre Berton's (1988) *Arctic Grail* (p. 49–50) and Stuart Houston's (1984) *Arctic Ordeal* (p. 91–93), which he views as "revisionist" histories driven by political correctness. Significantly, both books were published between 15 and 20 years ago. Beardsley remains ignorant of the highly relevant work accomplished over the past decade—largely, I suspect, because it was not published in Britain.

But the author is careful to hide his careless preparation for *Deadly Winter*. In fact, at one point Beardsley urges the reader to trust his judgment of Franklin's character because it is grounded on extensive knowledge of historical documents: "Later, during countless hours of delving into the primary sources—the letters, the journals, the naval records—…I began to realize that there was much more to the man" (p. 236). Had he carried out a competent literature search and come to the primary material with an open mind, he might have produced a biography of Franklin that actually contributed something to the field. But the implication that his opinion is based on a thorough grasp of the material borders on deception. This is certainly not responsible authorship.

Similarly, Beardsley makes decidedly false statements about Franklin's two land expeditions, not necessarily because he wishes to deceive, but because he did not bother to learn more about his subject. Unfortunately for Beardsley, I have troubled myself to learn about these expeditions. The errors of fact are far too many to itemize, but a few examples of Beardsley's more disturbing inaccuracies will illustrate the nature of his distortions. The problem is decidedly more than an accidental misstatement of fact.

At one point, explaining that Franklin, when he retreated from the coast in 1821, found Fort Enterprise abandoned and without provision, Beardsley alleges that the Yellowknives, instead of supplying the fort as they had promised, "had left Franklin and the others to their fate without a second thought" (p. 94). Anyone seeking to understand the situation, and not simply to paint the British officers as heroic sufferers victimized by heathen savages, would readily find evidence that this glib charge is untrue. For one thing, Franklin's own journals or Back's journals—both published in the mid-1990s—could set Beardsley straight. For another thing, Beardsley might consider that even though it can be "politically correct" to reflect on history through the eyes of aboriginal people, the modern mind can sometimes assess a situation better by approaching it from multiple perspectives. That Beardsley did not trouble himself to learn why the fort was not supplied, but only falsely asserted that the Yellowknives abandoned Franklin's party "without a second thought," is completely unacceptable. Had Beardsley considered the Yellowknives' reasons and then chosen to reject them as insubstantial, one could say that the author's search for balance had at least been attempted, even if readers might not ultimately agree with his conclusions. But Beardsley has made no such effort; he has only distorted history to fit his boyhood dreams.

On a similar note, Beardsley defends Franklin's treatment of the voyageurs by saying that "they were simply doing the job for which they were specifically hired and paid. It was the kind of work they did on a daily basis, except now they were doing it with Franklin, instead of on their normal fur trading routes" (p. 92). The fact is, however, that the voyageurs' contracts often stipulated that

they would be fed a specific ration of meat or pemmican each day, and at an early stage of the expedition, Franklin was not able to fulfill these obligations as their employer. When some of the voyageurs—who were largely French—threatened to quit their employment, Franklin imposed military rule, treating the men as if they had enlisted in the British Navy. According to George Back's journal (published in 1994 by a major academic press in Canada and, hence, easily accessible to anyone writing a book on the subject), Franklin threatened anyone who refused to work with "blowing out his brains" (Houston, p. 81). Because he relies solely on Franklin's public narrative for information, however, Beardsley can do little more than parrot what Franklin reported, and because Franklin himself could not understand that he had failed to hold up his end of a contract, it is unlikely that Beardsley would see the matter differently. Besides, Beardsley presents the situation in sharp black-and-white, with the voyageurs taking on the same unsavoury role as the "thoughtless" Yellowknives.

Beardsley's treatment of the second land expedition is equally troubled by arrogance and error. One illustration must suffice. Beardsley asserts that "on the return journey [from Foggy Island] …they met Eskimos from the group that had attacked them, and from whom they received confirmation about the murderous intent of their fellows" (p. 133). Once again, this is simply incorrect. A reading of Franklin's journals—or even a careful reading of his narrative—will disprove Beardsley's claim. The warning came from a group of Inuit distinctly different from the group that attacked the expedition on its outward journey. Given that Beardsley does not risk complicating his enshrined idea of history by reading multiple accounts, one would think he could at least get the facts straight from Franklin's public narrative, which has been in print since 1828.

If this were a far better book than it is, a judicious reviewer would remark favourably about its treatment of Franklin's relationships with his two wives. Beardsley assures the reader at the outset that this is "to be the story of Sir John Franklin's life" (p. xii), and not simply another account of all the public ventures that made him famous. To his credit, Beardsley devotes more than the usual space to Franklin's personal relations with Eleanor Anne Franklin and Jane Franklin, but there is really little else of a personal nature. And I am certain many women readers would take exception to Beardsley's flippant assumptions about gender, in the same way that aboriginal readers might wonder in what cosmic isolation Beardsley has been living for the past century. Yet despite the author's intention to do something different, *Deadly Winter*, like most books about Franklin, moves steadily through the commonly delineated stages and arenas of Franklin's professional career. And if it were a better book, a reviewer would have to remark on the serious problems with the printing of the book itself: for example, the text of footnotes sometimes appears unexpectedly as part of the main body of Beardsley's prose (p. 113, 137).

But these problems are of little consequence compared to the author's wrong-headedness, something that evolved from his limited knowledge of his subject and his unwillingness to learn from any work on Franklin produced outside Britain and after 1900. This is an odd way to come to grips with a Lincolnshire lad who circumnavigated the Australian continent by the time he was 15 years old, who was the first to chart more than half of the northern coast of continental North America, and who established his reputation by going out into the world, rather than by retreating to the small island on which he was born.

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FROM BARROW TO BOOTHIA: THE ARCTIC JOURNAL OF CHIEF FACTOR PETER WARREN DEASE, 1836-1839. Edited by WILLIAM BARR. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002. ISBN 0-7735-2253-0. xxiii + 330 p., 8 maps, 3 b&w illus., bib., index. Hardbound. Cdn$49.95.

The efficient and economical explorations of Peter Warren Dease and Thomas Simpson (1836–1839) mapped two