

the 1990s—to a 1960s context. Worse, it risks conflating judgement of a specific account and judgement upon several decades of regional affairs. Leary and LeSchack's book endows serious historical debate with both candour and detail. Readers born more recently than, say, 1960 are unlikely to share the nostalgia for intrigues during the Cold War in the Arctic. Nevertheless, a younger generation must someday come to terms with all the legacies of that era.

Co-authorship by Leary the historian and LeSchack the instigator knits together a well-rounded disclosure of Project Coldfeet. My enjoyment of this book extends to their success with the art of collaborative scholarship. They stimulated my appetite to read more books from the Naval Institute Press, in which I hope to be rewarded by standards of scholarship comparable to theirs. I commend *Project Coldfeet* equally to readers seeking an in-depth exploration of Arctic affairs, and to those seeking delight in a deftly spun yarn.

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LOBSTICKS AND STONE CAIRNS: HUMAN LANDMARKS IN THE ARCTIC. Edited by RICHARD C. DAVIS. Calgary, Alberta: University of Calgary Press, 1996. xiv + 326 p., maps, b&w illus., index. Hardbound, Cdn\$44.95; Softbound, Cdn\$29.95.

The title of this book is intriguing. Why “lobsticks and stone cairns”? The editor, Richard Davis, explains in his preface that

In the forested regions of the North, travellers of the past lobbed off all but the topmost branches of prominent spruces or pines to create landmarks for other travellers—hence, the word “lobsticks.” Farther north beyond the tree line, piles of stones were gathered into “cairns” to mark the way. (p. xii)

Davis goes on to say that “the men and women featured here are landmarks, too, on this journey through the human history of the Arctic.”

The book consists of one hundred short biographies of these chosen actors, in an attempt to make the reader familiar with the “two Norths” that he believes exist:

One is a vast piece of physical geography that can be weighed, measured, and quantified. The material features of that North—the cold, the distances, the ice—have shaped the people who have lived there or travelled in it. The other North—elusive, ambivalent, powerful—is a construction of the human imagination, built upon the experience of humans as they have come into contact with that other and more physical North. One North is a Place,

the other an Idea. One North is the geologist's or the topographic surveyor's “land”; the other is the artist's “landscape.” (p. xi)

The biographies are by different authors, including the distinguished historian, L.H. Neatby. They are based on the series of “Arctic Profiles” published between 1982 and 1987 in *Arctic*. In leafing through the pages, one's first impression is that of attending a conference or large party. Some people are old friends whom one knows well. Others one knows only slightly or not at all. Many come from the nineteenth or twentieth centuries (for example, Sir James Clark Ross and Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier). Others, like Jens Munk, Thomas James, and Moses Norton, lived in earlier times. Their origins and nationalities vary, too, as do those of the writers of these biographies. “This multiplicity of voices and cultural backgrounds,” remarks Davis, “best reflects our constructed image of the North” (p. xiii). He must have long pondered how best to organize the book. Should the 100 pen portraits be arranged alphabetically, chronologically, or in some other way? The solution is a happy one—to group them according to geographical area, which results in 16 “units” altogether. Within these groups there is considerable diversity. For example, in Unit 7, we have David Thompson (1770–1857), surveyor of the lands from Hudson Bay to the Columbia River. We also have A.K. Isbister (1822–1883), the pioneering geologist; as well as R.M. Ballantyne (1825–1894), the author of boys' adventure stories (after six years with the Hudson's Bay Company); and E.C. Oberholtzer (1884–1977), who travelled north of Rainy Lake in 1912. Lastly, there is Prentice G. Downes (1909–1959), author of *Sleeping Island* (1943), a classic of northern literature. Each unit is headed by a well-drawn map, and each individual is portrayed by a photograph, engraving, or oil painting. There is also a brief bibliography at the end of each entry. Now and again there are other illustrations. The omission of such figures as Henry Hudson and Roald Amundsen from the biographies is pointed out by the editor. He explains this by saying that the book is not meant to be an encyclopedia—its aim is “to enhance our knowledge of the North” (p. xii). Davis also tells readers to browse and not to read straight through from cover to cover.

This is a well-produced, entertaining, informative, and worthwhile book, of interest to all concerned with northern studies, to those who live or work or travel in the North, and to readers or armchair explorers who want to know more about the Canadian North. It is certainly a book to own and read at home, not merely in a library. Since the cover of my softbound edition is curling already, buy the hardbound!

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