
In the spring of 1881, two Berlin teachers, the brothers Aurel and Arthur Krause, were selected by the Geographical Society of Bremen to conduct scientific studies on the Chukchi Peninsula. Later it was decided to expand the research to include a visit to the Tlingit Indians of southeastern Alaska.

After leaving Germany on 17 April 1881, they sailed to New York, traveled across country by train to San Francisco and then by steerage to the Chukchi Peninsula. After spending 53 days along the coast of the Bering Strait, they returned to San Francisco and arrived there 5 November.

Three weeks later, they sailed to Sitka and continued on to Klukwan, Alaska, arriving there 23 December. After three and a half months, Aurel Krause returned to San Francisco, stopping off along the way at Hoonah and Sitka for a few weeks. Arthur continued his research until 6 September and made two trips into the interior of Canada via the Chilkoot and Chilkat trails.

Aurel and Arthur were "natural scientists," which at that time included such areas as biology, botany, chemistry, geology, geography and ethnology. With a truly catholic perspective, their reports incorporate a wide variety of data and explanation. It is surprising the amount of detailed information they were able to collect and synthesize in the short time they lived among the Tlingit. Aurel Krause's monograph Die Tlinket Indians was later translated by Erna Gunther as The Tlingit Indians and remains to this day one of the better ethnographies of the Tlingit.

This present translation of their journals and letters, To the Chukchi Peninsula and to the Tlingit Indians, 1881/1882, should be read as a companion text to The Tlingit Indians. The latter work summarizes their observations and includes a lengthy section on the Tlingit language, with the scientific terms for the plants and animals listed. It also has many sketches and illustrations not found in this latest publication. Their journals and letters, on the other hand, contain details regarding their travels, mishaps and adventures that do not appear in their monograph and by themselves are informative descriptions and impressions of the people and places they visited. Of course, The Tlingit Indians excludes any information regarding their research on the Chukchi Peninsula.

To the Chukchi Peninsula and to the Tlingit Indians, 1881/1882 has other information not found in The Tlingit Indians, such as their charts and illustrations along with detailed information on the flora and fauna of the places visited by the Krauses. Their descriptions of New York and San Francisco and the difficulties they encountered on their voyages are fascinating vignettes of 19th-century America.

Technically, the printing, maps and illustrations are well done and the book is very readable. It is a good translation from the original edition, which was printed in Germany as Zur Tschuktschen-Halbinsel und zu den Tlingit-Indianer 1881/1882. Reisetagebücher und Briefe von Aurel und Arthur Krause. The editors of the original publication, Gerhard and Ingeborg Krause, did a commendable job of combining the letters and journals into a smoothly flowing narrative.

Although To the Chukchi Peninsula and to the Tlingit Indians, 1881/1882 can be read and appreciated on its own, I strongly recommend that readers also read The Tlingit Indians if they want a more complete picture of the scientific contributions of Aurel and Arthur Krause. If someone were to read the journals and letters in isolation, without seeing the monograph on the Tlingit, there would be a tendency to consider the journal as simply a fascinating report of a 19th-century journey to the northland. In trying to relocate some specific information, I wished that the journals and letters had been indexed, as was done for The Tlingit Indians. There is no mention of what happened to the many artifacts they collected. I know that a few items from their collection are at the Übersee Museum in Bremen but understand that the items at the Berlin Museum were lost in the bombings of World War II.

I found the text and illustrations from the Chukchi region very engaging, since I had not seen this part of their journal before. Students and lay persons will enjoy reading about the problems of field work a century ago, while those familiar with the ethnographic studies on eastern Siberia and Alaska will welcome the book as a fine addition to the ethnographic literature.

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When I first picked up Reflections of a Digger I was brought back to my years at the University of Pennsylvania working as a graduate assistant in the American Section of the University Museum and hearing within the confines of its marbled halls the jovial laughter of the director of the museum, Froelich ("Fro") Rainey. As the chair of my dissertation committee, Fro steered me towards St. Lawrence Island and the problem of the development of Eskimo culture. Later, through his contacts in Russia, he opened up the possibility of studying archaeological collections in Moscow and Leningrad that had been excavated in Chukotka. Along the way there were stories of field work in Alaska as told by Fro, J. Louis Giddings, Ivar Skarland, Henry Collins, Otto Geist, and Helge Larsen, to name but a few of the early pioneers in Alaskan archaeology.

Fortunately, Fro decided to tell his own story in Reflections of a Digger: Fifty Years of World Archaeology, not only
of his Alaskan adventures, but also of those in other parts of the world. Born in 1907, the son of a Montana rancher, Fro grew up in the West and, like all young men, felt the pull of distant places. After graduating from the University of Chicago, he began his travels in 1929 on a tramp steamer that was to take him to the far reaches of the Orient. After a brief stint as a teacher of English in the Philippines, he travelled by steamer across the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, into the Mediterranean and France, reaching Paris in the summer of 1930. There, with the assistance of Ralph Linton, Fro obtained a stipend to attend a summer and fall session in the American School of Prehistoric Research. As part of the curriculum, the participants visited cave sites in France and Spain, where Fro had the opportunity to meet Abbé Breuil, "... who set off the first spark of true interest in the remote past" (chapter 1, p. 23). Returning to America in 1931, Fro began graduate studies in anthropology at Yale. His dissertation research in the Bahamas, Haiti, and Puerto Rico resulted in a two-phase cultural chronology that has weathered the test of time (chapter 2). Following his West Indies research, Fro was offered a position in 1936 at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, where he studied the human artifacts recovered by gold miners from the Pleistocene muck deposits around Fairbanks and began his studies of modern and prehistoric Eskimo culture on St. Lawrence Island and Point Hope (chapter 3).

At the onset of World War II, the now arctic-adapted archaeologist found himself director of the U.S. Quinine Mission to Ecuador to obtain cinchona bark for soldiers stricken with malaria. By 1944 he was attached through the Foreign Service to the Allied Control Commission for Occupied Germany. I particularly like the story of his entry into Denmark before it had been officially liberated at the close of the war, as I had been told this story on several occasions by Giddings and Larsen. In Copenhagen, Fro stopped off at the Danish National Museum wearing an American uniform and thus served as the unofficial announcement that Denmark was free of the German occupation. Fro noted that the celebration was instantaneous (chapter 4). After his many wartime experiences with the Foreign Service, Fro was selected as the next director of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania following the death of George Valliant (chapter 5). Under his long directorship, expeditions were mounted to Mesoamerica, Southwest Asia, North Africa, Southern Europe and Southeast Asia (chapters 6-10). Noteworthy were the expeditions to Tikal in Guatemala, Gordium in Turkey, Sybaris in Italy, and Ban Chiang in Thailand, which spread across the greater part of his museum career.

In chapters 11 and 12, Fro turns to a discussion of the changing role of museums in the post-war era. To bring the benefits of the physical sciences to archaeology, Fro created the Museums Applied Science Center in Archaeology. Within the museum new formats were devised to update the role of museums in public education. It was probably the creation of the Peabody Award-winning television show "What in the World" — which involved Fro as moderator and the University Museum curators and guests as experts to determine the use, age, and country of origin of objects brought before them — that most successfully brought the museum to public attention. Fro retired as director of the University Museum on 30 September 1976. After his retirement he became the director of the Land Preservation Fund of the Natural Conservancy in Washington, D.C., where he became involved in efforts to save the environment. In his latter years Fro settled in Cornwall, England, on a small country estate. During this period he was writing and served as a consultant to British television.

The final chapter (13) is a summing up of a long life, a reflection on those events that propelled him into a career of archaeology and how the study of the past has a bearing on the present. It is very much a statement of a personal philosophy engendered by years of involvement in the past.

Through this very personal narrative, Fro takes his readers not only on expeditions to far-off places, but provides them with glimpses of the behind-the-scenes activities that are an integral part of the daily operation of research conducted by a major museum in a variety of archaeological settings. Reflections of a Digger is very well written and is presented in an attractive text format with accompanying illustrations. The book will be of delight to both established scholars and students as well as the general reader intrigued by the activities involved in archaeological research.

Fro died on 11 October 1992, shortly after the publication of this volume.

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This handsome book is a real gem — a joy to read and a pleasure to review! It is the story of John Haller’s life from his student days at the University of Basel to the culmination of his career as professor of geology at Harvard University. Friends, colleagues, former students and his wife, Susanne Haller-Weisskopf, have all contributed to this wide-ranging and well-illustrated volume, the co-publisher of which is Schweizerische Stiftung für Alpine Forschungen, Zürich.

The tone of the book is set in the preface by Fritz Hans Schwarzenbach, a botanist and long-time friend. Schwarzenbach correctly observes that real scientific progress and achievements in the Arctic have often had to take a back seat, in terms of both media attention and funding, to the more sensational exploits of an increasingly active coterie of adventurers. A notable exception to this deplorable trend was the series of Danish East Greenland expeditions, 1926-39, led by Dr. Lauge Koch and resumed by Koch after World War II, between 1947 and 1958.

John Haller’s East Greenland “career” began in 1949, when he and his compatriot Emil Witzig spent the winter...