

northern aboriginal peoples. The people of his book are Cree, Chipewyan, Dogrib, and Métis, but aside from some captions that identify certain individuals, they are presented as a relatively undifferentiated "Native," which glosses over considerable variation in culture, language, and place. In the glossary, the Athapaskan language is subsumed under the entry for "Algonquian," and elsewhere he implies that their respective languages derived simply from community separation and the consequent development of language variations (p. 146). In fact, Algonquian and Athapaskan languages are members of entirely different language families.

Similarly, his understanding of the impacts of the European fur trade on aboriginal culture is flawed, and a reader unfamiliar with northern history might think that before the arrival of Europeans and the development of the fur trade economy, aboriginal peoples lived in log houses (in this region, the winter use of log houses began in the late 19th century) and used dog teams (considered a post-contact development). There is no evidence that the fur trade put aboriginal people under pressure to read or write English or French or even, really, to speak it (p. 146), or that people living in the bush were pressured to move into local trading communities (p. 154). On the contrary, the traders wanted their trappers to remain in the bush and, when people lingered at the posts, were often concerned about encouraging them to leave.

In some instances, it is not obvious whether terminology is Garvin's or that of the people. Garvin refers to "curing" fish, which is technically correct but a usage I have rarely heard from Native people I know, who talk instead about drying or smoking. It was particularly disconcerting to see the term "flesher" rendered consistently as "flusher" (p. 48-50, glossary p. 185). A flesher is a hide-working tool used to remove the fat and other particles, or flesh, from the inner side of a hide. A specialized tool, it is distinct from a scraper, or grainer, which is used to remove the hair from a skin. These are not distinguished in the text.

There are errors that should have been caught in the editing process. For example, Roddy Fraser is a descendent of Colin Fraser, not Simon Fraser (p. 114-5). There *are* suitable microclimates for gardens in the North (p. 93); the long hours of daylight compensate for the short growing season. A lake skiff is not just a smaller version of a scow; these are distinct boat types. The skiff may more properly be seen as a descendent of the York boat. Fort Chipewyan was constructed in 1788 at its first location, on the south shore of Lake Athabasca, and did not move to the north shore near its present location until c. 1800 (see p. 162, 164). Diesel-powered boats were introduced in the North in the late 1920s, not the 1950s (p. 149).

Despite such historical irregularities, I particularly liked the positive manner in which Garvin portrays the integration of imported commodities into a bush-focused way of life. I was especially taken with the photo of dog teams in a "dog-team parking lot" in downtown Yellowknife, waiting for their drivers who were shopping at the nearby shopping center (the modern equivalent of the local trading post). Garvin does not characterize this as some unfortunate corruption of a "real" Indian life; this *was* modern Indian

life of the 1950s. Today, of course, such a scene would feature snowmachines, which have largely replaced dog teams. It is clear from both text and photos that Garvin realizes that people are already incorporated into an industrialized economy, though in his writing he seeks to distinguish between the "bush economy" — the focus of this book — and what he terms an "industrialized culture."

Teachers, students, and general readers will find this book an enjoyable read, and it may pique their interest in the subject. Northerners may see old friends in the photos, and scholars will find much of historical interest. As a source of information, the book conveys a nostalgic and somewhat impressionist, broad-brushed portrait of a land-based mixed economy and way of life whose existence today is threatened by its disappearance.

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A FRENCHMAN IN SEARCH OF FRANKLIN: DE BRAY'S ARCTIC JOURNAL, 1852-1854. Translated and edited by WILLIAM BARR. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992. xxii + 329 p., 8 maps, 20 illus., index, bib. Hardbound. Cdn\$35.00.

The North West Passage
is found
needs no more searching
and for lack of anything better to do
waiting the plane's departure north from Frobisher
I lounge on the bed poring over place-names
on maps

and baby it's cold outside

The North West Passage is found
and poor old Lady Franklin well
she doesn't answer the phone
tho once she traded her tears for ships
to scour the Arctic seas for her husband
but the *Terror* and *Erebus* sank long ago
and it's still half an hour before dinner
and there isn't much to do but write letters
and I can't think of anything more to say
about the North West Passage
but I'll think of something
maybe
a break-thru
to strawberries and ice cream for dinner

[Al Purdy, "The North West Passage," 1967]

Why do journals about the 19th-century British search for a Northwest Passage or about the search for the missing Franklin expedition continue to be published, some for the first time? Surely, some reasons are their subject matter. For one, such remarkable northern travel is no longer attempted by white men. For another, the fate of Franklin remains a mystery, and, as long as it does, the mystique of the North can never be entirely shed, as Al Purdy's poem shows by

its arresting combination of a jet traveller's ennui, on the one hand, but the resonance in his imagination of the old names, on the other. A third reason must be the accounts themselves, which, by virtue of their temporal distance from us, give scope for our own imaginings about what P.G. Downes, in *Sleeping Island*, called "the back-of-beyond." These are some of the reasons, but only some. Another paramount one is the quality of the new editions, and on that score William Barr's work ranks among the best.

Barr has made a very readable and engaging translation of a journal by Émile-Frédéric de Bray (1829-79), the second, little-known, French officer who was seconded to the British search for Franklin in the 1850s. The better-known Frenchman, Joseph-René Bellot, drowned on 18 August 1853 in Wellington Channel while taking communications from Captain Edward Inglefield to Sir Edward Belcher. During the same storm, which probably caused the movement of ice that also sliced and sunk HMS *Breadalbane* four days later, de Bray, who had sailed with Captain Henry Kellett in May 1852, was stuck in ice aboard HMS *Resolute* off the south coast of Bathurst Island: "Nothing can give an idea of the speed with which our situation changed during this terrible squall. In an instant the floes were piling against each other forming veritable mountains, with a horrible and terrifying noise" (p. 138).

Because Kellett's own voyage did not break new ground in the sensational way that Robert McClure's did or that Francis Leopold McClintock's would — indeed, Kellett's orders did not call for discovery — and is known best for the embarrassing reappearance of the *Resolute* after Kellett's crew had abandoned it in 1854 at Belcher's command, it is crucial that a journal about it show how it served, partly by design, more by chance, as a hub of the search for Franklin over the three-year period 1852-54. In illuminating ways, Barr offers his reader just such contexts. Besides bringing out of obscurity this French naval officer and translating his polished journal into English, Barr has placed on view in ways that interested northernists from all walks of life will find fascinating the panoply of British arctic activity in its busiest years. In the notes so carefully prepared by Barr, biographical sketches are offered for all the officers involved, and the contents of de Bray's journal are compared not only to books about Kellett's and Belcher's voyages by George F. McDougall and Robert McCormick and to the host of papers by other officers that were presented as parliamentary reports and published by Eyre and Spottiswoode in 1855, but also, by Barr's going the extra yard, to the unpublished journals of William T. Mumford and James H. Nelson (respectively assistant carpenter and able seaman aboard the *Resolute*), as well as of McClintock (lieutenant in command of the screw steamer *Intrepid* under Kellett), Robert C. Scott (doctor aboard *Intrepid*), and Thomas C. Pullen (master aboard the *North Star* in 1853-54). Invariably, the reader finds abundant recompense in interrupting the narrative to read Barr's notes. One example among many stems from de Bray's excellent detailed descriptions of sledge travel. Citing the preparation of food as the chief problem on sledge journeys, he describes the discomfort of life in a tent that is accentuated when cooking is forced inside by blizzards.

Steam from the cooking, "along with our breath, condenses and forms a fine snow which clings to the walls of the tent" (p. 61). At this point, Barr opens a note to quote a complementary description from assistant carpenter Mumford's private journal, which details the rotation of the duties of cooking, pitching the tent, rolling out the India rubber flooring, banking the outside walls with snow, and the like (p. 252). What results is virtually a handbook for 19th-century tundra sledging that provides a healthy antidote to the current convention of deprecating all non-native customs of dealing with northern conditions. The only regret to be expressed concerning the notes is the lack of them for the various appendices; Barr's reader grows by journal's end to expect them also to be annotated even if publishing practice does not always do so.

Kellett's expedition became a hub by chance when Lieutenant Bedford C.T. Pim contacted the languishing McClure expedition, whose members gradually made their painful way from Mercy Bay on Banks Island to the *Resolute* at Dealy Island, swelling its contingent to 138 men (p. 271) through the summer and winter of 1853-54. By means of Lieutenant George Frederick Meham's astounding sledging expedition of 1862 km, news was also gained of Captain Richard Collinson's voyage in HMS *Enterprise*, the only other voyage unaccounted for in 1854. Thereby does de Bray's journal adopt an exciting character, one that, thanks to all Barr's painstaking contributions, takes on the hum of communication occurring among the widely separated ships. In other respects it is entertaining; the shipboard theatre and plays are described at length, as are hunting trips, daily life in a ship when it is moving and especially once it is not, modes of sledging with and without sails, and the feelings attendant upon the abandoning of a ship. Surprisingly interesting is the early portion of the journal: most of the British officers' accounts show less interest in the voyage up the western coast of Greenland than does de Bray's. He evinces genuine avidity for the Danish and native populations and the fraternity of whalers with whom Kellett's voyage came into contact. Interactions between a foreigner and the British officers furnishes a further dimension to this journal. Especially perhaps in an English translation, the reader watches the process, if not of a European going native, then of a Frenchman going English. At one point, in a letter home (which forms one of the four salutary appendices to this edition), de Bray excuses his poor French and admits to having to look up French words in his dictionary (p. 230); interestingly, however, he still notes longitude based on Paris, not Greenwich.

After raising high expectations in his readers thanks to his work on *Overland to Starvation Cove* (1987), expectations that one would not think of bringing to the work of lesser editors, Barr fulfils them admirably. His introduction and postscript richly paint a detailed portrait of de Bray and more than sketch out the history of arctic exploration up to the point that made Kellett's voyage necessary, and after it, when the *Resolute* was discovered by the American whaling barque *George Henry* in October 1855, sailed to the United States, returned to Queen Victoria, and finally broken up. Details extend even, for example, to an uncommon and welcome

description of what is meant by the term "bomb vessels" as it is used (but rarely glossed) to describe Franklin's ships (p. xii). Indeed, as to detail, Barr lets down his readers only on one count, the presentation of maps and illustrations: whether or not there are enough maps is, in the end, probably a matter of taste, but most readers will find that there ought to be a map showing in detail a larger area than does Plate 27 (p. 172) of the region of the unexpected second winter's mooring. Cape Hotham, Moore Island, Brown Island and Assistance Bay will not be well known by most readers. With respect to the illustrations done by de Bray himself, neither their media nor their measurements are given. Some are clearly just sketches, but it is unclear what the term "painting" (p. 77, 130) is meant to convey in two of the captions. Further, the Table of Contents includes no list of the maps and plates — a surprising absence.

As to the translation, it sounds very well to the English ear. The word "sinuosities" might strike some as archaic, but if it does it is the exception to prove the rule that Barr has succeeded unexceptionably as a translator from French to English. That few typos mar the edition comes as a relief in view of the fact that the University of Toronto Press has not distinguished itself for faultless texts. The indispensable index is comprehensive and, as near as I can tell, faultless.

In sum, Barr has produced an excellent new contribution to published accounts of the search for the Northwest Passage and for Franklin. In his capable hands, de Bray's account assumes the character of an omnibus edition, deserving of close study and possessed of a most engaging and thorough scholarship that is sure to stand the test of time.

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AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED LIST OF THE TYPES OF MOLLUSCA DESCRIBED BY H.P.C. MØLLER FROM WEST GREENLAND. By TOM SCHIØTTE and ANDERS WARÉN. Meddelelser om Grønland, Bioscience 35. Copenhagen: Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, 1992. 34 p., maps, illus., bib. Softbound. US\$8.75.

In two papers published in 1841 and 1842, the Danish marine biologist Hans Peter Christian Møller (1801-45) described 83 molluscan taxa from West Greenland. His brief but accurate descriptions were not accompanied by illustrations or by defined type localities. The lack of illustrations has led to "misinterpretations of some names" (p. 3), especially because many of the species he described are both abundant in the waters from which they were described and widespread in the Arctic and boreal regions. Further, some have been named the type species for their genera.

The authors of this short but thoroughly researched publication seek to facilitate future taxonomic work by compiling unpublished information from Møller's manuscripts and

providing clear photographs to illustrate the species he described. The authors put Møller's work on Greenland molluscan fauna "into a historic perspective" (p. 3) by presenting a brief biography, compiled from the few available sources about his life. It is clear that his best known publication, *Index Molluscorum Groenlandiae*, dating from 1842, includes "regrettably very little of [his] unusually broad knowledge of his field" (p. 4).

Born in 1810 in Helsingør, Denmark, and educated at the University of Copenhagen, Møller became acquainted as a student with noted zoologists at the University of Copenhagen and developed an interest in zoology and marine fauna.

During his first visit to Greenland, in 1838 Møller compiled material for a monograph of the Greenland molluscs, including "a wealth of notes on distribution, behaviour, zonation, and feeding biology, supplemented with pencil drawings and watercolour paintings of the crawling animals" (p. 4), as well as a large collection of Greenland molluscs. After his return to Copenhagen in 1840, Møller studied arctic collections in the Royal and University museums. His observations on northern pteropods of the genus *Limacina* were published in 1841 and the *Index Molluscorum Groenlandiae* in 1842. Studies on zonation and distribution of North Atlantic molluscs and on the influence of salinity on the size of the animals were published in 1843. But the monograph on Greenland molluscs was never published. His second trip to Greenland, in 1843-44, as a government official, was less productive, perhaps because of his duties and partly due to poor health. After leaving Greenland, he traveled in Europe, and he died in Rome in 1845.

Møller's writings from his Greenland travels, his letters, the unpublished Greenland manuscript, journals, illustrations, and a catalog of his collection are now in the archive of the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen. The authors list and summarize this collection of documents as an aid to further research on Møller's taxa.

Schiøtte and Warén have based their annotated list on Møller's mollusc collections in the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, and other institutions, as well as on other specimens that Møller studied. They have "extracted from Møller's notes and labels the localities from which he collected his specimens" (p. 5). They comment that Møller's type material is "widely scattered in museum collections" (p. 5) and advise that future workers select their lectotypes "restricted to the lots kept in Copenhagen or . . . the collections in Stockholm" (p. 5).

A list of Møller's new taxa, including "all names introduced or made available" (p. 5) in *Index Molluscorum Groenlandiae* and his publication on *Limacina* follows and, with the photographs, is the core of this book. The authors have tried also to "include all names credited to Møller but published by other authors" (p. 5). Each entry gives the taxon name and source. The type locality, derived from Møller's manuscripts, and deposition of the syntype or lectotype specimens are given. Remarks on each taxon usually include "what we now consider the presently valid name and systematic position for each taxon" (p. 5). Interesting to me as I try to understand the Alaskan and northern molluscan fauna is the statement attached to each entry on "*Defrancia*,"