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Historical Reference to Ice Islands

Some years ago M. Dunbar¹ gave a detailed account of earlier ice reports which could refer to ice islands, as distinguished by G. Hattersley-Smith² from other ice in the polar sea by their great unit area, thickness, structural strength and rolling relief. Among the old descriptions of 'floes' and 'palaeocrystic ice' some of Greely's³ come closest to a description of an ice island. Another early report might be worth mentioning: Franz Boas, the German-born anthropologist and later professor at Columbia University states⁴ that in October 1883 a huge iceberg drifted into Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island. It had a height of 15 m. to 20 m., a length of 14 km. and a width of 6 km. The total thickness of 100 m. to 150 m. could be seen when the ice broke into pieces. The estimated volume was 13 km.³ Similar ice for-

mations of smaller size had been repeatedly encountered when approaching Cumberland Sound. The upper surface consisted of long low rounded parallel rolls with a wavelength of about 150 m. and extending over 1 km. to 3 km. The surface and the uppermost 2 m. of the ice contained stones; no stratification or crevasses were visible. The description fits that of a typical ice island. That ice islands from the northern coast of Ellesmere Island can reach Baffin Bay and Cumberland Sound is shown by the recent drift of ice island WH5⁵; a segment of at least 14 km.² passed through southern Davis Strait.

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- ³Greely, A. W. 1886. *Three years of arctic service. An account of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition of 1881-84*, New York: C. Scribner's Sons. Vol. 1, 428 pp; Vol. 2, 444 pp.
- ⁴Boas, F. 1885. Baffin-Land. *Geographische Ergebnisse einer in den Jahren 1883 und 1884 ausgeführten Forschungsreise Petermanns Mitt. Ergänzungsheft* 80. 100 pp.
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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE GRAND RAPIDS, MANITOBA, RESERVOIR 1961-62. BY WILLIAM J. MAYER-OAKES with a Chapter on Faunal Materials by PAUL W. LUKENS, JR. *Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1970. 6 x 9 inches, 397 pages, 135 figures, 34 tables. \$8.00 cloth, \$5.00 paperbound.*

This is a report on the archaeological survey and excavations in the area to be affected by the Grand Rapids Hydro-electric Project in the lower reaches of the Saskatchewan river before it flows into Lake Winnipeg. The field work was done under the direction of William J. Mayer-Oakes in 1961 and 1962 but

the report was not written until 1969 and may well be Mayer-Oakes' last major contribution to Manitoba archaeology.

Some 39 sites were located along 25 miles of the river and lake shore in the area to be flooded by the dam. Most of the sites, because of the physical conditions, rested on only a few inches of soil. Five sites had some depth and these were sampled by means of test pits. Mayer-Oakes identifies a sequence of five successive cultural phases beginning with 1) a Pre-ceramic complex to be equated with the McKean period in the northern Plains of about 2500 B.C.; 2) the Laurel phase of about A.D. 1; 3) the Manitoba phase, followed by 4) the Selkirk phase which

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