

scientists to visit the latter in the 1970's. He also describes forays farther south to Portugal and South Africa, where he was able to gain new perspectives on wildlife management and ungulate biology and evolution. Throughout his autobiography, he relates interesting and humorous anecdotal accounts regarding research, personalities, and his involvement in important events. One field excursion in Siberia, where the entourage got lost, was particularly entertaining!

Klein often conducted field research over extended periods under challenging conditions with limited communication with the outside world. His extensive time in the field undoubtedly helped him to grow as an ecologist, through his prolonged observations of his study animals and the environments they lived in. In this age of digital technology, where a growing number of scientists base their careers heavily on desktop research derived from data collected remotely or by others, this book is a reminder that there is no substitute for the scientific insights garnered by living and working with organisms in their natural environments. Many field biologists will appreciate his humorous poem on the pitfalls of ecological modelling!

The essays reflect his current thinking on several topics, including wildlife management, ethics, and philosophy. He has revised some of the earlier published versions to reflect his modern thinking on these topics. His reflective nature, his broad and deep understanding of issues pertaining to ecology, science, ethics, and philosophy make for some stimulating reading. His strong criticisms of the recent political corrosion of science-based management in Alaska is noteworthy in this context. Readers will find his experiences and influences regarding Scandinavian eco-philosophy particularly novel and enlightening.

While this is an important legacy document of the extraordinary career and life of Dr. David Klein, it is much more than that. It provides important context and insights during a critical period in the history of Alaskan wildlife conservation that might otherwise be lost to time. His essays on ethics and philosophy are timeless and provide insights seldom encountered in the field of wildlife conservation. We can learn from his exemplary commitment to science-based wildlife and their habitats through thoughtful and balanced advocacy and public outreach.

The author and editor have done a thorough job of combining oral narratives and essays into a nice, readable format with minimal typographical errors, although some names were misspelled, most notably the mountain region of Rondane in Norway (not "Rondone" as it is repeatedly referred to in the book). In addition, in some places the sequence of events is a little hard to follow because of this oral storytelling format, such as when he alludes to a job offer with the Division of Subsistence around 1962 at the end of one chapter. He fails to mention explicitly that this never came about because he accepted the Unit Leader position instead, something that becomes clear as one reads on. I could find very few factual errors, although in reference to the work conducted by Dr. Ronald Skoog, the

narrative neglected to mention that Skoog later earned his PhD studying caribou. The black and white illustrations are interesting and add an important dimension to the book. The cover shows many of these same pictures in color and in tiny format, which is almost too small to appreciate. Color plates of these interesting color photos, particularly from his early career, would have enhanced the book, but this would have likely been cost prohibitive. I do hope that he will archive these historic, high quality Kodachrome photos and make them available to the public in the future. It is a long book, but there is much to tell! To cap it all, he provides an extensive list of works he cites throughout the text, including many of his own publications. This is invaluable to any scholar that may wish to delve deeper into his work.

Overall, Dr. Klein's book is a wonderful contribution to the history of wildlife science and conservation in Alaska and the Holarctic, and I particularly recommend it to budding biologists and ecologists who may follow the many paths that he has blazed. Likewise, it is well worth the price for those with a general interest in the history of science in the circumpolar Arctic.

*Scott Michael Brainerd, PhD, Associate Professor
Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences
Faculty of Applied Ecology,
Agricultural Sciences and Biotechnology
Anne Evenstadsvegen 80
NO-2480 Koppang, Norway
scott.brainerd@inn.no*

PEARY'S ARCTIC QUEST: UNTOLD STORIES FROM ROBERT E. PEARY'S NORTH POLE EXPEDITIONS. By SUSAN A. KAPLAN and GENEVIEVE M. LeMOINE. Camden, Maine: Down East Books, 2019. ISBN 9781608936434. 189 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., index, bib., index, endnotes, glossary. Hardbound. \$26.95 (US).

Susan Kaplan and Genevieve LeMoine say they spent a decade writing *Peary's Arctic Quest*, but this vibrant and insightful volume actually represents the fruits of two careers spent investigating Arctic exploration and life. Kaplan, an anthropologist at Bowdoin College and director of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, and LeMoine, an archaeologist at Bowdoin and curator of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum, have mounted Arctic exhibitions, conducted archaeological research, and read all the relevant explorers' journals. Their *Peary's Arctic Quest* is a concise introduction to the brilliant yet controversial Robert Edwin Peary. It contains enough nuggets of new information to intrigue those familiar with the (possible) discoverer of the North Pole.

Kaplan and LeMoine open with a brief but informative biography of Peary, who emerges as a restless character bent on greatness from a young age. After attending Bowdoin College, Peary accepted a civil engineer post with

the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, a job he found dull and uninspiring. His 1885 trip to Nicaragua fueled his interest in exploration. By then, Peary, who had never been in the Arctic, was already toying with the idea of becoming the first person to reach the North Pole.

The authors speed through Peary's life as they describe his first expeditions to Greenland and his repeated attempts at reaching the pole. Fascinating tidbits about Peary's interest in airplanes, his Inughuit wife, and his son appear throughout the narrative. Of particular interest for Arctic experts is Kaplan and LeMoine's use of the journals of George Wardell, engineer of Peary's ship, the *Roosevelt*. These hitherto unknown documents deepen the familiar Peary narrative by clarifying the perils of muscling a ship into the far north.

The book's thematic chapters are its highlights. One showcases Peary as an innovator and adapter of Arctic survival techniques. Peary's attention to detail was legendary, whether it be his endless tinkering with sledges or ordering packing crates sized to be repurposed as the walls of weatherproof houses. He was also a clever designer, as evidenced by his lightweight, super-efficient camp stoves. Innovation also meant mapping expeditions that hopscotched between supply caches, gradually shedding the team's weakest members in order to increase Peary's chances of reaching the pole.

Kaplan and LeMoine also illuminate the men and women orbiting the explorer. Peary's wife Josephine advanced his agenda not only by providing moral support, but also by becoming a tireless fundraiser who forgave his long absences and dalliances with Inughuit women. Matthew Henson, whose grasp of the Inuktitut language far exceeded Peary's, and who was accepted among the Inughuit of northwest Greenland in a way that Peary never quite was, also features here. The authors acknowledge Peary's sometimes-shoddy treatment of his most trusted assistant, especially when Henson dared discuss his Arctic adventures in public without the boss's permission. Kaplan and LeMoine also examine how Henson's blackness shaped popular perceptions of him as little more than Peary's servant rather than as an excellent sledge driver, a mentor of Arctic rookies, and a crucial intermediary between Peary and the natives. Fans of Pearyana will find other familiar names here, including the salty captain Robert Bartlett, steadfast Donald MacMillan, doomed Ross Marvin, and tragic Romantic George Borup, who was engaged to Peary's daughter Marie before perishing in a boating accident.

Peary's Arctic Quest's two most captivating chapters approach their subject through the lenses of archaeology, anthropology, and historical memory. In one, Kaplan and LeMoine apply insights from their own archaeological missions to explore the knotty relationship between Peary's men and the Inughuit. Going beyond the usual focus on the economic relationship between the Inughuit and new arrivals, the authors delve into the ecological, demographic, emotional, and sexual consequences of Peary's presence in Greenland. In another chapter, the authors explore how the

Polar Controversy – the question of whether Peary, Frederick Cook, or neither was the first to the pole – has evolved over time. They structure this discussion around anniversaries, observing perceptions of the explorers' accomplishments at twenty-five-year intervals, in 1934, 1959, 1984, and 2009. Although the authors are more sympathetic to Peary's claim than Cook's, they avoid taking a firm stance on the question of the North Pole's "discoverer." The truth will never be known for certain, they observe.

Peary's Arctic Quest concludes with a thought-provoking meditation on the current state of the Arctic. Although it feels out of place in this narrative, it is nevertheless a solid primer on the political, cultural, and environmental challenging the region today.

Kaplan and LeMoine have written an excellent, accessible overview of Robert Peary, his methods, and the ramifications of his expeditions. Both seasoned specialists and newcomers to the field will find something of interest here. *Peary's Arctic Quest's* slick paper and lavish illustrations alone make the book worthwhile. Its maps, photographs, tinted slides, and high-quality reproductions of Arctic memorabilia should earn it a spot on every Arctic aficionado's shelf or coffee table.

Dr. David Welky
Department of History
University of Central Arkansas
Irby Hall 105, 201 Donaghey Avenue
Conway, Arkansas 72035, USA
dwelky@uca.edu

BORN TO ICE. By PAUL NICKLEN. New York: Teneues Publishing Co., 2018. ISBN 978-1-138-06087-6. 224 p., b&w and colour illus., index. Hardbound. US\$125.00

If you do not recognize his name, you have almost certainly seen some of his images. Paul Nicklen has risen to prominence as one of the world's most famous wildlife photographers. Nicklen is practically a household name for anyone with even a remote interest in wildlife; a rare feat for a photographer. But rightly deserved, his images are nothing short of spectacular as evidenced by the many prestigious awards given to him over his 25-year career. Having graduated from University of Victoria with a BSc in Marine Biology, Nicklen started his career as a wildlife biologist. But it was not until his move to professional photography that he began to truly make his mark on the discipline. Nicklen is the only Canadian wildlife photographer to become a long-time contributor to *National Geographic*, having not only produced shots that have graced the iconic yellow-bordered cover, but penned articles within. His work is dedicated to sharing the beauty of the natural world, to put faces to those hard to reach ecosystems, and use his chosen medium to express to society at large the importance of protecting it. An outcome of this noble sentiment led to the creation of the