

conservation charity Sea Legacy in 2014 with his partner, and equally decorated conservation photographer, Christina Mittermeier.

Spending his formative years in the small Inuit community of Kimmirut on the south coast of Baffin Island, Nicklen's title for this work is very much grounded in experience and it is little wonder much of his work has a polar slant. His latest publication *Born to Ice* is a surprisingly affordable and substantial 344 page tome, its dimensions providing an imposing presence on any coffee table or bookshelf. Covering both the Arctic and Antarctic, it is a visual feast with nearly all of the 164 colour and monochrome photographs given a dedicated double page spread. These prints deserve the coverage and are more powerful for it; however, I think the central page break does a slight disservice to the images.

Born to Ice is Nicklen's third and largest of book dedicated to the polar regions. Whereas his previous works, *Seasons of the Arctic* (2000) and *Polar Obsession* (2012), contain more in the way of text – setting his images in a context that offers the reader an appreciation of the dedication and sacrifice needed to capture these moments – *Born to Ice* is all about the visual, with each region only given a brief introduction in English, German and French. More than a few of these images appear in his previous volumes should readers wish to gain a little more background or see them printed on a single page without the vertical distraction through their centres.

This book does exactly as is intended; the reader is treated to a selection of the very best in polar wildlife photography. The book captures the beauty of wildlife in these extreme and fragile regions and reinforces the public notion of a pristine wilderness. Nevertheless, the lack of context can sometimes disappoint. One of Nicklen's photos, that of a Bowhead whale swimming along the floe edge (p. 200–201) is perhaps my favourite wildlife photograph. Sadly, there is no mention of the decimation European and American whalers caused to the populations of the great leviathans, whose oil kept the cogs of the industrial revolution spinning. However, Nicklen does acknowledge the remarkable feat of cetacean survival when presenting this image during his emotional March 2011 TED talk, which has been viewed over 2.4 million times. During this talk, Nicklen highlights his personal favourite capture, swarms of copepods under the sea ice, the very foundation of the Arctic food chain; yet curiously, this image is not featured in *Born to Ice*.

All of the images here are beautiful, which I say as somewhat of a criticism. I feel it must have been a strategic decision to focus on the pristine nature of the wildlife without depicting the harsher side of life in the polar regions. Perhaps the intention was to avoid offending readers who may never visit the regions, or possibly to avoid a repeat of the 2017, out of context, press frenzy that erupted around his starving polar bear footage, which has become one of Nicklen's most recognisable products (reaching an estimated 2.5 billion people). It may be that Nicklen intends to promote

wildlife preservation through these positive images rather than through shock. That said, Nicklen does not shy away from this difficult topic in his sometimes shocking images published through Sea Legacy, many of which highlight the consequences of human activity on wildlife.

A notable omission is the lack of humans in the volume. In the Arctic, the Inuit have an inextricable relationship with wildlife, particularly as a vital food source. The absence is surprising given Nicklen's upbringing in an Inuit community. I would have liked to have seen images documenting the role of wildlife in the Arctic not just as worthy of protecting for observation, but as sources of sustainability for the people sharing this ecosystem.

In truth, I applaud Nicklen in this and his wider work with Sea Legacy. He is reaching Attenborough levels of engagement and awareness with the world's population, spreading the message of wildlife conservation. The polar regions are subject to such rapid change at present, *Born to Ice* is not only a beautiful plea to society to protect these regions, but an important document recording these critically at-risk ecosystems for prosperity. Whether your interest lies in the polar regions, wildlife, photography or the movement toward mitigating our impact on the wider world, this book deserves a place among your library.

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JOHN RAE ARCTIC EXPLORER: THE UNFINISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHY. By JOHN RAE, edited and introduction by WILLIAM BARR. Edmonton, Alberta: University of Alberta Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-77212-332-6. 688 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index, endnotes. Hardbound. US\$24.95.

I have to begin this review with a confession. When I received this large, hardbound, 649 page volume my heart sank. Reading hundreds of pages of what I thought would probably be stiff and affected autobiography, along with presumably tedious copies of correspondence from a long career, seemed like a daunting task even if the writer was John Rae, the most formidable Arctic explorer of the 19th century. But to employ a much over used cliché *John Rae, Arctic Explorer: The Unfinished Autobiography* is indeed a page turner. Rae's life and exploits, his extraordinary travels, and his knowledge of Inuit life is unparalleled when compared to many of his hapless Arctic contemporaries and makes for an appealing read. Editor William Barr, the author and editor of over twenty books on Arctic history, has done a meticulous and masterful job with this work. Rae's straightforward yet absorbing text is edited with great thoroughness with Barr's addition of valuable marginal

notes and short biographies of Rae's fellow travelers. Lengthy interpolations by Rae on such subjects as ice formation and how to build an igloo are added as appendices rather than as bottlenecks to the main manuscript. Most significantly, Barr has even completed Rae's unfinished manuscript which ends literally in mid-sentence in April of 1854, just days before Rae learned from local Inuit the fate of the Franklin expedition, a discovery that would bring him his greatest fame as well as painful censure from the British public. Barr's account of the rest of Rae's life (he died in 1893) does justice to his many exploits including the rest of his Arctic explorations, his travels throughout North America for the Hudson's Bay Company, and his life in England and his Orkney Island birthplace. The popular Rae biographer Ken McGoogan has claimed that a complete autobiography was lost but Barr maintains that in fact Rae failed to complete his autobiography "[u]nable to face the painful topics he would next have to tackle (p. xxvii)."

Born in 1813 at the Hall of Clestrain near the town of Stromness in the Orkney Islands, John Rae enjoyed what Barr calls an "idyllic" childhood, learning with his brothers to hike, climb, fish, and sail. At a young age he enrolled in medicine, first at the University of Edinburgh, and later at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. Upon graduation, Rae joined the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) as a surgeon and in 1833 journeyed to Moose Factory on James Bay where he was to serve as a surgeon and trader for the next ten years. Rae worked for the HBC for many years and soon developed a reputation as a skilled northern traveler. Where British expeditions to the Arctic had traditionally been large and unwieldy, Rae learned from the Inuit how to live off the land. He traveled light with hand-picked subordinates who, like him, had incredible energy and stamina, were experienced snowshoe walkers, and also like Rae were skilled hunters. Mapping some 1500 miles of Arctic coastline in four expeditions between 1846 and 1854, Rae journeyed over 6500 miles by foot and about the same by boat exploring previously unknown (to white men anyway) islands, bays, and coastlines. His discovery through stories from local Inuit at the Gulf of Boothia of the fate of the Franklin expedition brought him fame, but their tales of cannibalism (since proven true) elicited the ire of many of the British public including Lady Franklin and Charles Dickens.

Rae retired from the HBC in 1856 but continued to do work on the company's behalf. Appearing before a select committee of the British House of Commons regarding potential settlement in the company's territories, Rae recommended, among other things, that treaties would be required with the Indigenous peoples of the region. In 1858, he accompanied the company's overseas governor Sir George Simpson on a tour of the northern United States to explore the possibility of shipping goods to Red River and the West via railway to St. Paul. The new method was recommended, and gradually this southern route supplanted the traditional route through York Factory. Later, and also for the HBC, Rae surveyed a potential

telegraph route across the prairies, although that line was never built. Rae died in London in 1893 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall in his native Orkney Islands. A large sculpture of Rae was placed in the cathedral, and as recently as 2013, a statue of Rae was erected in Stromness and a year later a stone reading "John Rae 1813-1893 Arctic explorer" was unveiled at Westminster Abbey.

Editor William Barr has done a superb job in adding to Rae's previously unpublished manuscript, his narrative of the second half of the explorer's life being based on Rae's reports and correspondence. Barr's thoroughly researched work on Rae's life and career is an exceptionally valuable addition to the many published accounts of Arctic exploration. Moreover, the attractiveness and value of *John Rae, Arctic Explorer* is enhanced by the high production values of the published text. It is in fact a collector's item that will enhance any library with its heavy cream coloured pages, wide margins, and very readable text. Expensive works like this are rarely published anymore, especially by university presses. The explanation lies in the book's Acknowledgements with the recognition of the financial contribution of Dr. Stuart Houston, a prolific author himself and a longtime John Rae enthusiast. It is gratifying to see such a handsome and important work such as this in the increasingly monotonous world of digital publishing.

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INUIT, OBLATE MISSIONARIES, AND GREY NUNS IN THE KEEWATIN (1865–1965). By FRÉDÉRIC B. LAUGRAND and JARICH G. OOSTEN. Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019. 520 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index, appendices, endnotes, glossary. Softbound. Cdn\$39.95. Also available as an ebook.

The Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches together formed one part of a "holy trinity" (with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police [RCMP] and the Hudson's Bay Company [HBC] the others) that dominated Inuit-*Qallunaat* (white Europeans) relations in the Canadian Arctic. However, whereas the influence of the RCMP and the HBC on Inuit has been scrutinized often and deeply, the activities of the trinity's religious leg have generally centered on opposition to certain Inuit customary practices, notably shamanism and spouse exchange, while more recent attention has focused on the Churches' roles in the residential school system. This is to say, examination of church-Inuit interaction has generally been circumscribed in scope.

Regarding the Christianizing project among Inuit that was the essential goal of both institutions' missions in the Eastern Arctic, the work of the Anglicans is perhaps better