



# ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER

NEWSLETTER/ ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution

July 1992

Vol. 1

## THE CENTER

### Mission

The Arctic Studies Center was established by Congress in 1988 to create a permanent national program of arctic research and education within the Smithsonian Institution.

Dramatic changes in the world have brought new challenges to arctic regions— problems of human-environmental relationships; effects of industrialization and urbanism; threats of global climatic and environmental change; loss of traditional knowledge and language; and destruction of archeological sites. At the same time, political turmoil in the former Soviet Union and the increasing clamor for self-determination by northern native peoples is transforming geopolitical boundaries throughout the North. Recognition of the importance of arctic regions has triggered a renaissance in arctic studies. Scholars, native peoples, and politicians leading this rebirth have called for research and education responsive to northern interests. The Arctic Studies Center is one answer to these needs.

The Center's programs focus on anthropological studies of arctic peoples and cultures, and on studies of northern biota and ecosystems. Special attention is given to arctic archeology, ethnography, history, and material culture studies. The Center curates arctic and subarctic components of the National Collections which include some of the earliest, largest, and best documented anthropological and natural history specimens in the world. The Smithsonian also has large archival holdings of manuscripts, photographs,

and films that pertain to arctic and Alaskan research, with access to the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

Arctic Center research, internships, and exhibitions. **Igor Krupnik**, an arctic ethnologist specializing in Chuktoka-Bering Sea cultures, has joined the Center as a Visiting Scholar from the Moscow



*Arctic Studies Center Staff. From back, left: K. Wells, V. Chaussonnet, W. Fitzhugh, and I. Krupnik. Front row: J. Smith, S. Loring and D. Laeyendecker.*

### Center Staff

The Center is the brainchild of **William Fitzhugh**, who directs it with the assistance of Program Assistant **Kim Wells**. Recent additions include Museum Anthropologist **Stephen Loring**, who has responsibility for collections, outreach, and training programs. Stephen is working to establish an outreach program to involve people from northern communities with

Institute of Ethnography. **Jeannette Smith**, a Canadian and recent graduate of the University of Calgary, joined the Center for the year after participating in the Frobisher project last summer. Since coming to the S.I., she's been involved in everything from site mapping and artifact analysis to deciphering and transcribing the Alaskan journals of Edward Nelson.



**Valerie Chaussonnet** extends her association with the ASC as co-curator of the exhibition "Crossroads of Continents \* RFD Alaska." **Dosia**

**Laeyendecker** continues to lend invaluable assistance in paleobotany. This winter Dosia moved her "base" to the Museum Support Center (301-238-3031) where she analyzes driftwood and archeological samples collected at the Frobisher sites. **Christopher Nagle** still provides computer programming and database management assistance in addition to working up his Labrador Dorset collections. A joint ASC-National Anthropological Archives initiative enables **Susan Rowley** to bring her expertise in history and practice of Eastern Arctic archeology to bear as project specialist working with the papers of Henry B. Collins. Finally, **Laura Conkey**, on leave from the Dartmouth College Department of Geography, joined the Center for 1991/2. She plans to use dendrochronological techniques to study aspects of paleoclimatology and forest history along the forest-tundra ecotone in Labrador.

### The Newsletter

With the growth of the Arctic Center has come a need for more formalized information exchange. This newsletter, which we plan to publish at least once a year, in May, will be our "broadside" for news about past and future plans.

### The Advisory Committee

The newly-appointed ASC Advisory Committee held its first meeting at the Center this past December. The Committee will meet yearly to review the Center's operations and plans and to offer advice on programs, operations, and needs. This committee is our formal link to the non-SI "other" — our friends and constituents "out there." Current committee membership is: Douglas Anderson (Brown), Ernest Burch, Jr.

(SI/Harrisburg, Pa.), Susan Kaplan (Bowdoin), Steven Young (Center for Northern Research, Vt.) and Rosita Worl (SeaAlaska, Juneau). Stan Shetler (Deputy Dir./NMNH) and Dennis Stanford (Anthropology) serve as in-house members

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## RESEARCH

### Frobisher Bay Project

This year the Frobisher Bay project entered its second field season and evolved into a formal U.S.-Canadian research effort. The work builds upon our 1981 field study, whose results will appear in monograph form this fall as "Kodlunarn Island: Archeology of the Frobisher

the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The CMC has interests primarily in Frobisher's sites on Kodlunarn Island and has sponsored historical archeology testing there by Robert McGhee (CMC), James A. Tuck, Jr. (Memorial), and Reginald Auger (Laval) in 1990-91.

The Smithsonian has organized and partially funded regional survey (Fitzhugh); "off-island" Frobisher mine studies (D. Hogarth, Univ. Ottawa); Frobisher and later European-Inuit contact sites (A. Henshaw, Harvard; L. Gullason, McGill); environment and paleoecology (A. Henshaw, D. Laeyendecker); metallurgy (R. Ehrenreich, NAS/NRC; M. Wayman, Edmonton); and Inuit oral history (S. Rowley).

*R.V. Pitsiulak in Jackman Sound, site of Frobisher's first mine.*



Voyages", published by Smithsonian Press.

The project is interdisciplinary with a number of American, Canadian and British scholars and is governed by a Canadian interagency steering committee called the "Meta Incognita Project" with co-funding and co-direction by the Smithsonian and

Fieldwork in 1990 and 1991 by CMC and SI teams resulted in many exciting finds. Frobisher's Kodlunarn Island sites have been resurveyed and last summer's work produced evidence of cached lumber, lentils and hardtack. Evidence for Frobisher's spilled beer remains elusive. Hogarth documented new



Frobisher mines, and surveys from the R.V. Pitsiulak identified more than fifty Paleoeskimo and Neoeskimo/Inuit sites. Henshaw and Gullason conducted excavations at several historic period Inuit sites which were found to contain Elizabethan ceramics, roof tiles, coal, and English flint. Important discoveries in 1990 included the recovery of a new iron bloom and probable Frobisher iron arrow point. All of these materials had been reworked or modified for Inuit use. One of our sites, Kamaiyuk, was visited by George Best in 1578 and is the first Inuit site described in the *New World*. Further fieldwork is planned for 1992.



*Pauloosie Pishuktie of Iqaluit: field guide for the Frobisher Project.*

### **Dutch Whaling in Davis Strait**

*[Dosia Laeyendecker was in Holland this fall to examine records pertaining to Dutch whaling in the arctic.]*

Martin Frobisher's voyages to Kodlunarn Island in 1576-78 were the first documented contact between Europeans and the Inuit in southeast

Baffin Island. To date there is little artifact evidence recovered to suggest subsequent contact between Europeans and Inuit in Frobisher Bay until the beginning of Scots-English whaling in the 1840s. However, Dutch sources refer to Dutch whalers in Davis Strait during the 16th and 17th centuries, so their traces might be expected in Frobisher Bay Inuit sites.

During September 1991, I spent a week in Holland researching Dutch whaling history. Although there is a lot of information available this research is not as easy as expected. The old cartographers made inaccurate maps, and in the early literature old stories were repeated again and again, making it difficult to figure out who actually said or saw what, and where the voyages actually occurred.

Literature sources are twofold. There are the city archives of the large harbor-cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam where whaling companies and ship owners used to reside. Some of this material has been studied and translated by Jan Kupp. Second are materials deposited in local museums, libraries, and journals where the whaling ship crews were hired. Among the pertinent sources are articles by P. Dekker and A. D. Deinze published in journals like Stichting d'ouwe Polle, Zeewezen, and It Beaken. Among the best old narratives are Joris Carolus (1634), Lourens Feykes Haan (1719), and C.G. Zorgdrager (1728). These can be found in the library of the Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen (which also houses the Thijs Mol collection). The Rijks Museum in Amsterdam has the Barents collection and the Arctic Center at the University of Groningen has interest in Dutch whaling (Lourens Haquebord). The standard work on the history of Dutch whaling is C. de Jong's Geschiedenis van de oude Nederlandse walvisvaart (1972, 3 volumes), published by the University of South Africa, Pretoria.

### **Labrador**

Despite the development of the Frobisher work, the Center's research in Labrador continues to move forward strongly both in new fieldwork and in publication. In 1989, while testing a newly-outfitted Pitsiulak for work in Baffin, we travelled from Newfoundland to Cape Chidley, surveying archeological sites and shooting film with Ted Timreck and Andris Slapinsh for a documentary on Labrador cultures and peoples. Peter Clark gathered elevation data for our papers on Labrador uplift patterning, and we excavated early Thule sites at Staffe Island and Early Dorset sites at Komaktorvik.

Part of the project involved logistic support for Stephen Loring's excavations at 19th century Eskimo sites at North Aulatsivik, an on-going study of historical relationships between the Labrador Inuit and Moravian missionaries which he continued in 1990 with excavations at Nain and Hebron. This project is co-directed by Gary Baikie, director of the Torngasok Cultural Centre in Nain. Stephen, Gary and Melanie Cabak (University of South Carolina) are currently analyzing the Nain collections for a monograph on 19th century Inuit culture in Labrador.

With more than a century of sustained anthropological research in Labrador, the Smithsonian is an important resource for Innu (Naskapi) and Inuit (Eskimo) cultural heritage. On-going and planned educational initiatives with native communities in Labrador are making access to these materials available to the descendants of the people who produced them.

Work continues on the near mythical Torngat publications, which will appear as a six or seven volume series published by SI Press. Volumes on Maritime Archaic, Paleoeskimo, Recent Indian, Dorset exchange, Neoeskimo, Labrador Inuit, and a summary volume are in various stages of completion. Several volumes will be in press by the end of 1992.



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## Bering Straits Ethnography

Igor Krupnik, a Visiting Scholar from Russia via the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, added his Siberian-Alaskan connections and research efforts to the Arctic Center's activities. Igor is currently working on three projects in ethnography and ethnohistory of the Bering Strait area. The first, titled "Divided Nations of the Arctic", focuses on the recent history of ethnic and cultural relationships in Bering Strait. Krupnik plans a comprehensive summary of human relations in the region through genealogical, archival, and historical research, and through Native oral traditions in both Siberia and Alaska.

Another project concerns Native whaling in the North Pacific/Western Arctic, a subject on which Krupnik published extensively during the 1980's. Papers on indigenous bowhead whaling in the entire Arctic area (with Sam Stoker) and "Prehistoric Eskimo Whaling in the Arctic: Slaughter of Calves or Fortuitous Ecology?" have been completed. This summer Igor hopes to participate in a multidisciplinary project headed by Allen McCartney on prehistoric and modern whaling and cultural heritage in Bering Strait. Plans for 1992 include a survey of archeological and recent bowhead and gray whale remains in Alaska and Chukchi Peninsula as contributions to NPS cultural heritage programs in the proposed Beringian International Park.

Krupnik's third activity is his book "Survival in Contacts. Asiatic Eskimo Transitions, 1900-1990", co-authored with Michael Chlenov of Moscow. The project involves the contact history and survival of a Siberian Arctic minority exposed to enormous cultural shock and acculturation pressure during the 20th century. This two-volume work provides a unique opportunity to compare governmental strategies, patterns, and results of Native transitions within the different political systems of the major Arctic states, i.e. former Soviet Union,

U.S.A., Canada, and Denmark. Based on 20 years of field studies, social monitoring, and archival research in Northern Siberia and the United States, the first volume explores the history of Siberian Eskimo acculturation from the decline of American whaling to the establishment of full-scale Soviet administration on the Siberian side (1900-1932); the second volume examines Siberian Eskimo development under Soviet paternalistic policies of the 1930s-1980s.

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## ON THE HORIZON

### A Smithsonian "Presence" in Alaska?

As our program has developed, it is clear that the mandate for the Center's programs would greatly benefit from a physical presence in Alaska. The research, collecting, and educational programs we envision can no longer be conducted efficiently without a branch office in Alaska. An Alaskan office would provide direct communication with the local scholarly and native communities and access to Alaska-based research and educational activities, as well as a Siberian connection. Smithsonian research programs, staff expertise, training opportunities, exhibitions, and archival and collection resources could be made available to Alaskans in a way that is impossible at present. We are in the process of exploring a possible move of some of the Center staff to Alaska within the next two years. Discussions are being held with Smithsonian officials to determine if, how, and when an Alaskan office could be created, and with Alaskan officials to explore questions of siting and collaboration. Access to museum and university facilities are important considerations. As usual, funding is the critical issue.

### Jesup II: A Beringian-North Pacific Initiative

*[During the past year the Center has been considering the prospects for a coordinated interdisciplinary research program in the North Pacific/Bering Sea region.]*

In the 500 years since Columbus' discovery of the New World, scholars and the public have sought answers to one of the most challenging historical and scientific problems of all time: the origins and relationships of New World peoples and biota. With the exploration of the Pacific in the late 1700s and discovery of the Siberian-Alaskan Land Bridge, the question of Asian origins contacts moved to center stage. Franz Boas organized the Jesup North Pacific expedition in 1897-1902 to systematically study the origins and history of North Pacific peoples using archeological, ethnographic, biological, linguistic, and folklore evidence. The Jesup expedition sent teams of American, Canadian, and Russian scientists throughout the North Pacific region, from the Amur River to Vancouver Island, and gathered collections and field data that formed the foundation for our present (however limited) understanding of North Pacific cultures and environments.

As we approach the centennial of the Jesup expedition it is appropriate to consider the prospects for new research to clarify the human and natural history of the greater North Pacific-Beringian region. In contrast to the history of Atlantic contacts, cultural exchanges across Bering Strait have been taking place for thousands (and biological exchanges for hundreds of thousands) of years before 1492. Yet virtually all of the questions posed by pioneer researchers about this "continental crossroads" still remain unanswered.

The time could not be better for a major research thrust in northern regions. We now face a remarkable period when the political barriers that have existed for much of the past century have fallen. It is possible once again to engage in direct and open contacts across previously impermeable national borders. Glasnost and a



new world political and economic climate make possible international scientific collaboration in the North Pacific-Greater Beringian region. Perhaps we are ready now to begin again where Boas and his colleagues left off in 1902. In response, the ASC hopes to encourage foreign and American scholars from universities and research centers, working with governments and private philanthropists, to develop a loosely "federated" consortium, a kind of latter-day Jesup expedition. Through "Jesup II" we might perhaps answer some of the questions about intercontinental history and relationships posed by Boas and his colleagues nearly a century ago.



*Crossroads of Continents opening at Canadian Museum of Civilization. Left to right: V. Tishkov, W. Fitzhugh and G. MacDonald.*



*Franz Boas of the American Museum of Natural History, organizer of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, 1897-1903.*

Just when it was almost home safe and sound the crates were impounded at J.F.K. Airport, victimized by bureaucratic tangles between the SITES treaty permit grantors (walrus ivory and eagle feathers!) and their own enforcement officials at the entry point. All ended well (but not without headaches and hassles), and the inuas are resting comfortably (we hope) in splendid new facilities at the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center.

Last year **Crossroads of Continents** wintered at the Gene Autry Museum of the West in Los Angeles, summered at the Anchorage Museum of Art and History, and began its final North American venue at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa in October.

The Anchorage showing was spectacular, drawing large crowds and receiving strong endorsement from the Native community. Its message was especially powerful given the concurrent breakup of the Soviet empire and ensuing waves of Siberian-Alaskan contacts. **Crossroads** was conceived and executed as a joint US-Soviet operation and plans have always been for the exhibit to travel to the Soviet Union after its

North American tour. However, given the current turmoil in Russia, all involved -- including potential sponsors -- agree there needs to be some time for events to settle down before **Crossroads** can tour there. In the meantime the show is extended at CMC through September '92. Thereafter we hope it will tour for a year in Japan before the final Russian venues in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Meanwhile, planning for a new exhibit, **Crossroads of Continents\*RFD Alaska**, by Valerie, Stephen and Bill is well underway. Employing many of the themes of the larger show, we envision a small, portable exhibit for local venues in Rural Alaska and Siberia, in the real "crossroads" homeland. Curated by teams of Siberian and American specialists and coordinated by **Valerie Chaussonnet** with assistance from **Jean Flanagan Carlo**, this show will feature models and miniatures of traditional material cultures, archeological collections, and 20th century videos and contemporary native arts. Plans call for extensive coordination with Native groups to develop local programming and educational materials.

## OUTREACH

### Exhibitions

Early 1991 saw the return of "Euro-Inua", Susan Rowley's version of the popular show, **Inua: Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo**, which toured for two years in Eastern and Northern Europe with USIA.



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The Alaska State Museum or UAF Museum will tour the show in Alaska, with local venues providing additional educational and cultural programs. The show will tour in Siberia after Alaska. The National Park Service, UAF Museum, Alaska State Museum, and others, are participating with us to produce \*RFD Alaska together with Siberian museums. A Native consultation workshop was held in March in Anchorage. Exhibit production by SI Exhibits Center is planned for Fall '92, with the Alaskan tour beginning in spring of '93. An SI Special Exhibition grant of \$100,000 has just been awarded as partial funding for this project.

At the request of Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens, we prepared a small exhibit of North Alaskan collections for their program **Land of the Midnight Sun** in the Russell (Senate) Office Building in September. The effort produced an ASC/Department of Anthropology record: 60 specimens selected, conserved, labelled, and mounted in two days!



*Inupiat Eskimo drummers and dancers performing at Senate reception.*

*Senator Frank Murkowski inspects the Arctic Center's Russell Building exhibition.*



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## Media Programs

For public education few mediums have proved as successful and engaging as film. ASC sponsored film production and film programs continued to be developed and aired on a variety of subjects. Our first effort, **Secrets of the Lost Red Paint People**, produced by Ted Timreck, is often rebroadcast and used in archeology courses. **Viking**, a new Timreck/Goetzman production featuring Norse discoveries and cultural contacts in the North



Atlantic, will be aired on NOVA in October, 1992. Further down the production line are documentary versions of **Crossroads of Continents** and **Labrador**—the latter being a regional film about history, archeology, and native peoples. The Labrador film includes footage by **Andris Slapins** (from our 1989 Labrador fieldwork), **Nigel Markham**, and **Ted Timreck**. Plans are also underway to work on a film on the life of Andris Slapins.

For two weeks in early September **Stephen Loring** accompanied Canadian filmmaker **Nigel Markham** on a canoe-based expedition in Labrador retracing the traditional Innu travel route from their caribou-hunting grounds in the

*William Brooks Cabot (in an Innu painted caribou skin coat) at the Hudson's Bay Company trading post, Davis Inlet, 1903.*



*Innu woman and child at Tshinutivish. Photograph by William Brooks Cabot, August 1990. (Tshinutivish was revisited during the 1991 film project.)*

George River valley to the Labrador coast. This was the route followed by Boston's **William Brooks Cabot** between 1903 and 1910. Cabot's journals and photographs provide a vivid account of Innu culture from a time when they still relied significantly on caribou hunting. Using Cabot's photographs Loring and Markham, assisted by **William B. Ritchie** and **Joan Gero**, traced Cabot's trail and relocated the old Innu camps. Markham's film on Cabot and the Innu will be completed this fall.

Finally, Malcolm Billings produced a BBC World Service radio broadcast in January featuring our Frobisher work. Billings spent a week "on scene" at Kodlunarn Island in August, enduring storms, polar bear encounters, and our gourmet peanut-based diet. But the man with the mike had the last word: he made Fitzhugh simulate a 16th century Inuk crawling through the entrance passage of a Kamaiyuk sod house—all in living sound!

## TRANSITIONS

*Arctic studies lost three world class stars during the past year.*

**Richard H. Jordan**, a longtime friend and colleague who worked many years with us in Labrador, died of a heart attack in Fairbanks on 19 January 1991. Dick was the first archeologist to carry out field studies and publish in all sectors of the North American Arctic—Greenland, Canada, and Alaska. His unforgettable style and energy enriched us all, and his many publications

will inspire our efforts for years to come. Fortunately Dick had completed his Labrador Dorset manuscripts, and his work on Kodiak will be taken up by his Alaskan students.



*Richard H. Jordan, 1946-1991.*

We woke the day after Dick's death to discover our friend and colleague, Latvian filmmaker **Andris Slapins**, 42, and his colleague **Guido Svaigznes**, had been killed by Soviet



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black beret snipers on January 20, 1991 while filming at the Latvian Interior Ministry building. Andris co-produced the 20th century film for "Crossroads" and later filmed for us in Alaska, Siberia, and Labrador (see Bill's obit in *CVA Review*, spring 1991). With his death, Latvia and the circumpolar world loses an intuitive and generous soul as well as a powerful ally in communicating values of cultural understanding and preservation. His martyrdom for Latvian ethnic nationalism has been memorialized in film tributes (*Baltic Requiem* and others). In his memory, the ASC will offer an annual film program and will co-sponsor an international Slapins film prize (see below).

This fall we lost another foreign colleague, **Valerii Alekseev**, long known for his work in Beringian physical anthropology and recently as Director of the Institute of Archeology in Moscow. Alekseev's life-long devotion to scholarship of northern peoples served as a beacon in the darkest era of the Soviet regime. His last work, *Origin of the Human Race* (Progress Publ., Moscow, 1986, English), is a provocative, highly creative work.

Fortunately, there are happier notes: **Christopher Nagle** has a joint appointment as Senior Statistical Consultant in Computer Science and Adjunct Professor with the Anthropology Department at the University of Maryland (College Park), and **Susan Kaplan** was married to Dr. Peter Trumper, a chemistry professor at Bowdoin College, on 14 March.

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## NOTES FROM THE ATTIC

### Visiting Scholars

One of the goals of the Center is to help provide access to the Smithsonian's circumpolar ethnographic and archeological collections. During the summer and fall of 1991 we hosted several visiting researchers and Native Alaskan artists and craftsmen.

Two students of Lucy Johnson (Vassar) studied materials recovered by the SI's own Arles Hrdlicka from Aleut burial caves on Kagamil Island in the central Aleutians. **Elizabeth Wilmerding** (WSU) made an intensive study of the baskets and woven materials, while **Rowena Bowman** (Vassar) examined bentwood boxes and wooden mask fragments. Further work on the Kagamil Island collections was undertaken by **Joseph Lubischer** (Western Washington) whose interest in Aleut watercraft led him to examine carved wood in the Kagamil assemblage to identify boat parts. **Anne Keenlyside** (McMaster) examined the human osteology collections from Alaska for evidence of changes in health, epidemiology, and demography in pre- and post- contact Native populations.

The 1991 Festival of American Folklife brought several Native Alaskan craftspeople and artists to display their talents on the Mall. This group included **Nathan Jackson**, a Tlingit carver and dancer from Ketchikan, his wife **Dorica**, a Chilkat weaver, and his apprentice **Israel Shotridge** from Klawock; also **Dolores Churchill** and her daughter **Holly**, Haida weavers from Ketchikan, and **Jack Hudson** a Tsimshian carver from Metlakatla, Alaska. Fleeing the oppressive heat of the July Mall, they spent every spare minute studying our Northwest Coast collections. Nathan Jackson examined the bentwood boxes while Dorica Jackson and Dolores Churchill examined a woven Beaver Tail apron. Study of the cedar bark hats allowed the Churchills to resolve technical problems confronted in their own weaving. Holly Churchill brought cedar bark strips into the attic and replicated a miniature hat to be sure she understood the traditional technique. Israel Shotridge, carver and grandson of the famous collector, Louis Shotridge, examined moveable masks.

The ASC also hosted **Gary Baikie**, Director of the Torngasok Cultural Centre in Nain, Labrador,

who visited the Smithsonian in July to examine the Lucien Turner Labrador Inuit collection. Baikie was especially interested in a shaman's costume in the Turner collection which he expects to feature in a forthcoming elder's conference. Stephen and Gary have been working on 19th Century Labrador Inuit studies and plan a trip to document Labrador collections and archives in Europe.

The Center also enjoyed the visit of **Carol Jolles** (Univ. Washington) who came to work on the St. Lawrence Island material in the Henry Collins archives, discovering a treasure-trove of 1929-30 ethnography.

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## COLLECTIONS

### E.P. Wheeler Library

In November, the Center's library was honored to receive a generous donation of arctic books that belonged to Everett Peperrell Wheeler (1900-1974). "Pep" Wheeler devoted his life to Labrador geography and geology. A keen naturalist and indefatigable traveller, he was one of the last scientists to rely on dog-team travel.

Wheeler's scientific work is well known, and his geological notebooks and thin-sections are at Tony Morse's Wheeler Lab in the Geology Department at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Like Charles Francis Hall and Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Wheeler recognized the importance of learning native skills and language for surviving in the North. Wheeler eschewed the discoverer's proclivity for renaming landscape features and was instrumental in recording Inuit place names. A meticulous diarist and observer, his records of nearly a half-century of fieldwork in Labrador have been donated to the National Anthropological Archives.

The Wheeler papers augment earlier Labrador collections at the NAA which include those of Lucien





Everett "Pep" Wheeler, 1900-1974: Pioneer scientist and explorer in Labrador.

Turner (Ungava, 1884), William Brooks Cabot (Labrador, 1899- 1925), and William Duncan Strong (Labrador, 1927-1928). Wheeler's 214 volume arctic library reflects his interest in Labrador but also includes a number of hard-to-find narratives of 19th century polar exploration. It nicely complements the material collected by Henry B. Collins which forms the core of the Arctic Center's library. The Center greatly appreciates the generosity and concern of the Wheeler family, especially Alison Haney and Emily Stevenson, for arranging the donation of Pep's library and papers.

### Timreck Film Collection

Another important addition to the collections this year was the first installment of the **Timreck Film Archive**, the outtakes from years of work on "Secrets of the Lost Red Paint People", presented by Ted Timreck to the Human Studies Film Archive. This material includes interviews with many scholars, scenics and excavation footage from archeological sites from Denmark, Norway, Labrador, Newfoundland, and Maine.

## "Bergy Bits" and Other News

### Henry Collins Papers

During Henry Collins' last years the National Anthropological Archives began collecting and organizing Henry's papers. Nigel Elmore prepared a finding aide to parts of the collection, but much work remained on his manuscripts and notes, and his photograph files. Fortunately, approval of a Smithsonian Research Resources grant has allowed the NAA to put archivist **Robert Montgomery** to work on the collection with the assistance of **Susan Rowley**.

### Repatriation: the Larsen Bay Case.

The National Museum of the American Indian (P.L. 101-185), enacted in 1989, requires the Smithsonian to inventory and identify the origins of all American Indian and Native Hawaiian human remains and funerary objects in its possession. In response to this mandate, the National Museum of Natural History has established a Repatriation Office that operates directly under the Office of the Director. The Repatriation Office is charged with inventorying the Museum's collections, notifying affected tribes of culturally affiliated remains or funerary objects, and facilitating any requested returns.

The ASC works closely with the Repatriation Office on cases concerning northern native peoples. In January 1992, the NMNH returned to the Larsen Bay Tribal Council, Kodiak Island, Alaska, 176 artifacts identified as associated funerary objects from burials excavated by Ales Hrdlicka during the 1930's. These items were recovered from the Uyak Bay site, located nearby the modern community of Larsen Bay.

The human skeletal remains from these burials, comprising approximately 756 individuals were returned to the people of Larsen Bay this past September for re-interment.

Given the archeological nature of these materials, questions of cultural affiliation and cultural continuity were key issues in this



repatriation case. As stated in the National Museum of the American Indian Act, the Smithsonian shall return human remains if they can be identified as culturally affiliated with a particular Indian tribe, upon the request of that tribe. After over four years of negotiations and expert testimony, the Smithsonian Institution decided to return the human remains and associated funerary objects from the Uyak Bay site to the people of Larsen Bay.

### Andris Slapins Memorials

A grant from the Trust for Mutual Understanding has allowed us to plan a variety of memorials to our martyred colleague, Andris Slapins. These include preservation work on the Slapins films (**Chukotka—Coast of Memories and Times of Dreams**) in the Human Studies Film Archives and technical and editing support on Andris' 1989 Labrador footage. We will also co-sponsor the international Slapins Memorial prize for Native filmmakers inaugurated last year by **Mark Soosaar** and the Parnu (Estonia) Visual Anthropology Society. Finally we have instituted an annual Sapins memorial film

and lecture program at the National Museum of Natural History. The first program, held on April 10, featured **Mark Badger** and **Asen Balikci** presenting "Siberia Through Siberian Eyes", which documents their NSF-supported 1992 video training project among the Khanty of western Siberia.

### "NABO"

Most of the Center staff travelled to New York City in January for the **North Atlantic Biocultural Workshop** organized by **Tom McGovern** and **Susan Kaplan** and held at Hunter College. This NSF/Polar Program sponsored meeting was a sequel to the earlier research conference at Bowdoin College (proceedings to appear in *Acta Arctica*) and concerned research coordination, data standards, and funding. A large number of Norse/Medieval/Eskimo specialists and other "ologists" from virtually all the North Atlantic lands attended. In the process a loose confederation of scholars, the North Atlantic Biocultural Organization (NABO), was formed.

While in New York, Stephen and Bill visited the Museum of American Indian's (former Heye) collection facility in the Bronx. There Mary Jane Lenz showed them their northern collections, which include interesting materials from Labrador, the Canadian Arctic, and Alaska.

### Kodlunarn and Roanoke: Early English Science Centers?

National Geographic Society recently issued a news report on **Ivor Noel Hume's** work with **Benny Keel** and **Bill Kelso** on Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colony" site at Roanoke, Virginia, citing it as the first European "science center" in the New World. So challenged, Bill countered (letter only) with a claim for ten-year precedence for Frobisher's Kodlunarn Island as the "birthplace of New World industrial science". The result: a friendly, dirk-sheathed SI workshop planned for 21 April to provide both projects an opportunity to compare collections and exchange notes on 16th century ceramics and iron industry.

*The Arctic Studies Center gratefully acknowledges the following grants and donations:*

**Kingsbury Browne, Trust for Mutual Understanding and Virginian Coyle** for Andris Slapins Memorial Programs; **Edmund Carpenter, Thomas J. Watson, Jr., and IBM Corporation** for Committee on Norse Research in the North Atlantic; **Smithsonian Scholarly Studies Program** grant for archeological fieldwork in Frobisher Bay; **Smithsonian Research Resources** grant for processing Henry B. Collins archives; **Alaska Humanities Foundation, Smithsonian International Exchange Program, National Park Service, and Man in the Biosphere** for support for "Crossroads of Continents \* RFD Alaska exhibit planning; **Judy Collins** for donation of the Henry B. Collins Library; **Joseph R. Coolidge and descendants of the W.B. Cabot family** for the donation of the William Brooks Cabot Papers and Photographic Archives; **Everett P. Wheeler family** for donation of the E. "Pep" Wheeler library and archives; and **Ted Timreck/Spofford Films** for donation of Timreck Collection/Red Paint Film Archives.





"Y'all come back and see me soon!" (polar bear in Jackman Sound)

## RECENT STAFF PUBLICATIONS

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