

SHERRILL GRACE

White Men Talking

ABSTRACT In this essay the author discusses a new play by Canadian playwright Sharon Pollock called *Kabloona Talk* (2007). The historical context for this contemporary play is the 1914 murders of two Roman Catholic Missionary priests by two Inuit in the Canadian Arctic, followed by two sensational trials held in southern Canada in 1917. Several attempts have been made by writers and scholars to represent what happened and why, but Pollock's play offers a fascinating look at the political manoeuvring that took place behind the scenes as the white lawyers struggled with the conflict between the dictates of European law and the principles guiding the behaviour of a remote group of Inuit about whom white southern Canadians knew next to nothing. Rather than focus on either the murders or the trials, Pollock uses this actual event to explore the timeless issues of justice, and cultural encounter and misunderstanding.

KEN COATES

The Power to Transform

The Kemano Power Project and the Debate about the Future of Northern British Columbia

ABSTRACT The struggle to determine the pace and nature of resource development has long been at the centre of northern autonomy movements. The forty-year-long debate over the Kemano Power Project in Northern British Columbia reveals how the understanding of hydro-development has shifted from a major regional benefit to a more complicated and conflicted view in which environmental and indigenous concerns are balanced against economic opportunities. When built in the 1950s, Kemano was seen as the foundation for a stable and prosperous industrial economy. The planned expansion of the hydro-electric system in the 1980s and 1990s touched off a major debate inside and outside the region. The region wrestled with the difficult choices presented by such major projects but the decision to cancel the Kemano Completion Project (KCP) rested on the provincial government's reaction to southern pressures. Kemano, as with many major resource projects in northern regions, reveals the degree to which external political and commercial forces continue to determine northern development and therefore the very future of the region.

CORNELIA LÜDECKE

Wissenschaft und Abenteuer in der Arktis

Beispiele deutscher Polarexpeditionen

ABSTRACT From its beginning in 1868 German polar expeditions were focused on scientific exploration. History shows that around 1910 only well prepared and equipped expeditions were successful and could gain valuable experiences. The training expedition of the Bavarian officer Wilhelm Filchner who subsequently led the German Antarctic Expedition (1911–1912) was one of these. This is contrasted by the preliminary expedition to Nordaustlandet (Svalbard) of the west Prussian officer Herbert Schröder-Stranz. Other expeditions gave rise to long-range investigations like the permanently occupied German Geophysical Observatory on Svalbard (1911–1914) established for the investigation of the upper air by aerological measurements to prepare a future exploration of the Arctic by airships.

There was a long tradition for German scientific expeditions to Greenland, which is represented for instance by Alfred Wegener's meteorological programme to investigate the glacial anticyclone. The year 1930 was a fateful year for German polar research, when he died on the ice-cap and geologist Hans Kurt Erich Krueger vanished in the north Canadian archipelago. Both men represented science as well as adventure.

International projects initiated or organised from the German side were always successful. Georg von Neumayer, director of the German Navy Observatory (Deutsche Seewarte), played an important role in organising the 1st International Polar Year (1882–1883) after the untimely death of Karl Weyprecht. Only extensive research without recognition of national borders would provide new scientific knowledge in meteorology and earth magnetism for weather forecast and shipping. After World War I economical ideas concerning the introduction of trans-arctic air traffic led to the foundation of the International Society for the Exploration of the Arctic Regions by Means of Aircraft (Aeroarctic). In the meteorological planning of the first expedition with the airship LZ 127 “Graf Zeppelin” to the Russian Arctic, the results of the German Geophysical Observatory in Svalbard were used. This paper discusses the connections between science and adventure established through the German expeditions.

EINAR NIEMI

North Norway

An Invention?

ABSTRACT The article has as a starting point the fact that regions are one of the central political topics of today. Though regions have certain roots in history, they were not politicized until the nineteenth century, when they were “invented” as a tool for identity-shaping and development in the fringe areas of the state. The article operates with North Norway as a case in analyzing modern region-building processes and state regionalization strategies. This region is well suited as a case because of its particular position as a border area and its unique position in Norway’s political and economic history. The region-building process developed through distinct stages. In the 1970s North Norway came close to being understood as an identity region. Since the early 1990s, however, there have been fissures in this identity and the old regional visions have been under pressure from within as well as from without. In addition old tensions within the region have been disclosed. The most striking example is Finnmark, the northernmost county of the region, and of the nation as well, which through history has played a role in the margin. It is a kind of historical irony that the current development of the Norwegian “northern policy” programme together with the promising prospect of ocean-based oil and gas industry has put Finnmark in the forefront of future expectations.

INGA-MARIA MULK & TIM BAYLISS-SMITH

Liminality, Rock Art and the Sami Sacred Landscape

ABSTRACT The paper suggests that cultural landscapes were permeated by religious meanings in all pre-modern societies, including Sami societies before c. AD 1600. We suggest that knowledge of this sacred landscape was not restricted to an elite or to shamans, but was widely shared. For the Sami, religious rituals and associated images (e.g. rock art) involved all levels within a social hierarchy that linked the individual adult or child, the family, the band or *sijdda*, and the association of family groups or *vuobme*. We can decode the sacred landscapes of such societies if we can reconstruct sites of perceived anomaly and liminality in the landscape. This is discussed in the article with reference to Proto-Uralic cosmology in general and the Sami world-view in particular. The concepts of anomaly and liminality enable us to interpret the Badjelánnda rock art site in Lapponia, northern Sweden, as not only a place of resource procurement (asbestos, soapstone) but also a sacred site. We suggest that the Badjelánnda site should be seen as a gateway to the Underworld, and therefore visits for quarrying, human burials at the site, or wild reindeer hunting in the vicinity were marked by ritual acts, directed perhaps towards the Sami female deity *Máttaráhkká*. The rock art should therefore be interpreted as an aspect of religious ritual, and in a context where anomalous topography signified that the Badjelánnda site was necessarily a liminal place.

INGELA BERGMAN & OLLE ZACKRISSON

Early Mesolithic Hunter–Gatherers and Landscape

Acquisition by the Arctic Circle

The Ip Mattis valley 7000 BC–1 AD

ABSTRACT Archaeological and palaeoecological studies in the Arjeplog area of northern Sweden have verified the arrival of hunter-gatherers soon after deglaciation. After modelling and subsequently surveying the reconstructed shorelines of tilted watercourses, Early Mesolithic settlements dating to 8600–8000 BP (¹⁴C years BP) were discovered. Makrosubfossil-, pollen- and charcoal analyses of peat stratigraphies and lake sediments corroborated that deglaciation was completed more than 1000 years earlier than has previously been postulated. Pollen records show that the early postglacial environment included complex plant communities lacking present day analogies, providing optimal subsistence conditions for the pioneer settlers. Studies of charcoal influx into lake sediments indicate that fires were more frequent than ever after, contributing to a productive natural environment. Regional studies in the Ip Mattis valley in combination with in-depth analyses of selected archaeological sites, display that hunter-gatherers made the resources of the valley an integral part of their subsistence at an early stage. Landscape acquisition included not only the adjustment to existing conditions, but the actual manipulation of the environment. The interdisciplinary research approach has produced unique sets of archaeological and palaeoecological data. Results open new perspectives on human pioneer colonisation and landscape acquisition in relation to deglaciation and the development of postglacial ecosystems. The variety of methods applied sets a new standard for future research on early societies in sub-arctic regions.