

those interested in this often-overlooked aspect of combat in the Second World War. Claringbould does an excellent job summarizing unit histories and documenting the human elements behind the rendered aircraft and their markings. For those interested in the logistics of Japanese seaplane deployments, aircraft markings, and the units involved in this theatre, this is definitely a solid and succinct reference. The recounting of several engagements between Japanese and Allied forces also makes this a good source for those studying the American and British advance into the South Pacific as well, allowing for better understanding of the opposing forces, their makeup, and losses from 1942 to 1944.

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Peter R. Dawes. *Expedition Relics from High Arctic Greenland—Eight decades of exploration history told through 102 objects*. Charlottenlund, DK: Museum Tusulanum Press, www.mtp.dk, 2022. 509 pp., illustrations, maps, bibliography, indices. DKK 475.00, US \$75.00, hardback; ISBN 987-87-635-4686-7.

High Arctic Greenland has been the scene of numerous Arctic expeditions from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Whether it was explorers like Henry Grinnell tracing the fate of the lost Franklin expedition, or Robert Peary trying to reach new farthest Norths (and ultimately the Pole), the expeditions covered parts of Greenland previously unexplored and accumulated substantial knowledge about northwest Greenland. They also left behind intentional or unintentional material traces and relics.

With his new book, Peter Dawes not only provides a comprehensive overview of these expeditions to Greenland, but does so in a unique and novel way that successfully bridges traditional exploration history and high Arctic archaeology. Instead of just providing a historic account of the expeditions or simply delivering a catalogue of artifacts, Dawes uses 102 specific objects to tell the stories of the individual expeditions and the larger history of the exploration of High Arctic Greenland.

Divided into four main chapters, the book begins with a solid introductory chapter that discusses the aims of the book as well as providing some most useful comments and reflections on topics like the “collection instinct” or the distinction between simply labelling an artifact versus basing historical research on it. The next chapter deals with prehistoric and historic sites and discusses a wide variety of issues related to their artifacts. This presents the non-specialist on Arctic archaeology with basic background information on

relevant types of artifacts, such as cairns, memorial headboards, and rock engravings as well as relevant discussions related to these artifacts like the controversy on military installations and historic burial sites or specifics on conservation of different materials.

The third chapter is devoted to the selected artifact collection, using it to tell the stories of 18 expeditions carried out between 1853 and 1935. Since all of these expeditions are well known to any specialist on Arctic history, it is not the expedition history that makes the book a unique and a relevant contribution, but the way this history is told. Using at least one artifact to tell the story of each expedition helps the reader visualize the respective historic events. Furthermore, it reminds the historian that a tangible, three-dimensional object is an equally important research resource category for Arctic history in addition to archival material, printed reports, or other traditional sources of historical research. Given the fact that traditional documentary materials for these expeditions have mainly been generated by the expedition leaders, they tend to present a somewhat single-sided narrative. Illustrating the expeditions' histories via selected artifacts becomes an even more important concept, since objects, especially those not necessarily related to the expedition leaders, can often tell the story from another angle.

Altogether, the 102 artifacts provide an impressive story of the exploration of High Arctic Greenland that reaches far beyond any history that is based only on traditional archival sources. The fourth and final chapter is titled "A tribute to the Inuit and their dog sledges." While this chapter might initially seem outside the parameters of the book, further reading makes it extremely relevant. Discussion of how the expeditions depended on Greenlandic resources, especially the Greenlanders themselves and their dogs, this chapter marks an important attempt to decolonialize the history of High Arctic exploration. Calling it a counternarrative to the traditional Euro-American-centred history of the discovery of High Arctic Greenland may be too far-fetched, but it definitely incorporates Greenlanders themselves into the story and puts them firmly into the picture.

Anyone familiar with Arctic Greenland would already know that the exploration of this part of the globe was always dependent on the knowledge and skills of the Greenlanders. By devoting an entire chapter of his book to this topic, Dawes makes it known to the vast majority of historians who never had the opportunity to experience High Arctic Greenland themselves.

The eighteen expeditions detailed in the book were not only polar expeditions, but also expeditions requiring the use of watercraft, clearly making Dawes' book relevant to historians interested in maritime operations in the High Arctic. More important, however, is the way Dawes moves beyond the standard Euro-American-centric aspects of Arctic expedition history to

involve the inhabitants of the High Arctic themselves.

It is obvious that this book is more than the result of a lifelong academic career devoted to the High North. It is a work written by a colleague with a deep understanding of Arctic Greenland, its exploration, and its people. I can fully commend it to any (maritime or Arctic) historian with an interest in the polar regions of the globe, but I also recommend it to any reader without deeper knowledge who is interested in the history of the exploration of the high North. It will present a picture that places Greenlanders in the middle of their own history and illustrate that all kinds of artifacts are equally important as sources for historical research as archival materials.

Finally, the publisher, Museum Tusculanum Press, needs to be commended for having produced a book of outstanding quality. Print, paper, design, typography, and selection of illustrations make the book a feast for everybody with the slightest bibliophilic tendencies. A recommended retail price of US \$75.00 might appear high, but as the book is 500 pages in large format with 325 colour plates, it is certainly good value for the money. In the interest of full disclosure, this reviewer is not only a maritime historian specializing in the polar regions, but has also worked as a museum curator for many years. This might possibly bias me toward valuing any historical research that is based on artifacts in addition to archival materials. Given this background, I would like to state that Dawes' new book was one of the most pleasant surprises within the last few years.

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Veronica della Dora. *Where Light in Darkness Lies. The Story of the Lighthouse*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, Reaktion Books, www.uchicago.edu, 2022. 280 pp., illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography. US \$31.50, cloth; ISBN 978-1-78914-549-6. (E-book available.)

From their beginnings in the coastal Christian chapels and temples of the Mediterranean to the modern electrified beacons of the United States, Veronica della Dora presents an interesting cultural history of lighthouses. Her interest in on how people historically have imagined and perceived lighthouses, rather than on technological improvements is a welcome diversion from traditional lighthouse histories. This approach, by the author's own admission, is "not a history of lighthouses" (34). Because the subtitle, *The Story of the Lighthouse*, implies a standard