

Revolutionary War. As many as ten thousand died from disease and abuse, but especially malnutrition, while being imprisoned aboard rotting hulks moored in the East River. In writing about others who were pioneers in the treatment and public health measures contributing to shipboard illness, the author made one very minor error. Staunch vitamin C and sanitary conditions advocate American navy physician William P.C. Barton was the navy's first Head of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery during 1842 rather than Navy Surgeon General. The latter titled position was created in 1871.

Stephen Bown's work is a captivating narrative focused upon the history and scientific mystery concerning "The Scurvy." It is reminiscent of a Albert Camus quote in "The Plague": "I have no idea what's awaiting me, or what will happen when this all ends. For the moment I know this: there are sick people and they need curing."

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Gordon Campbell. *Norse America: The Story of a Founding Myth*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, www.global.oup.com, 2021. xix+247 pp., illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index, glossary. US \$25.95, cloth; ISBN 978-0-19-886155-3.

One of those mysteries of North Atlantic exploration is: How far did the Vikings penetrate into North America? In "Norse America" author Gordon Campbell, Emeritus Professor and Fellow in Renaissance Studies at the University of Leicester and Fellow of the British Academy, draws on his research as he delves into claims made in sagas and supported by physical artifacts that pre-Columbian Norsemen explored the coast and settled in the heart of North America.

Campbell begins with known facts of Norse life in Iceland and Greenland, the lands from which Norse expansion into North America would likely have come. This seems to be the most factually certain portion of the book, although even here the connections between sagas and history are tenuous. Contrary to the image of Vikings as ruthless maritime marauders, he describes agricultural communities on those islands that were integrated into Christendom with bishops, churches, and trade. Church records were written in Latin. Augustinian Canons and Benedictine nuns connected medieval Greenland to the most ancient Christian orders. Accommodation of local conditions was required as the lack of bread compelled the translation of the Lord's Prayer as "give us this day our daily seals." Legendary figures, such as Erik the Red, are placed, as well as they can be, in context. Allegedly the son of Thorvald Asvaldsson,

who had been exiled from Norway in the 970s for manslaughter, the family had settled in the rugged Hornstrandir Peninsula in northwestern Iceland. The ruins of their homestead, from which Erik's son, Leif Eriksson, may have traveled to America, have been discovered, and if not theirs, probably someone like them lived there. It is in villages like this and in L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, the most documented Norse settlement in North America, where artifacts, lore, and history meet. Reasons for the abandonment of remote settlements such as climate change, depletion of resources, disruption of trade, and the availability of better land in Europe in the wake of the Black Death are placed in the balance and assayed.

Campbell then examines maps, ruins of buildings, runestones, coins, swords, civic festivals, and anything else that people have latched onto to support purported Nordic exploration of the continent. Specific and detailed attention is directed to the Vinland Map that is cited to establish European knowledge of the North American coast, and Dighton Rock, Bourne Stone, and Norman's Land Runestone of Massachusetts and Narragansett Runestone of Rhode Island, which contain inscriptions identified by some as Norse.

Much of the text is devoted to undermining the authenticity of artifacts. Campbell gives examples of engravings that have been interpreted by experts ascribing them to multiple languages. He compares place names to those found in literature or cartography and map inscriptions to the lexicon of the times. DNA of present populations is analyzed for the secrets it will reveal about ancestry, which is sometimes more diverse than would be found in an exclusively Norse sample.

The theme of the quest to find Norse origins of American settlement flows throughout the narrative. It is brought together at the end as a desire to weave a myth that America was founded by Northern Europeans, more closely associated with British culture who were predominantly Protestant by the time the Norse Founding Myth was established. The recognition of Spanish Catholics and Indigenous Peoples as contributors to American culture is correspondingly diminished.

"Norse America" is a short, relatively quick read, although readers are challenged to slow down and digest what they are reading. The glossary of Norse Terms, People, Peoples, Places, Sagas and Histories, and Languages aid the reader in staying on track. The maps and pictures are helpful supplements and the index facilitates finding specific references. The extensive bibliography provides guidance for further study.

Although taking on the Myth of Norsemen as a founding race of America, this tome is far from negative. Learning that real Vikings did not wear horned helmets and that their North American settlement was probably limited to a few isolated locales disperses some of the mists of past mystery, but there is much I

like about this work. It whetted my appetite to know more about these ancient peoples. I gained an appreciation for the Norse civilization that survived on harsh, northern isles and might, just might, have touched American shores.

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Alicia Caporaso (ed.). *Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes*. Heidelberg, Germany: Springer International Publishing and the Society for Historical Archaeology, www.springer.com, 2017. xii+220 pp., illustrations, tables, notes, bibliography, index. Euro 114,39 €, cloth; ISBN 978-3-319-48786-1. (E-book available.)

Apart from a human tragedy, an economic and perhaps a cultural loss, the sinking of a vessel is an intrusion into a territory for which it was not designed. As every activity has to meet certain conditions before another state of being is reached, so does the loss of a ship. Most human interaction with the environment is carefully prepared, timed, and measured. The marine environment, however, is confronted with mostly accidental encounters when a ship has failed to stay afloat. Over the years maritime archaeology has evolved from the confines of a single wreck at an individual site to a broader view that includes the motivation to send a ship out to sea – market demands, economic necessity, war, etc – and the circumstances in which a vessel operates, such as rain, fog, storm, or with a dangerous cargo, in treacherous waters. Within that broader view, the transition of sites in the marine environment must also be taken into account, like the effect of natural transformation, such as the reaction with seawater or storm surges and cultural processes like salvage, fishing, blasting, and the removal from artefacts. This broader view is expressed in succeeding models that have been developed over the years by Keith Muckelroy in 1978, Schiffer's cultural and natural transforms (1987), Ward on natural transformational process (1999) and Gibb's (2006) stages in shipwreck and finds. Maritime archaeology is a dynamic discipline that requires an open eye for evaluation and refining, not only for science itself, but also for a better understanding of the interaction between nature and culture.

Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological of Landscapes presents an excellent perspective of current research in maritime archaeological landscape formation processes.

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