

disruptive of circumpolar homogeneity. For this and its careful, overall description, the work can be strongly recommended. One also hopes the Arctic Studies Center will continue with at least occasional translations from the Russian.

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LAST GREAT WILDERNESS: THE CAMPAIGN TO ESTABLISH THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. By ROGER KAYE. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2006. ISBN 1-889963-83-6. xx + 283 p., maps, b&w illus., colour plates, notes, bib., index. Hardbound. US\$29.95.

Any northern traveller who has whiled away hours in the right-hand seat of a noisy, intercom-less bush plane and wondered what is going through the mind of the person at the controls need look no farther than *Last Great Wilderness* for a glimpse into a pilot's fertile mind. The flyer is Roger Kaye, who has been a wilderness specialist and pilot for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for more than two decades. What he has been thinking about for most of those years—intensively while pursuing a doctorate in Northern Studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, during the late 1990s—is how the ANWR came to be.

Kaye is obviously in love with the place. These 19.3 million acres of protected land in northeastern Alaska have been his muse through these years. He has particularly thought about how it was perceived in the minds and hearts of those involved in the 1950s campaign to establish the refuge, and how in more recent times ANWR has been a

“symbol of restraint” in a consumer-driven economy. Although Kaye and his editors have tried to unbind classic academese, the book—particularly for its compartmentalized structure—has “thesis” written all over it. However, in addition to using textual sources for his research, the author conducted in-depth interviews with many of the early ANWR proponents. It is Kaye's accounts of these interactions with people like Olaus and Mardy Murie, George Collins, Lowell Sumner, Virginia Wood and Celia Hunter, along with well-placed photos, that give his narrative substance, character, and a measurable amount of charm.

A case in point is Chapter 4, written around a 1956 expedition into the Sheenjek River valley to gather information “less important for its scientific value than for its contribution to descriptive and impressionistic portrayals of the area” (p. 83). In this excerpt, Kaye draws on one of many published reports from the trip but, through his dogged interviewing efforts, he can add to that more recent recollections:

The introduction to Schaller's comprehensive report on the expedition's findings lends further insight into its leader's approach. Dr. Murie, he wrote, “taught me his quiet way to observe and to appreciate many aspects of wilderness which I had formerly overlooked. Untiringly he roamed the valleys and mountains collecting scats, sketching, and taking copious notes on everything which came to his attentive eyes.”

An “earnest disciple” of this approach to the landscape, Schaller later recalled an incident which characterized Olaus's search for the “wholeness of it.” While hiking across the muskeg tundra, the two came across “a big pile of very soggy grizzly bear droppings.” Schaller recalled, “One would be tempted to ignore them ... but Olaus knelt down and cupped the wet droppings in his hands. And with a great big grin, he looked at them and dissected them to see what the bear had eaten. That became just another small fact that cumulatively gave us some insights into what went on in the ecology of the area.” (p. 84–85)

In setting this research in the context of his own considerable experience in and first-hand knowledge of the ANWR, Kaye presents an engaging portrait of the complexities and ambiguities that colour the politics of conservation. In one camp there are the conservationists, going forward with the whole-earth convictions of Aldo Leopold and their Ernest Thompson Setonesque views of Aboriginal people. In another there are the hunters who, in elected office, would put bounties on wolves and bald eagles (imagine!) to preserve game species like caribou and salmon. And still yet another constituency is formed by the state and federal politicians, who have the industrial lobby and their constituents to answer to when it comes to deciding if or how or when a large tract of public land would be withdrawn. Kaye navigates all of this with a singular clarity of purpose. His goal is to show how it was that in November 1960—just days after John F. Kennedy

was elected president—Frederick Seaton, the conservation-minded outgoing Secretary of the Interior, in what might have been his last official act, created the Arctic National Wildlife Range, not by statute but by executive order. It is quite a tale. (Kaye also explores the later name change, from “Range to “Refuge.”)

At its best, *Last Great Wilderness* reads like a whodunit, even though Kaye spills the beans in his Introduction, writing: “So as to not disappoint some readers in the final chapter, I’ll state now that only three of the values that motivated those who initiated and supported the effort to preserve the Arctic Range and that are detailed herein came to be explicitly stated in the range’s establishing order and formalized in ensuing regulations and policy” (p. xvii). At its less-than-best, the book is occasionally crowded with characters of questionable relevance to the main story (mentioned, as one must in a thesis, to show that the ground has been covered).

My biggest, though far from fatal, disappointment lies in the compartmentalized nature of the work. It was published in 2006, after five years of much publicized lobbying and politicking about whether or not the ANWR would be opened for oil and gas exploration. On 28 April 2005, both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate voted to approve the 2006 budget and thereby opened the door for drilling in a portion of the refuge. Yet Kaye has nothing to say about this, as if the book had been more or less written before all this happened, and delayed somehow in publication. It’s true that the subtitle “The campaign to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge” promises nothing of recent protests and politics. Nonetheless, I was expecting at least mention of ANWR doings that would bring the story up to the present. With the door now open to drilling, ANWR has lost credibility as a “symbol of restraint”; I would like to know what Kaye thinks about these latest developments.

That said, however, this 56-year-old pilot’s first book has much to recommend it. There is plenty here for anyone interested in the politics of northern science and conservation. It’s a handsome volume with a generous index and 39 pages of notes and references. Whether Roger Kaye earned his doctorate with this research, it doesn’t say, but were this reader on his examining committee, the verdict would be pass, with distinction. I’m guessing that this pilot, like many logistics folk, technicians, and research assistants who support northern science, is equally (or more) observant and tenaciously thoughtful as many of the principal investigators he’s ported through northern skies over the years.

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- DO GLACIERS LISTEN? LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS, & SOCIAL IMAGINATION. By JULIE CRUIKSHANK. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2005. ISBN 0-7748-1187-0 (paper). xii + 312 p., maps, b&w illus., notes, bib., index. Softbound. Cdn\$29.95.
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