

Knight of the Iron Cross, and rose to the rank of Leutnant (Second Lieutenant). He died at his home in Frankfurt on 12 May 1931, having just completed the manuscript of his book, which would lie unpublished for 74 years.

Dr. Frank Berger is to be commended for publishing this important manuscript. Lerner's book throws interesting new sidelights on many important events in the history of Svalbard that were already quite well documented, such as Andrée's and Wellman's attempts at flying to the North Pole, the Helgoland expedition, and the search for Schröder-Stranz. In other cases, e.g., his attempts at establishing coal-mining on Björnöya, his wintering with Johansen at Bohemannasset, and their sledge trip across Spitsbergen to Danskøya, his account provides the first details of events. By including footnotes and a biographical sketch of Lerner, as well as a fine selection of over 75 photos and a number of maps, Dr. Berger has greatly enhanced Lerner's original manuscript. In short, this book is a valuable addition to the literature on the history of Svalbard.

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#### THE WOMAN WHO MAPPED LABRADOR: THE LIFE AND EXPEDITION DIARY OF MINA HUBBARD.

By ROBERTA BUCHANAN, ANNE HART and BRYAN GREENE. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005. ISBN 0-7735-2924-1. 506 p., maps, b&w illus., bib., index. Hardbound. Cdn\$49.95.

Between June and August 1905, Mina Benson Hubbard and four indigenous guides undertook an arduous canoeing expedition from the community of North West River to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Ungava Bay by way of

the Naskaupi and George rivers in Labrador. In doing so, Hubbard sought to map hitherto unknown territory in Labrador and complete a journey undertaken unsuccessfully by her husband, Leonidas Hubbard, in 1903. On that occasion, the party of Hubbard, an inexperienced and naive American journalist, mistakenly bypassed the Naskaupi River and turned westwards into the Susan Brook. Two months later, with a bitter winter approaching, Hubbard made a series of significant errors of judgement, which culminated in his death by starvation and the subsequent failure of the rest of the group to complete the trek. Determined to exonerate her husband's reputation, Mina Benson Hubbard employed George Elson, the chief guide from her husband's expedition, to lead her to the George River post. On the same day, another journey with this goal was launched by Dillon Wallace, also a member of the ill-fated 1903 Hubbard party. Mina Benson Hubbard completed her mission before Wallace and reached the Hudson's Bay Company post, becoming the first documented non-indigenous person to follow this route. Hubbard's book about the expedition, *A Woman's Way through Unknown Labrador*, was based on her original expedition diary. It was published in 1908 by John Murray in London, England, and William Briggs in Toronto, Ontario. Out of print between 1920 and 1981 (when Breakwater Press published a lacklustre paperback edition without the original introduction, map, and index), Hubbard's book was only recently edited by Sherrill Grace and republished in 2004 by McGill-Queen's University Press. Buchanan, Hart, and Greene's *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador: The Life and Expedition Diary of Mina Hubbard*, released in 2005 during the centenary of her epic voyage, marks the first biography of this remarkable woman and the first publication of her original expedition diary.

A comparison of the expedition diary in *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador* with Mina Benson Hubbard's published book reveals that Hubbard glossed over details that depicted her in an unflattering light and highlighted other incidents in order to heighten the readership appeal. The diary illustrates that she is a much more emotionally complex person than is evident in the book. For example, in the expedition diary, she is unguarded about venting her wrath on Dillon Wallace, a man she believes besmirched her husband's professional reputation. She also uses the diary as a means of cathartic release as she mourns the death of her young husband. However, her diary also corroborates the most striking elements of her book: her fair-minded, progressive attitude towards indigenous people, including her guides and those whom the expedition encountered along the way, and the manner in which she identifies herself as an intrepid traveler rather than a conqueror of new lands (and peoples).

Arguably, two of the most influential early writers on Labrador are Dillon Wallace and Warburton Pike. Wallace's *The Lure of the Labrador Wild* (1905) and *The Long Labrador Trail* (1907) and Pike's earlier (and less seminal) *The Barren Ground of Northern Canada* (1892)

and *Through the Subarctic Forest* (1896) had a wide readership that helped to shape late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century views about Labrador. Yet, as Grace asserts in her introduction to *A Woman's Way through Unknown Labrador* (2004), the works of Wallace and Pike invoke a "rhetoric of conquest and racial superiority" (p. liii), portraying the land as a virgin territory to be possessed and local people as stereotypical, one-dimensional characters. The distasteful attitude of macho bravado and blatant racism prevalent in the works of Wallace and Pike is typical of this period.

Indeed, texts by other male explorers of circumpolar and Subarctic regions, including Robert Falcon Scott and Robert Peary, also reflect these colonialist perspectives. Although one could not ascribe a more realistic and sensitive portrayal of indigenous peoples solely to women (William Brooks Cabot in Labrador and Mary Kingsley in West Africa being notable exceptions), the works of many female explorers, including Mina Benson Hubbard, convey a more candid and less distorted portrayal of the individuals and cultures they encountered.

Mina Benson Hubbard documented her own accomplishments in undertaking such a formidable journey and presented a more human aspect of Labrador to her readers. At the time Hubbard's book was published, tales of "exotic" northern peoples thrilled European audiences tantalized by tales of the "other." This prurient interest extended to the public exhibition of indigenous people who had been coerced from their northern homes to be displayed in England. In both her expedition diary and published book, Hubbard's depiction of the people she interacted and worked with on her journey helped to dispel the discriminatory concept of the "noble savage" fostered by such activities. Yet, she does not romanticize these people, and the respect she accords them on the basis of their knowledge and experience of the land sets her apart from other explorers of her time.

Roy (2005) was the first to examine Hubbard's contributions in a geographical context, but Bryan Greene has extended her analysis in *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador*. Greene notes that Mina Benson Hubbard, despite her deprecatory remarks about her own abilities, nevertheless corrected earlier inaccuracies and errors in mapping that existed in A.P. Low's map of Labrador prepared for the Geological Survey (the map that had caused her husband's expedition to go astray). As Cabot (1908:27) commented in his Introduction to Mina Benson Hubbard's book originally published in 1908:

The most important of the results was the mapping of Northwest River. Its source, as the outlet of Michikamau, had already been astronomically located by Low. Half the length of the river, more or less, had been navigated by the Indians, the other half not even by them. ... The size and importance of the river made its final establishment upon the map a contribution much appreciated by geographers.

Apart from reproducing Mina Benson Hubbard's expedition diary, *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador* skillfully weaves together multidisciplinary, analytical commentary by the three authors, each of whom focuses on a different aspect of Hubbard. This broadens the appeal of the book to readers beyond those with a passion for Labrador, exploration literature, or northern studies. Roberta Buchanan, Professor Emerita of English at Memorial University, edited the diary and examined it from a literary perspective. Her discussion includes the aesthetics of the Labrador landscape; the intersection between gender, race, and class in Hubbard's work; and the expedition diary as feminist autobiography. Anne Hart, honorary research historian at the Centre for Newfoundland Studies at Memorial, wrote the abbreviated biography of Mina Benson Hubbard, which investigates Hubbard's life as a supporter of socialist and feminist causes in England following her Labrador expedition. Bryan Greene, former director of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador and avid canoeist, contributed 19 maps depicting various stages of Hubbard's journey and reviewed her scientific contributions. With this book, as with the 2004 edition of *A Woman's Way through Unknown Labrador*, McGill-Queen's University Press has added another impressive and beautifully designed volume to the Mina Benson Hubbard corpus.

As outlined in *The Woman Who Mapped Labrador: The Life and Expedition Diary of Mina Hubbard*, Hubbard's expedition diary highlighted the invaluable geographic data she gathered during her journey and documented her encounters and relationships with members of the Montagnais-Naskapi, the Inuit, and other groups. Her diary realistically and sympathetically portrayed the harsh beauty of the land and its peoples. Mina Hubbard has rightfully earned her place amongst the most daring and resourceful of explorers.

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