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Historical Reference to Ice Islands

Some years ago M. Dunbar¹ gave a detailed account of earlier ice reports which could refer to ice islands, as distinguished by G. Hattersley-Smith² from other ice in the polar sea by their great unit area, thickness, structural strength and rolling relief. Among the old descriptions of 'floes' and 'palaeocrystic ice' some of Greely's³ come closest to a description of an ice island. Another early report might be worth mentioning: Franz Boas, the German-born anthropologist and later professor at Columbia University states⁴ that in October 1883 a huge iceberg drifted into Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island. It had a height of 15 m. to 20 m., a length of 14 km. and a width of 6 km. The total thickness of 100 m. to 150 m. could be seen when the ice broke into pieces. The estimated volume was 13 km.³ Similar ice for-

mations of smaller size had been repeatedly encountered when approaching Cumberland Sound. The upper surface consisted of long low rounded parallel rolls with a wavelength of about 150 m. and extending over 1 km. to 3 km. The surface and the uppermost 2 m. of the ice contained stones; no stratification or crevasses were visible. The description fits that of a typical ice island. That ice islands from the northern coast of Ellesmere Island can reach Baffin Bay and Cumberland Sound is shown by the recent drift of ice island WH5⁵; a segment of at least 14 km.² passed through southern Davis Strait.

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ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE GRAND RAPIDS, MANITOBA, RESERVOIR 1961-62. BY WILLIAM J. MAYER-OAKES with a Chapter on Faunal Materials by PAUL W. LUKENS, JR. *Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1970. 6 x 9 inches, 397 pages, 135 figures, 34 tables. \$8.00 cloth, \$5.00 paperbound.*

This is a report on the archaeological survey and excavations in the area to be affected by the Grand Rapids Hydro-electric Project in the lower reaches of the Saskatchewan river before it flows into Lake Winnipeg. The field work was done under the direction of William J. Mayer-Oakes in 1961 and 1962 but

the report was not written until 1969 and may well be Mayer-Oakes' last major contribution to Manitoba archaeology.

Some 39 sites were located along 25 miles of the river and lake shore in the area to be flooded by the dam. Most of the sites, because of the physical conditions, rested on only a few inches of soil. Five sites had some depth and these were sampled by means of test pits. Mayer-Oakes identifies a sequence of five successive cultural phases beginning with 1) a Pre-ceramic complex to be equated with the McKean period in the northern Plains of about 2500 B.C.; 2) the Laurel phase of about A.D. 1; 3) the Manitoba phase, followed by 4) the Selkirk phase which

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has as a subdivision identified by multiple punctate rims, and then 5) a historic phase within which several significant temporal variations can be recognized. The late Blackduck or Manitoba phase materials are equated with Assiniboine occupation and the Selkirk phase ceramics with the Cree. The interrelationships between these two are complex and in the Grand Rapids area the Assiniboine prehistoric material seems to be later than that of the Cree.

The archaeological phases represented are in the southern part of the Boreal Forest zone. The initial preceramic occupation seems to have intruded from the Plains to the west and southwest. Mayer-Oakes thinks the first ceramic phase (Laurel) "probably" is a result of a cultural thrust from Asia through the boreal forest. The succeeding cultural complexes are tied to the mixed hardwood and boreal forest hunting and fishing economic patterns. The sites are primarily small hunting or fishing camps while a few because of their locations such as the Tailrace Bay site were the scene of extensive exploitation of sturgeon.

There is a short report by Mrs. Sansoucy Walker on the historic period clay pipes which is said on p. 249 to be "Immediately below" but does not appear until p. 282, and ends on p. 288. The conclusions on p. 289 are apparently Mayer-Oakes' and contain suggestions for future analyses of all the historic trade material, and are not those of Mrs. Walker. An important 45-page chapter on the faunal material from the Tailrace Bay Site is provided by Paul W. Lukens. His interpretations emphasize the adaptation of the occupants of the site over a long time period to the boreal forest and littoral environment with no indications of climatic change. The appearance of the deer and elk during the last seventy years is the result of environmental changes from Canadian occupation.

The volume is an important contribution to Canadian archaeology both because of the presentation of new and distinctive data, and also because it represents a plateau of accomplishments under the leadership of Mayer-Oakes and presents a strong impetus to future archaeological work in the province.

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ARCTIC TOWNSMEN: ETHNIC BACK-
GROUNDS AND MODERNIZATION. BY
JOHN J. and IRMA HONIGMANN. *Ottawa: Canadian Research Centre for Anthropology, St. Paul University, 1970. 6 x 9 inches, 303 pages, 72 illustrations, 6 maps, tables. \$7.00 (paper).*

The Honigmans bring anthropological methods to bear on their analysis of Inuvik, a new Canadian town located on the Mackenzie River in the delta. Professor Honigmann, well known for his theoretical contributions to the field of culture and personality, has that aspect as one of his primary concerns. Another feature of the study is the problem of community definition, especially in view of the varied ethnic backgrounds of the inhabitants of the town. What the Honigmans have to say about the problems of modernization has relevance for any investigator, in whatever discipline, who in the course of his arctic work must come to grips with the human dimension. Produced here is a richly detailed description of Inuvik, its people, its institutions, and especially of its children, the rising younger generation on whom hopes for the future depend. The study compares favourably with the 1965 study by the same authors, *Eskimo Townsmen*.

Inuvik — it is refreshing to find that the town is described as it is, with its inhabitants, its problems, and its setting without any attempt to preserve a kind of false anonymity — is a new community, now the largest in the Mackenzie Delta area, dependent for its growth at the expense of such other communities as Aklavik, on increasing industrialization and schools. The issue in the community, now that the tribal phase is passed and the various ethnic groups of the area have come together, is one of the creation of solidarity. Does an essentially isolated arctic community find the bases for the creation of an integrated economic, social, and political unit? To some degree, the answer is affirmative.

The ethnic composition of Inuvik is rendered complex by the presence of the Eskimos, the various Indian groups, and by that of the various so-called Metis. To this complexity may be added the population of outsiders, those partially assimilated into a "native" community, as well as those whose residence in the area is at best temporary. The end result is the creation of a societal division with a non-native elite and a native population with its accompanying ethnic diversity. This distinction, in fact, is discernible in the physical development of the town. To some degree, the external norms, those of Anglo-America, impinge upon the native ones. To put the matter in another way, it would seem that here are native groups of people who have in large measure lost the affinity with the native past and who become in effect "hangers-on" in the Anglo-Saxon type society in which they find themselves. Yet this is not a wholly correct view, as the