

A Tale of Adventure from 2010 PLC in Bremerhaven

The Wadden Sea: To Neuwerk by Wattwagen

by *Sandy Campbell*

J.W. Scott Heath Sciences Library, Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton and *Elaine Maloney*

Executive Assistant to the Director, Canadian Circumpolar Institute (CCI), and Managing Editor, CCI Press, University of Alberta, Edmonton

One of the unwritten mandates of the Polar Libraries Colloquy is to give participants the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of other parts of the polar world. Within the 2010 Colloquy, our excellent host, Marcel Brannemann of the Alfred Wegener Institute, had arranged for attendees to tour several local facilities. In addition, for those who could stay an extra day, Marcel organized a horse-drawn wagon tour across the Wadden Sea.

Early on Saturday morning, Marcel and his partner Kathrin Gitmans picked us up in the Institute's van and drove the group, which also included Sharon Tahirkheli, about 30 km northwest to the coastal village of Cuxhaven. The trip north took us past numerous wind farms, with cultivated crops beneath the twirling turbines.

Our destination for the day was the 1.2 sq km island of Neuwerk, which lies about 10 km across the tidal flats, accessible only at low tide by special horse-drawn "Wattwagen" (or, for the more adventurous, on horseback; or for the extreme sport enthusiasts, on foot!).



Cuxhaven - Neuwerk map.

(Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons File: [Jade-weser-muendung_map_de.png](#))

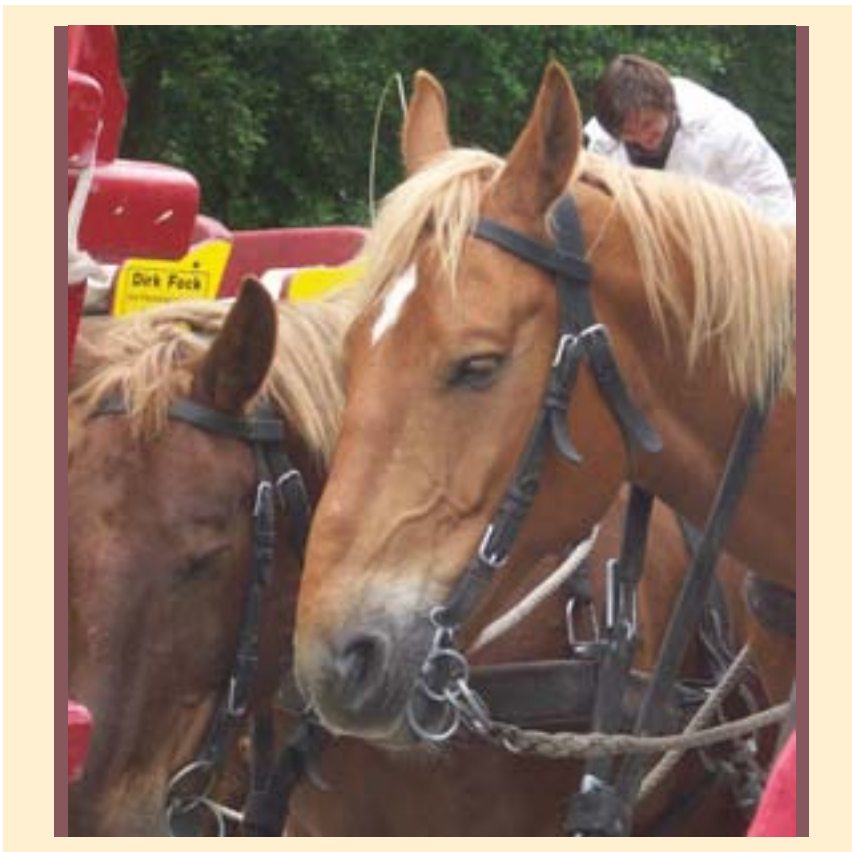


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Arriving at the Fock stables, we found six, very high, red and yellow wagons waiting to have teams hitched to them. Each wagon had three seats to accommodate a total of nine people. There were also numerous



*Wagons ready.
(All photographs courtesy of Elaine Maloney)*



Horse team.

horseback riders milling around waiting to accompany us out onto the flats.

Our driver was an older man who looked as though he had worked with horses all his life. Instead of the familiar slap of the reins accompanied by a 'giddy-up' to get the horses to move along and the 'whoa' to stop them, his calls were something close to 'whoa' for go and a whirring sound for 'stop.' The horses seemed to understand him, even if Marcel found it difficult to interpret the man's Low German.

Once we had climbed the ladder and seated ourselves, we were given warm blankets to cover our knees. The blankets were covered

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In Memoriam: Beatrice Peep Wenger (1920–2010)

by *Ron Inouye*, former editor of the *Bibliography of Alaska and Polar Regions*
Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

In the small village cemetery of Mies, Switzerland, near Geneva, rest two people whose hearts and minds have become a part of ours. Hubert Wenger (1927–1995), and more recently his wife, Beatrice, were modern day adventurers of the Arctic, smitten during a 1970 visit to Greenland and subsequently devoted to returning to the Arctic’s indigenous people the first written observations and accounts of the northern regions by adventurers, explorers, scientists, and visitors.

Beatrice and her siblings lived through difficult times growing up in Holland, surviving and eventually prospering in the post-war years. In her later years, the physical toll of working as a war nurse with inadequate shoes became evident through numerous foot and balance difficulties. Her family founded the Vroom and Dressman Department Store chain, which subsequently provided the finances for the Wenger’s interests.

Befriending the Wengers during their UAF Rasmuson Library visits, I was invited to their home in Mies and introduced to a life and a part of the world I would never have otherwise experienced. I subsequently visited after attending Polar Library Colloquies in Europe, and I helped Beatrice after Hubert’s death in 1995. Initially, although Hubert was confined to a wheelchair, we ventured into France to visit his favorite places to reminisce about



*Beatrice Wenger in her garden, 1980.
(Photograph courtesy of Nancy Lesh)*



Beatrice and Hubert Wenger, taken late 1980s in Fairbanks. (Photograph courtesy of Alaska and Polar Regions Department, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks)

his passion—fly fishing—with notables like “Charles” of the Paris Ritz Hotel, drinking good wine with old friends, and gracious and leisurely dining with wonderful conversation and memorable food.

Attendees of the Paris Northern Libraries Colloquy remember similar gracious hospitality, food, and wine. Beatrice took great pride in her lovely garden ablaze in blossoms and shaped shrubbery in which any unwanted plant (weed) was assiduously pursued by her educated eye and practiced trowel.

With Beatrice, riding the famous Brienz Rothorn steam train to the mountaintop, we discovered



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a religious shrine with a donation box. Beatrice's eyes twinkled as she placed a large denomination bill into the box and laughed, "Wait until the priest collecting the proceeds discovers this!" As Hubert's health prevented him from driving, I had the privilege of driving them to the neighboring French village to visit a residence for retired priests. Along the way we stopped at several shops, selecting wines and select cuts of meat as gifts. The priests were as pleased and grateful as Hubert and Beatrice were delighted to be able to provide these unexpected luxuries.

In Anchorage, Hubert and Beatrice made the acquaintance of a French nun who spent her working career on Little Diomed Island before retiring to Anchorage. Over a decade, they took great pleasure in seeing her on their Alaska trips, and they provided the Sister with the opportunity to return to France for a family visit.

Numerous Rasmuson Library personnel worked on the [Wenger Eskimo Database](#) project. Returning annually to UAF, laden with Swiss chocolates, the Wengers would distribute those items,

remembering the names and family members of the faculty, staff, and students. Beatrice took particular interest in several of the students' academic work and financed their continued education or other special projects.

After Hubert's death and completion of the database, and with no children of their own, Beatrice devoted her energies to helping orphans in Africa and Peru. Devout Roman Catholics with particular appreciation of the intellectual and spiritual work of the Jesuits, the Wengers assisted Jesuit-directed orphanages in the Ivory Coast, later relocated to the neighboring nation of Burkina Faso due to political instability. Concerned about the lack of opportunities for young girls, Beatrice sponsored a home and training school for street children in Peru. She was extremely proud of its success.

It has been a privilege to have known Hubert and Beatrice. May Hubert's database continue to enlighten all about the Arctic's indigenous peoples, and may Beatrice's spirit continue to flower in the improved lives of children in Burkino Faso and Peru.



2010 Wenger Award Winner Writes...

Dear Colleagues,

By winning the Wenger Award, I was able to attend the 2010 Polar Libraries Colloquy in Bremerhaven, Germany, and to present a paper on how libraries used electronic communication during the 2007–08 International Polar Year. I addressed how polar libraries collaborated to preserve and make available the reams of data collected by those scientists and researchers during the IPY.

This was my first trip to Germany, and I loved it! Bremerhaven is a beautiful city, sitting on the coast of the North Sea. The people were friendly and the views from our hotel were breathtaking. I enjoyed my trip immensely, learning a lot from all of the presenters and the wonderful tours that Marcel arranged.

Many thanks,

Gloria Hicks, Roger G. Barry Resource Office for Cryospheric Studies, National Snow & Ice Data Center, CIRES, University of Colorado at Boulder



A Note from the PLC Chair

There is no doubt that these are difficult financial times for libraries. The Danish Polar Library was miraculously saved last year when it was incorporated into the University of Copenhagen library, and we sincerely hope for a good outcome for the Italian Polar Library, which is currently in limbo following the threat to the Italian Antarctic Program. In Australia, many government libraries are being severely cut back and when a library manager retires or moves on, the opportunity is often taken to downgrade the position. I'm sure that Australia is not unique in this regard, as budgets suffer in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis.

So it was with some apprehension that I recently decided to retire from the Australian Antarctic Division (but not from PLC just yet!), preparing if necessary to fight a long battle to retain the status of my position and the continued viability of the AAD Library. But so far so good—my position is to be advertised shortly at its current level, and I fully expect to be involved in the selection of my successor. I'll have more details for you in the next *Bulletin*.

In a small special library such as mine, opportunities to access special extra funding are few and far between, particularly in the current financial environment. It's very much a waiting game and involves plenty of patience and some disappointments along the way. But I'm pleased to report that five years after purchasing Softlink's Liberty Library Management System, I have finally secured funding to upgrade from version 3 to version 5 and this will be happening over the next few months. As the saying goes, everything (well, not quite everything) comes to him who waits!

Best wishes,
Andie Smithies, PLC Chair
Australian Antarctic Division
Kingston, Tasmania

Italian Antarctic Program Polar Library: An Update

Dear polar fellows,

I am writing to inform you that from July 2010, the Library of the Italian National Antarctic Research Program has unfortunately ceased its activities. This is due to the fact that the Consorzio PNRA is currently under closure.

A ministerial decree entrusts the research program to two institutions, ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development) and CNR (National Research Council), which are developing the new mission. From what I know, the library is going to survive, but all the modalities are yet to be defined.

I hope to be able to have good news soon.

All the best,
Silvia Sarti

Biblioteca PNRA
Centro Ricerche ENEA Casaccia
Via Anguillarese, 301 - 00123 Roma
biblioteca@consorzio.pnra.it
www.pnra.it/biblioteca/





The Byrd Polar Research Center: A Recap of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Events and Projects

by *Lynn Lay*

Goldthwait Polar Library, Ohio State University

The Byrd Polar Research Center (formerly the Institute of Polar Studies) at The Ohio State University celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010, having been officially formalized in February 1960. A group of researchers at Ohio State were working in a data reduction center as a result of the International Geophysical Year, 1957–1958. These scientists had collected data from U.S. Army contract work in Greenland during the IGY. Interest in polar studies intensified after the IGY and during the International Geophysical Cooperation (IGC) in 1959.

It became apparent that there were plenty of opportunities for research in polar phenomena and that there was a core group of experts already at Ohio State interested in conducting the research. Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, then a university professor in the Geology Department, was a driving force in getting the Institute established and became its first director. The beginning years of the Institute are documented in a 1969 report by Garry McKenzie and John Spletstoeser, *History of the Institute of Polar Studies, 1960–1969*, available in OSU's institutional repository, the [Knowledge Bank](#).

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Byrd Center, two local organizing committees were formed in 2009 to work on the anniversary activities. One committee was tasked with general public outreach and engagement; the other was dedicated to scientific enterprises that included organizing and setting agendas for two workshops and a symposium. Public lectures, a major exhibition, and a video project were also planned as part of the 2010 year-long anniversary celebration.

In March 2010, the Byrd Center partnered with the Wexner Center for the Arts on campus to host a panel discussion about climate change and culture. This panel consisted of artists and scientists discussing the growing threat of climate change. Panelists brought their personal and professional views into focus while discussing their work and taking questions from the audience. The event was well attended and served as the kick-off for the rest of the celebration activities.



In April and May 2010, a series of public lectures were held in the newly renovated William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library on the main campus of the university. The lectures covered a variety of subjects, including the history of research in the Polar Regions and global climate change, as well as a panel discussion about careers in polar research.

In conjunction with the lectures, an exhibition, *The Byrd Polar Research Center (1960–2010): Celebrating Scientific Discoveries, Achievements and Global Exploration* was curated in the Thompson Gallery by Laura Kissel and Lynn Lay. The exhibition featured the history of the Center, material selected from collections in the Polar Archives and the Goldthwait Polar Library, and current research. More than 900 visitors attended the exhibit, which garnered



The gallery exhibition highlighted archival materials as well as contemporary items. Featured here, an advertising poster for a Byrd lecture, images taken by current Byrd Center scientists in the field, as well as a variety of images, books, and artifacts. (Photographs courtesy of Lynn Lay)



Byrd Polar Research Center *continued from page 6*

quite a bit of public attention due to increased foot traffic within the brand new library setting. Our intern, Sasha Griffin, videotaped and narrated the individual cases and the walls of the exhibit, creating a lasting digital version of the exhibition. Her narration is available on the [Byrd Archival Program's YouTube site](#).

The Byrd Fellowship Interview Project was another anniversary initiative organized by Lynn Lay and Laura Kissel. The Byrd Fellowship Program was established at the Center in 1985 through a major gift from the Byrd Foundation in memory of Rear Admiral Richard Byrd and his wife, Marie Ames Byrd. The program provides fellowships for post-doctoral researchers interested in pursuing advanced research on polar-related issues.

For this project, 24 past and current Byrd Fellows were asked to participate in the interview process, and 15 of them agreed. The ultimate goal was to create a cohesive video product to be shown during our anniversary events. Individuals were asked basic questions regarding their experiences as a Byrd Fellow. We wanted to know who their mentors were at the Center, how the time spent at the Byrd Center helped to shape their careers, what they worked on then, and what their research interests are now. The interviews were conducted using a variety of methods, including videoconferencing, videotaping of the interviewees in the library, and Skype.

The director of the Byrd Center, Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson, enhanced the final product by allowing us to videotape her discussing the importance of the Fellowship Program. Sasha Griffin made portions of the raw interviews into a movie using iMovie; she edited the interviews, added titles, the credits, and the music. The final product was very



well received and will soon be hosted on the Byrd Center's website on the Byrd Fellowship page, as well as on YouTube. The original interviews have been accessioned in the Polar Archives.

The anniversary events culminated in two scientific workshops and a symposium. In July 2010, the Polar Meteorology Group, led by Dr. David Bromwich, hosted two workshops in succession at the Byrd Center: the 5th Antarctic Meteorological Observation, Modeling, & Forecasting Workshop, and the International Workshop on Antarctic Clouds. Information on the workshops and an abstract volume is available from the [Polar Meteorology Group's website](#).

In August 2010 the Byrd Center co-hosted a meeting with the International Glaciological Society, held at the also newly renovated Ohio Union on the main campus of OSU. Proceedings of the symposium will be available in a future volume of the *Annals of Glaciology*. Information about the symposium is available at bprc.osu.edu/workshops/igs_2010/.

McKenzie and Splettstoesser are in the process of writing the "rest of the story," which will bring us up to the 50th anniversary. With the passage of 50 years, quite a few things have changed. The mission of the Center has been revised and updated several times, and new research groups and new research foci have been established.

The Byrd Polar Archival Program, Education and Outreach, Satellite Hydrology, and Remote Sensing groups are just a few examples of the research expansion of the Center. Even the Center's name and campus location have changed. However, one goal remains the same—excellence in multidisciplinary research. Information about the Byrd Center, its research groups, and activities is available on its homepage at www.bprc.osu.edu.

This RadarSat map of Antarctica was produced by the Remote Sensing Lab at the Byrd Center. To the left of the map is a key which lists the geographic features named after Byrd Center members. The photo was taken during the installation of the exhibition in the Thompson Gallery.



From a Mountain Station in the Khibiny Mountains to the Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences: 80 Years of History

by *Elena I. Makarova*, Head, Scientific Archive
and *Dr. Valentin P. Petrov*, Director
Kola Science Center, Russia

The Kola Science Centre (KSC) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), the largest scientific complex in the Barents/Euro-Arctic region, celebrated its 80th anniversary in the fall of 2010. Its history began with a research mountain station known as “Tietta,” the first scientific institution of the Academy of Sciences in the Khibiny Mountains, established in 1930 by A. Ye. Fersman. In fact, Tietta was a success in terms of integrating science and the industrial production of mineral resources exploration in the Kola North in the 20th century.

In the 21st century, and with the accelerating pace of Russia’s social and economic reorganization, we face the challenge of finding new mechanisms for the economic development of the North. At the same time, the practical experience acquired in the 1930s of an integrated approach to developing northern areas, although frequently criticized, is strongly sought-after with the development of large industrial town-centers, and social, cultural, and educational full-scale infrastructure. This inevitably brings to mind academician A. Ye. Fersman’s words: “Construction and development of the Kola Peninsula is an exclusively important training; the training in the development methods of the North outlying districts. Thereupon, the reconstruction of the North industrial development history is undoubtedly the social requirement of the time in the context of scientific activity of the Academy of Sciences in the Kola Peninsula.”

The scientists of the Barents Centre of the Humanities have produced a research report, *The Kola Science Centre: Chronicles of 1930–2010*, a work that is the result of the collaborative efforts of scientists over the 80 years of activity of the Academy of Science in the Kola Peninsula. The report was written within the framework of a research program, “Dominants of the historical development and the function of science in the research and formation of innovation potential of the Kola North” under the auspices of the Barents Centre of the Humanities of the KSC.

The publication was prepared in the form of chronicles for a good reason. Written for a general public audience, it gives an idea of the most important stages of the formation and development of academic



The Khibiny research station “Tietta,” USSR Academy of Sciences, c. 1930s. (Photographs courtesy of the Kola Science Centre)



The founder of the Kola Science Centre of the RAS, A. Ye. Fersman, with the workers of “Tietta,” 1932.



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science, starting from the early history through the latest and most important developments of contemporary times for the Kola Science Centre. Proceeding from educational and propagandist tasks, the publication includes: 1) Introduction; 2) Prehistory; 3) 1920–1930s: from expeditions to “Tietta;” 4) 1930–1934: the Khibiny Mountain Station; 5) 1934–1949: the Kola base of the USSR AS; 6) 1949–1988: the Kola branch of the USSR AS; 7) 1988–2010: the Kola Science Centre of the USSR AS – RAS; and 8) List of references.

Every section of the report is the result of laborious research, consisting of identifying and analyzing historical sources, both published and those introduced for scientific use. Some documents from the Scientific Archive of the KSC and the Museum-Archive of the Barents Centre of the Humanities of KSC appear in the chronicle after a long period of oblivion, and throw light on the history of scientific exploration of the region. Thus, the list of documents chosen for publication includes materials connected with organizational activity, photos of historically important conferences held by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and some events from scientists’ daily routine and everyday life. Careful historical reconstruction of the source base was performed by the scientists of the Barents

Centre of the Humanities and the Scientific Archive of the KSC, in conjunction with the Information Department. The source base was preserved in hard copy and gradually digitized, and the electronic version of chronicles was then issued.

The preparation and publication of these chronicles is also timely for a number of other reasons. Besides the 80-year anniversary of the KSC, 2011 is also the anniversary year for the town of Khibinogorsk (now Kirovsk) where the mountain station “Tietta” of the Academy of Sciences, later the Kola base of the AS of USSR, was originally situated. These anniversary dates of importance to the history of Apatity-Kirovsk initiated the decision of the Presidium of the KSC of RAS to publish the most significant archival documents covering the history of scientific exploration of the region. The chronicle format makes it possible, step by step, to see the dynamics of organizational arrangements. It also illustrates the resulting events and gives a better feel through the historical records for the spirit of the time of grandiose scientific discoveries and their implementation in the life of the region.

More information is available from the KSC website at www.kolasc.net.ru.



Modern-day Kirovsk as seen from the aerial tramway. (Photograph courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
File: [Kirovsk_winter.jpg](#))



Alaska Library Association Announces Winner of the 2011 Alaskana Award

by *Jude Baldwin* and *Sylvia Burns* (retired)
Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries, Alaska

The Alaska Library Association's Alaskana Award Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2011 Alaskana Award for titles published in 2010 is *Yup'ik Yuraryarait: Yup'ik Ways of Dancing*, by James H. Barker and Ann Fienup-Riordan with Theresa Arevgaq John; translations by Marie Meade, David Chanar, and Alice Rearden (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press).

Each year the Alaskana Award honors titles that make a significant contribution to the understanding of Alaska and exhibit originality, depth of research, and knowledge of the state. This year it is especially satisfying to honor authors who have not won the award before but whose collective body of work has consistently provided new insights about Alaska. Fienup-Riordan's book, *Yuungnaqpiallerput / The Way We Genuinely Live*, was awarded the William Mills Prize Honorary Mention at the 2008 PLC Colloquy in Edmonton.

Yup'ik Yuraryarait looks at dance as an expression of Yup'ik history and culture by blending research, oral history, song lyrics, and choreography. Chapters include subjects such as the origins of dancing, the influence of Yup'ik worldviews on dancing, the props (such as drums, fans, and masks) used in the dances, song composition, and Yup'ik dancing's historical suppression as well as its revival. The comprehensive text comes alive with Barker's black and white photographs, and his mostly candid shots of people dancing capture moments full of animation and motion, sweat and intensity, happiness and fun. A DVD showing archival footage of dancing and interviews with dancers, both young and old, accompanies the book. The book credits its many Yup'ik contributors and includes a glossary of relevant Yup'ik terms, a bibliography, and an index. By the end of this unique book, we understand why elder Paul John declared that "dancing is our most important custom."

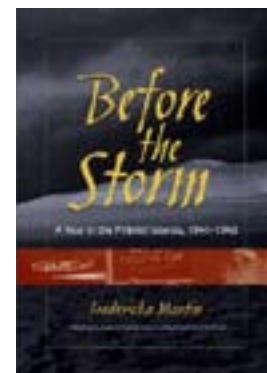
In addition to *Yup'ik Yuraryarait*, the committee received two other nominations: *Before the Storm: A Year in the Pribilof Islands, 1941–1942*, by Fredericka Martin, edited with supplemental material by Ray



Hudson (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press); and *Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage: The First Peoples of Alaska*, edited by Aron Crowell, Rosita Worl, Paul C. Ongtooguk, and Dawn Biddison (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Books).

Before the Storm tells the story of physician Samuel Berenberg and his wife Fredericka Martin, who arrived in late June of 1941 on St. Paul Island, where Berenberg had been newly hired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to her background in nursing and management, Fredericka Martin was a keen observer, well read, socially adept, and a tireless (unpaid) worker when it came to improving the clinic and hospital.

She began a journal, chronicling what life was like on St. Paul during what turned out to be a pivotal year in Pribilof history—a year which began with the Pribilof people in a serf-like status, then the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese aggression in the Aleutians, and eventually the evacuation of the people to Southeast Alaska. In the midst of this she started work on a manuscript combining her





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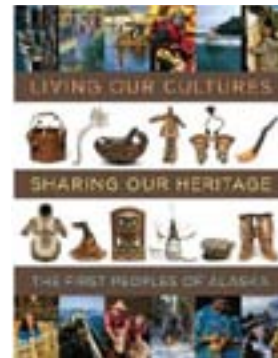
impressions with excerpts from her reading. Her thoughtful, readable prose is supplemented with material added by the noted Aleutian historian Ray Hudson.

Living Our Cultures, Sharing Our Heritage was compiled to accompany an exhibit of the same name at the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center, which is partnered and co-located with the Anchorage Museum. The bulk of the book is a collection of object photos and essays covering Inupiaq, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Yup'ik, Unangax (Aleut), Sugpiaq (Alutiiq), Athabascan, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures. The photography of the objects is particularly wonderful: you can almost feel the textures of the leather, wood, or other material from which the object is made—only seeing them in person could be better.

Each page is devoted entirely to one object (or a set of objects, such as a bowl and spoon). Below each image is the object's provenance, a description of and information about the object, a second photo

or artwork showing the item in use, and a quote that provides a personal element of context. This additional material, along with the essays that accompany each chapter, effectively breathes life into the otherwise still objects. The book's essays address topics such as the relationship between culture and the environment, ideas about community and family, and cultural ceremonies and celebrations.

For further information, please see the Smithsonian Arctic Science Center section of the Anchorage Museum webpages at www.anchoragemuseum.org/expansion/smithsonian.aspx.



2012 PLC News Flash!

The 2012 planning group has announced June 11–14 as the dates of the 2012 PLC. The 24th Colloquy will be held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, with a group rate available at the nearby Boulder Inn Best Western hotel. The dates are posted on the [PLC website](#).

Attendees may want to go on to Robert Stephenson's [Antarctic Circle event](#) in New Hampshire, scheduled for June 15–17, so the Colloquy dates will allow for travel time.

University of the Arctic Update

by *Sandy Campbell*, J.W. Scott Heath Sciences Library
Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton

I will be attending the Council meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland, June 6–10, 2011. The UArctic Learning Environment group will meet in advance of the Council. We had a conference call in February, during which we agreed to use the Arctic Portal as a form of library catalogue and digital repository. This will be a workable solution until UArctic reaches the point of needing to supply licensed materials for its users.

A break-out session on the Digital Library will be held at the Council meeting so that we can discuss how to make the Arctic Portal serve as an interim library catalogue for now. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at sandy.campbell@ualberta.ca.



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with rubberized tarps that were then tied down on the sides of the wagon. This should have given us an inkling of what was to come!

The day had begun windy and cool with scattered showers. The wind was strong enough to push the water back towards land, and there was concern that the crossing might be too dangerous for the people on horseback. We waited until 11:00 A.M. to be sure.

Once underway, we trotted through the leafy streets of Cuxhaven, and then came to the staging area for the crossings. There were many more wagons there and many people, including school children, on foot. Among the walkers were a half dozen men dressed in fake Scottish regalia—pretend kilts and matching tams with fake hair attached. Clearly they had been partying for some time. As our driver took our wagon through the sandy beach and out onto the sea bed, we didn't give them another thought.

Marcel announced at the start of the crossing, "We are going to that island out there"—a spot of land on the horizon that looked several days away. The serpentine trail wound across the sea and seemingly went on forever.

There were about six inches of water on the flats as we began our crossing. We were well back in a long wagon train following a trail marked by dead bushes. Silhouetted against the grey horizon and reminiscent of something from "I Was There on the



Trotting through Cuxhaven.



Fake Scotsmen.



Wagon train.



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Oregon Trail,” we could see another wagon train that had gotten an earlier start from a village further down the coast.

As soon as the horses began to trot, we understood the need for the rubber tarps. Riding ‘shotgun’ (beside the driver), we would have been soaked through with the 16 degree C water had we not had them. The crossing was windy, rainy, and cold and we wished we’d brought our toques and mittens.

About halfway across, we had to ford a river. The horses were up to their bellies, and water came in through the floorboards of the wagon. Some of the wagons hit holes obscured by the water as they passed through at quite a cant. Our driver knew the route well enough that we missed the holes, sparing us that excitement.

As we came closer to the island, the tide had receded further, and the mussel and oyster beds were visible. There were many gulls and oystercatchers having a field day.



Riding shotgun.



Fording the river.



River crossing.



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Arriving on the island, we drove along a dyke to a tea house and inn operated by the same company as our wagons. The sun came out, and we were glad to get down from the wagons, stretch, and warm up. In order to get back before the tide came in, we could only spend 45 minutes on the island. We had a light lunch and then got back in the wagon for the return trip.



Neuwerk, with dyke on left.

The tour on the return took us through the middle of the island, past three farms, several restaurants, campgrounds, and a school that serves three students. The island also has one bath, two landing stages, and a pleasure craft harbor.

The highlight of the tour was the 700-year-old lighthouse, originally a 13th or 14th century defensive tower, which at 35 m, is the primary landmark for the island. Neuwerk is also the home of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park Information Centre. Yes...Hamburg. In spite of being about 120 km from that city, this island in the mouth of the Elbe River has been an outpost of the City of Hamburg since 1299. Neuwerk, the surrounding mudflats, and several other islands make up the National Park.



Stretching our legs.



Neuwerk.



School.



*Lighthouse,
700 years old.*



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Back on the tidal flats, our train of about 25 wagons moved along much as it had on our trek out, albeit a much more pleasant ride, being warmer with the wind at our backs. The people on horseback sometimes tracked along with us, and sometimes galloped off across the sea bed, enjoying the unrestricted spaces.

About halfway back, we encountered more wagons taking people out to the island, and then we saw all of those walkers we had left in the staging area. We were told that, after the tide came in, a boat would come out to take them back from the island to the mainland.



The brave walkers.

There were some safety nets in place, however. If any of the walkers were inadvertently caught out at sea when the tide came in, they could climb up into one of the giant 'birdcages' installed at intervals along the trail, release the flag, and wait for rescue by the boat passing at high tide.

There were solitary hikers, some in winter jackets and shorts or rolled up pants, their boots and pants soaked, families in Crocs or swim shoes, school groups, some people walking in thick socks to protect their feet, and many others who were barefoot. Remember that 16 degree C water? They had walked about 5 km in it by that time. Remember those oyster and mussel beds? Remember the 25 teams of horses that had made at least two crossings? The sea cleans itself, but not when the tide is out. The hikers waved and smiled as though they were truly enjoying themselves. Maybe after the first hour, you are too numb to feel anything.

We met the fake Scotsmen again, kilts sodden and still partying. Perhaps something else was keeping



Horseback riders.



The next wagon train.



Birdcage.



The "Scots" again.



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them warm? One of them, clearly feeling the need to provide us with the answer to the question, “What is worn under the kilt?” flipped his kilt up over his head to reveal what looked like blue shorts, although it was so cold that he might actually have been authentically clad. We were so grateful to Marcel for having organized a wagon tour, rather than a walking tour.

On the return trip to Bremerhaven, Marcel gave us a tour through country roads so that we could see the

charming German villages. After dropping Sharon off at the hotel, Marcel and Kathrin drove us to the train station just in time to catch the train back to Bremen.

All in all, this was an adventure that you could not find anywhere else in the world, and having Marcel and Kathrin as our personal tour guides made it an even more memorable event.



Returning to Cuxhaven.



Return crossing.



The rest of the gang: Marcel Brannemann, Kathrin Gitmans, and Sharon Tahirkheli.



Late-breaking News: Scott Polar Museum Takes On a Giant

The Telegraph just announced that the British Museum and the Scott Polar Museum in Cambridge are on the UK's Art Fund Prize shortlist for this year's £100,000 award. The prize, awarded to the museum with the best initiative of the year, recognizes originality and excellence in UK museums and galleries in order to increase public appreciation and enjoyment. Following a £1.75m renovation, the Polar Museum has become the smallest museum to be shortlisted for the Art Fund Prize, but has to stand up in a public online poll against one of the biggest museums in the world. The two other contenders are the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, Scotland, and the UK's only natural hot spring, the Roman Baths Museum in Bath. The 'Museum of the Year' will be announced on June 15.

Congratulations to Heather Lane, Keeper of Collections at the Scott Polar Museum.

If you receive this by June 7, [make your vote count](#). For more about the Art Fund, see www.artfundprize.org. Read *The Telegraph* article [here](#).

PBS Special on the Greely Expedition (IPY1)

For those who missed it, the PBS special about the 1881 Greely Expedition is available for viewing as well as purchase on their website at www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/greely/. Additional material about the expedition is also available there.

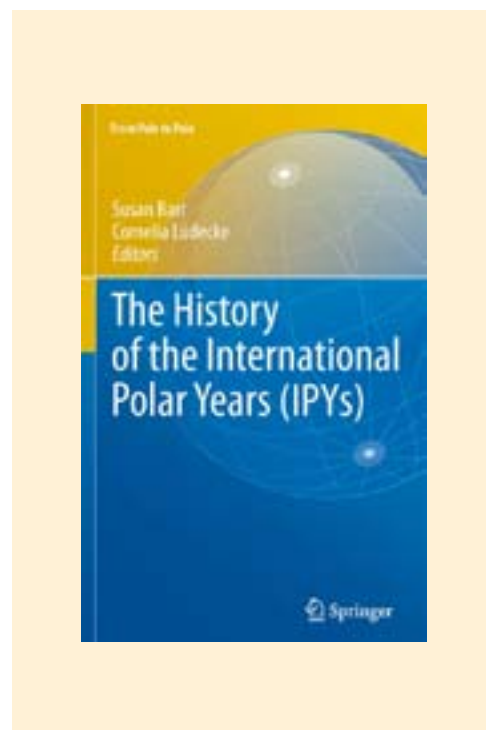


New Publications

Barr, Susan, and Lüdecke, Cornelia, eds. 2010. *The History of the International Polar Years (IPYs)*. From *Pole to Pole* series, vol. 1. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

Although international scientific cooperation, particularly in meteorology, was established prior to the first IPY in 1882–83, IPY-1 is considered to be the first revolutionary step towards an extensive international cooperation in the polar areas for the benefit of science rather than national prestige and territorial gain. This book recounts the history of these years and explains the political, economic, technical, and scientific conditions and expectations that laid the basis for each IPY and which gradually expanded both the scope and extent of our understanding of the complexities in the Polar Regions.

This comprehensive scientific, economic and political history of IPYs offers deep insight through archival material and reinforces the necessity of international collaboration in research of the Polar Regions. For more, see <http://springer.com/978-3-642-12401-3>.





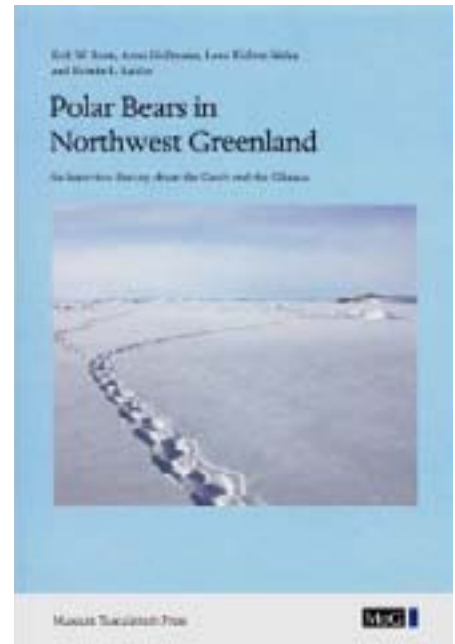
New Publications continued from page 17

Born, Erik W., Anna Heilmann, Lene Kielsen Holm, and Kristin L. Laidre. 2011. *Polar Bears in Northwest Greenland: An Interview Survey about the Catch and the Climate*. *Monographs on Greenland*, vol. 351 / *Man & Society*, vol. 41. Museum Tusulanum Press, University of Copenhagen.

This volume presents the results of an interview survey on the catch of polar bears in Northwest Greenland between 1952 and 2005. The results are based on detailed descriptions of 588 subsistence catches by Inuit polar bear hunters. The rationale for this study was the indication from hunting statistics suggesting that the catch of polar bears in Northwest Greenland had increased since the early 1990s. This change occurred simultaneously with marked changes in weather conditions and sea ice cover in Northwest Greenland.

The information provided by 72 experienced polar bear hunters living in the Qaanaaq and Upernavik areas offers a detailed and unique account of polar bear catch, polar bear biology, climate change, and the effect of these changes on both the species and the subsistence hunt.

For more information about the book, see www.mtp.hum.ku.dk/details.asp?eln=202901&lang=e.



For more information on the series *Monographs on Greenland*, go to www.mtp.dk/MoG.

—Editors' Note: Both descriptions are from the book announcements and reprinted with permission.



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Formerly entitled *Northern Libraries Bulletin*, this *Bulletin* reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to the Polar Libraries Colloquy, as approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

The *Bulletin* is published twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of the Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the *Bulletin* as part of their membership. Personal dues are £20 or US \$35 for a two-year period. Institutional dues are the same. Please send dues to David Walton, Emeritus Fellow, Environment and Information Division, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, United Kingdom.

Editors: Juli Braund-Allen and Daria O. Carle
Layout: Juli Braund-Allen

Please send submissions to Juli (anjb1@uaa.alaska.edu, phone 907-786-7666) or to Daria (afdoc@uaa.alaska.edu, phone 907-786-1869), both c/o UAA / APU Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508.

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University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508