

random testimonies, articles, and journal entries with little explanation of how they intersect with sovereignty. The book whimpers to a close with the same disconnectedness prevalent throughout. The author makes no attempt at an overall conclusion and by the end of the book it is obvious that he has lost any sense of an overarching point.

From Far and Wide: A Complete History of Canada's Arctic Sovereignty is a complete disappointment. Far from "recount[ing] exclusively the historic activities of the Canadian military in Canada's North"—a confusing claim made on the inside of the dust jacket that seems to mistakenly equate sovereignty with a military presence—the author does not possess sufficient background knowledge to make even a modest contribution to the literature. Both Pigott and Dundurn Press (usually a publisher of respectable military and Northern history) should be embarrassed for producing such a disjointed and poorly researched book to try to prey upon the popular interest in Arctic sovereignty and security issues. This is a book best avoided—by popular and professional audiences alike. Readers seeking background on Canada's Arctic sovereignty and security challenges are advised to turn elsewhere.

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Inuit and Whalers on Baffin Island through German Eyes: Wilhelm Weike's Arctic Journal and letters (1883-84). Edited and annotated by **Ludger Müller-Wille and Bernd Giesecking**. Translated by **William Barr**. Montreal: Baraka Books, 2011.

In 1883, Franz Boas and Wilhelm Weike travelled from Germany to the shores of Cumberland Sound and Davis Strait, Baffin Island where Boas studied the geography and the local Inuit. Weike was a Boas family servant before the trip and at Baffin he performed everyday housekeeping tasks and helped Boas with his observations when needed. Boas had just completed his doctorate in physics and was pursuing post-doctoral studies. He kept a journal and letter-diaries of the trip and directed Weike to do the same. Boas published *Baffin-Land* in 1885. His book *The Central Eskimo* (1888) became a classic of cultural anthropology and his charts were used as a baseline in the Canadian government maps of the 1920s and 1930s. Weike refers to Boas as "Herr Dr" throughout his journal and letters.

The preface, introduction, and Part 2, "Wilhelm Weike—Life in Germany and on Baffin Island (1859–1917)," were written by the editors and give some background to the central characters and the extent of German knowledge about the Far North at the time. Ludger Müller-Wille was a professor of

cultural geography and northern studies at McGill University until his retirement in 2008. In 1998 he edited and wrote an introduction to *Franz Boas among the Inuit of Baffin Island, 1883-1884 Journals and Letters*. His intent with the publication of this parallel journal was to compare the two narratives and suggests that they should be read in conjunction. Bernd Giesecking is a well-known German cabaret artist and writer for radio, theatre, and television from Weike's home town of Minden, Germany. He used sections of Weike's journal in a dramatic reading called *Im Eis (In the Ice, 1998)*, and in 2010 his play "Die Farbe des Wasser" (The Colour of Water) was staged by the Minden City Theatre to dramatize the Boas/Weike/Inuit relationship at Baffin Island.

Part 1 of this book is Weike's original daily journal and letters, copied by an unknown transcriber, translated into English by William Barr, and annotated by the editors. The footnotes correctly identify people and place names written phonetically by Weike. Additions from Boas's journal and letters help to clarify details of the trip and gives us a look at Weike through his companion's eyes.

Wilhelm Weike's journal is often stilted and self-conscious with only a few ironic comments included to give it life. Composing the text was part of his job and Weike writes with the awareness that Boas would be reading the journal and comparing it to his own notes on the day's activities. Weike's journal and letters come alive when he writes of difficult boat and dog team trips and describes Inuit games. His account of life at the Kekerten Island whaling station, where he was grounded for months with a frostbitten foot, is a counterpoint to Boas's scientific observations written after his travels with the Inuit. The tasks that Weike describes are so far from those of his previous experience, and most of our own, that he reveals a fascinating story with his at-times dry recital of facts. Despite Boas's best efforts, Weike arrived on Baffin Island with few English words. He had difficulty at first, but soon picked up enough English and Inuktitut to communicate with the whalers and Inuit workers, only one of whom could speak some German. He found common ground with hunting, music, and games.

Wilhelm Weike's journals and letters are an important addition to the body of work that informs us of Canada's northern reaches so often in the current news. Wilhelm Weike and Franz Boas visited Baffin Island at the end of the first international Polar Year (1882-1883) when eleven nations participated in Arctic and Antarctic research. The fourth International Polar Year, involving 300 scientists from sixteen nations, ended in 2009 and we continue to learn valuable lessons from our northern studies.

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