

power boats. Admittedly, such an undertaking may have required a good deal more research and a much longer study; perhaps this will be the focus of the author's next book.

These issues aside, *Being and Place Among the Tlingit* provides an excellent grounding in indigenous environmental values and how they operate in society. The book will almost certainly become a standard text for Northwest Coast anthropologists, human geographers, even archaeologists, for whom Thornton's discussion of material symbols, such as Chilkat blankets, will serve as a useful reminder of the ways artefacts can actively reference people and places. Finally, because it is a well written book, brimming with helpful examples of the politics of place-making, it will interest scholars studying human-landscape interactions in diverse regions of the globe.

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***West Over Sea: Studies in Scandinavian Sea-Borne Expansion and Settlement Before 1300.* Edited by Beverley Ballin Smith, Simon Taylor, and Gareth Williams. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2007. xxix + 581 pp. Illustrations, index.**

No student of Scandinavian settlement in the British Isles can fail to be familiar with the works of Barbara Crawford, whose research and publications on many aspects of the subject have made such a huge impact since the 1980s. Crawford's interdisciplinary book, *Scandinavian Scotland* (1987), remains the essential overview of the subject and has been described as a "pioneering and visionary handbook" (x). Further contributions include several edited volumes (arising from symposia organized by Crawford), the excavation report on the late Norse site at Biggings in Papa Stour, Shetland (1999), and what has been described as a "steady flow" of articles (x). Recently, Crawford has been the moving force behind the "Papar Project," an investigation into all the places in the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland and Caithness which have the name Papay, meaning "the island of the priests" and Papil meaning "the settlement of the priests".

West Over Sea, one of many excellent edited volumes on aspects of the Viking age to be published in the first decade of the twenty-first century, is a "celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Scandinavian Scotland* and of Barbara Crawford's wider contribution to the subject" (xiv). This thick, 581-page volume contains thirty papers

by Crawford's colleagues, former students, and friends. The essays are grouped into four main sections, each of which reflects one of Crawford's areas of interest: History and Cultural Contacts; The Church and the Cult of Saints; Archaeology, Material Culture, and Settlement; and Place Names and Language. There is a substantial section of black-and-white illustrations at the end. The overarching theme linking the papers is that of cultural contacts between Scandinavia and Europe (especially Scotland) in the Middle Ages, so the book can be read with profit alongside other recent and similar works such as J. Adams and K. Holman (eds.), *Scandinavia and Europe, 800–1350: Contact, Conflict and Coexistence* (Brepols, 2004), and J. Barrett (ed.), *Contact, Continuity and Collapse: The Norse Colonization of the North Atlantic* (Brepols, 2003).

As is to be expected in a smorgasbord such as this, the fare is eclectic. Part One, History and Cultural Contacts, contains contributions that are principally concerned with written evidence in one form or another (though not always textual in nature). Alongside contributions by Paul Bibire on the Icelandic sagas and Dauvit Broun on the thirteenth-century Scottish Chronicle of Melrose, there are papers by Elisabeth Osaka on Anglo-Saxon inscriptions outside the British Isles and by Christopher Lowe on the fascinating Inchmarnock "Hostage Stone," as well as papers with a more historical bent by (among others) Clare Downham on Scandinavian Dublin in the Twelfth Century, Élisabeth Ridel on the Celtic Sea Route of the Vikings, and by Jon Viðar Sigurðsson on the appearance and personal abilities of notables in Iceland, Orkney and Norway. Part Two, the Church and the Cult of Saints, contains an important paper by Lesley Abrams on conversion and the church in the Hebrides in the Viking age. Other papers focus on Norwegian visitors to Durham, Irish and Armenian ecclesiastics in medieval Iceland, parish formation in Orkney, the church of St. Clement in Oslo, and the Shetland chapel sites project 1999-2000—a vast sweep of the medieval Scandinavian world! Part Three, Material Culture and Settlement, is equally far-reaching in scope but has a distinct North (Norse) Atlantic focus on Shetland, Orkney, and the Faeroes. One paper to which attention should be drawn in this section is James Barrett's contribution on "The Pirate Fishermen: The Political Economy of a Medieval Maritime Society," which demonstrates yet again this author's remarkable capacity to synthesize archaeological and historical material and to produce a brilliant study with wide-ranging implications that should be required reading for everyone interested in the subject. Part Four, Place Names and Language, contains papers dealing with the Danelaw, South Uist, the Hebrides, Fife, Orkney and Shetland.

The North Atlantic focus of the collection is obvious, and a unifying thread is the importance of the so-called sea-road or the highway of the western seaways, which, in the maritime societies of the Viking and medieval world, provided so much unity to regions that are otherwise often written off in modern historical writing as “marginal” or “peripheral.” Among the important lessons from the collection, then, is the danger of projecting such a land-based perspective into the past. Ridel’s contribution on the Celtic Sea Route of the Vikings is an entirely appropriate reminder of this within the framework of the volume.

All of the contributions are of a uniformly high standard and there is a good deal of new research here. In fact, the necessarily brief glimpses afforded by some papers, like Beverley Ballin-Smith’s examination of the probable early Viking settlement at Norwick in Unst, Shetland, leave us eagerly awaiting more detailed forthcoming publications which have the potential to revolutionize our understanding of the subject. Some of these papers are tours-de-force in their own right and many of them will become essential reading (e.g., Abrams, Barrett). Certainly, the collection as a whole is a tremendously important resource for students and scholars of medieval Scandinavian expansion and settlement and Scandinavian contacts with Europe and Scotland.

If there is one thing to be regretted about the book it is that its price—it currently retails at around CAD \$200—will put it out of reach of most private individuals and possibly even all but the most serious research libraries. It is a shame that the publisher, whose Northern World series (to which this title belongs) is so valuable, is unable (or unwilling) to produce more affordable books.

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Hummocks: Journeys and Inquiries Among the Canadian Inuit. By **Jean Malaurie**. Translated by Peter Feldstein. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2007. xxvi + 386 pp. **Appendices, notes, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index.**

Born in 1922, the geographer Jean Malaurie visited four principal regions of the Arctic during expeditions staged between 1948 and 1997: north Greenland, the Canadian central and eastern Arctic, Alaska, and Chukotka. The original, French-language edition of *Hummocks* was published in 1999 and included two volumes totalling more than 1250 pages as well as