

Editor's Note

It is my sincere honor to have been passed the *Arctic Anthropology* editor mantle by Susan A. Kaplan, Director of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at Bowdoin College, who worked tirelessly at its helm serving as editor for the past 11 years. Although I had met Susan on a few occasions, I really came to know her during a sabbatical year spent in Brunswick, Maine working with my colleague and friend, Genevieve LeMoine, on our archaeological collections from the Inglefield Land Archaeology Project (Greenland). I was daunted by the prospect of taking on the position of editor for a journal I have long admired as the leading venue for research in arctic anthropology; however, I was also excited by the opportunity to be exposed to new research on a diverse array of topics and geographic localities across the circumpolar region.

For those who have not met me, let me introduce myself. I was born and grew up in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. My Scottish grandmother, Ena Gunn Swires, introduced me to archaeology through the many books in her West Vancouver apartment and a trip to central Mexico. She was also the one who first exposed me to Canadian Inuit culture and art with her continuously expanding collection of soapstone sculptures, felt tapestries, and ulus. I completed my degree in archaeology at the University of Calgary (1987–1991) where I also met my husband, John Darwent (who graciously agreed to serve as the new Assistant Editor and Graphic Designer for the journal). In 1992, John and I were married and then “honeymooned” on Little Cornwallis Island, Northwest Territories (now Nunavut) with James Helmer and Genevieve LeMoine’s archaeological research project focused on Late Dorset occupation of the central high Arctic. The faunal remains from Tasiarulik became the basis for my M.A. degree from Simon Fraser University (1995) under the supervision of Jon Driver. This project expanded into a large regional study of Paleoeskimo subsistence across the high Arctic from ca. 4000–1000 years ago, which included sites from Little Cornwallis (1992–1994 excavations), Kalivik, Devon, and Ellesmere Islands, as well as northern Greenland (Egil Knuth’s collections at the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen), with funding from the Social Science and Human-

ities Research Council of Canada and the Arctic Institute of North America. Many thanks to Bjarne Grønnow who suggested I study the Knuth collection when he worked with us in Canada in 1995.

I was fortunate to work with zooarchaeologist Lee Lyman for my doctoral research at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and it was here that I was also introduced to the rigors of scientific writing and journal editing with a course we affectionately referred to as “Write like Mike”, taught by Michael O’Brien. I was hired at the University of California, Davis, in 2001, and completed my Ph.D. that same year. With a son born in late 1999, and teaching introductory courses at Missouri, such as four-field anthropology, I learned the art of juggling numerous balls at once (although I cannot say that I successfully keep all the balls in the air at the same time).

Having had the privileged to work for Bob Gal of the Western Alaska Regions, National Park Service in 1998, I was introduced to north Alaskan archaeology of the Kobuk River, the Kobuk Sand Dunes and Cape Krusenstern. As a graduate student this was an incredible summer that allowed me to work alongside such admired arctic researchers as Doug Anderson, Allen McCartney, Vladimir Pitul’ko, Jim Savelle, and Dennis Stanford, many of whom I have continued to collaborate with.

After being hired at UC Davis, I undertook a field season at Cape Krusenstern to investigate the possibility of intact deposits at the Old Whaling locality (published as Darwent and Darwent 2005) using “start-up funds” from my institution. However, my attentions since 2003 have been focused on understanding the origins and development of Thule-Inughuit culture and subsistence in Northwest Greenland (with thanks to the National Science Foundation). This work has been in close collaboration, not only with Genny LeMoine, but with my Greenlandic colleague Hans Lange and my husband John. We welcomed a second son to the Darwent clan in 2006.

My return to Alaska was made possible through John Hoffecker and Owen Mason who asked me to accompany them to Cape Espenberg to investigate the origins of the Thule-Iñupiat in

this area. This has resulted in numerous opportunities for students from the south to experience coastal Alaska, and to work with the extensive collections from this site. Both of these Thule projects provided the jumping off point for new research on the genetics of arctic dogs. I look forward to many more years working in the north and to serving as editor for *Arctic Anthropology*.

Tiger Burch Volume

I first saw Ernest Burch when I was a first-year doctoral student at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in New Orleans. As we were trying to enter a session on Thule archaeology, one of my former professors from the University of Calgary, Jane Kelly, was apologizing to Tiger for an apparent "verbal lashing" he received from Lewis Binford several years prior at a Chacmool conference. Two years later, I was presenting a poster on the biogeographic distribution of muskox across Canada and Greenland, inspired in part by Burch's (1977) paper "Muskox and Man in the Canadian Subarctic," at the Chicago SAA meetings. I was shocked that someone as eminent as Burch would come up and talk to me about the poster (later

published as Darwent and Darwent 2004) and compliment me on my rigorous research. I turned to my husband and said, "Oh my god, do you know who that was?"

After several other encounters at various meetings, I was fortunate to find myself sitting next to Tiger Burch and Doug Anderson at the banquet dinner of the Alaska Anthropological Association meetings in Fairbanks in 2007, and Dennis Stanford, who was also at our table, provided the after-dinner entertainment. To myself I was thinking, how did I manage to end up the only girl at the "big boy" table?

The last time I saw Tiger was at the Canadian Archaeological Association meetings in May of 2010, when he joined me, Susan Kaplan, Genny LeMoine, and Jim Woollett for drinks at a pub in the lobby of the Palliser Hotel in downtown Calgary. We were joined by one of my best friends Erika, who now does not work in archaeology but still accompanied me to Greenland in 2009, which inspired her to attend the meetings to hear the arctic session. Tiger sat down next to Erika and said, "Hi, I'm Tiger, what's your name?" She responded, "Oh, I'm Erika, but I'm no one important." Well, after a good swallow of bourbon, he launched into

Ernest Burch Jr. - Princeton
Excellent work since
going north with us
in Anthropology
Teacher Univ. of ~~Washington~~ ^{Idaho}
October 22, 1954
Dear Admiral and Miriam,
I can understand, now, why you
have been going back to the northland
year after year and always want to
go back. I think the lure of the arctic
has taken a hold on me also, and I want
more than anything to go back. I can't
really put it into words, but I am very
grateful to you for giving me the chance
to see the wonderful sights of the north
and to learn so many new things.
I came back to school on Sept. 27th.
and have been doing better both scholastically
and athletically than I did last year. (Princeton)
I'm sorry that certain individuals
and events made things unpleasant dur-
ing parts of the trip and also that I
talked about leaving at Thule. You were right;
I would have always regretted it.
My slides came out rather well and

THE HILL SCHOOL
POTTSTOWN, PA.
the movies were much better than
I expected so I can relive the trip
often.
If you ever take another expedition
up north, please consider me as a pros-
pective crew member. Or if you know
of any other way that I could get to
Greenland or Baffin Island, please let me
know.
They're keeping me busy these days
so I haven't much time to write, but
you'll hear from me in the future!
Sincerely yours,
Tiger

Figure 1. Letter written by Ernest S. "Tiger" Burch, Jr. to Donald MacMillan after he returned from his first voyage to the Arctic with the MacMillans in 1954. Letter courtesy of the Miriam Look MacMillan Collection, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine.

a discussion about academia and let her know in very clear terms that he enjoyed talking to her just as much as any of the “so-called” professionals. I was sitting across from the two of them as they smiled and chatted, and realized at that point why I admired Tiger so greatly.

In academia we use the term *Festschrift*, to designate a book honoring a respected person presented during his or her life time. The German translates as a “celebration publication.” Because this volume is being presented posthumously, it should technically be called a *Gedenkschrift* or memorial publication. This later term, however,

does not have quite the same ring to it, and thus perhaps we should turn to the Latin term *liber amicorum*, which literally translates as “book of friends.” This volume, brought together by Igor Krupnik and Ken Pratt, is truly a celebration in memorial of their friend Tiger Burch and his contributions to the study of northern peoples.

Susan Kaplan has provided two letters handwritten by Tiger Burch for publication in this volume (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2); both are Courtesy the Miriam Look MacMillan Collection, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine. The

1198 Dorchester Ave.
Winnipeg 2, Manitoba
Sept. 15, 1970

Dear Miriam,

Word just reached me that Mac has died. Sympathy is not really in order, for none lived a fuller or richer life for so many years than he did. It was a privilege and an honor to be associated with him - and with you - for even a part of it. And it was a part of my own life that was profoundly affected by the relationship, determining as it did not only my future occupation, anthropology, but also my own area of specialization, the arctic and the Eskimos. I have often wondered what my life would be like if I had not spent three months with you both on the Bowdoin; I have no regret.

So it is not really a time for sorrow over a life that has ended, but a time for thanks for a life that was lived so well. Would that the rest of us could do half as much.

God grant you the strength to carry on in what will be for you a time of loneliness and change.

Love,
Tiger

Figure 2. Letter written by Ernest S. “Tiger” Burch, Jr. to Miriam MacMillan after Donald “Mac” MacMillan’s death in 1970. Letter courtesy of the Miriam Look MacMillan Collection, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Maine.

first letter (Fig. 1) was written by Tiger after he returned from his first voyage to the Arctic with the MacMillans in 1954. Donald MacMillan proudly kept track of Tiger's progress after his high-school trip noting his graduation from Princeton; he then comments "Excellent work since going North with us", "in Anthropology", "teacher Univ. of Winnipeg" (cross-out and replaced with Manitoba). The second letter (Fig. 2) was written to Miriam MacMillan after "Mac's" death in 1970. He very poi-

gnantly wrote "It is not really a time for sorrow over a life that has ended, but a time for thanks for a life that was lived so well. Would that the rest of us could do half as much."

Well Tiger, you definitely did more than half as much, and we all give thanks for the life you lived so well.

Christyann (Chris) M. Darwent