The sections on palaeogeographic connections and palaeoecology provide valuable information even to those palaeontologists who are not particularly interested in otoliths or fishes. Those familiar with otoliths will find the book very useful, while others will also need a more comprehensive guide to otoliths, such as Nolf (1985), to aid in interpreting the otolith structures and terminology used by Schwarzhans.

REFERENCE


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In 1949, Elmer Harp Jr., a young PhD candidate from Harvard University, travelled to Newfoundland and Labrador to begin a series of archaeological investigations. This research and related publications, as well as other field excursions in the High Arctic, earned Harp the reputation as a pioneering scholar of archaeology in these areas. In his latest monograph, the visually stunning and elegantly written narrative Lives and Landscapes: A Photographic Memoir of Outport Newfoundland and Labrador, 1949–1963, Harp has transcended the role of scholar and emerged as photographer and storyteller. Instead of being the focus of this book, archaeology is rather an underlying theme and, more importantly, a catalyst for Harp’s unforgettable journey into the coves, coasts, and bays of the province.

Themes intermingled throughout the book include adventure, travel, geography, geology, and history, as well as the economics and sociology of these outports. Although this volume is not an ethnography, it is ethnography-like because of Harp’s accurate understanding, depiction, and description of such outport social phenomena as boating-building by men, fish-drying by couples, bread-making by women, housing styles and colour schemes, gardening, and the near-mandatory socializing at “times” (i.e., parties). These local enterprises are further put into context by M.A.P. Renouf’s insightful introduction to the book, which identifies opportunism, resilience, and social ties between family and friends as key systems that support successful living in the province.

The book is divided into three chapters, each devoted to a specific year or period: 1949, 1950, and 1960–63. The first chapter is filled with excitement and anticipation as Harp embarks on his primary trip to the province. Urged to survey the coast by his early mentor, F. Johnson of the R.S. Peabody Foundation, and equipped with the knowledge of previous research conducted by Strong and Wintemberg, Harp was personally moved by the possibility of what he might find. His connection with the locals as he traveled by boat and their immediate liking for him speak volumes about the character of both. This chapter is filled with humourous anecdotes about their interactions and foreshadows relationships that would develop and last for over 50 subsequent years. Harp’s acceptance into the society of Port aux Choix, the prime location of his excavations on the northwest coast, was heightened by the inclusion of his wife and children at his field station, as described in the second chapter. Harp was now seen as a man of education and family, a value extremely important in rural Newfoundland.

The chapter also includes short passages by Elaine Harp (e.g., p. 122–127) about her own experiences, which are different from her husband’s and add warmth to the book. Elaine’s presence at activities reserved for females, such as tea parties, provides additional insight into the fishing village culture that Harp was not privy to. By the third chapter, Harp’s growing reputation is based not only on his good character, but also on the fruitful archaeology of Port aux Choix, where he uncovered thousands of Palaeoeskimo artefacts, several houses, and a Palaeoeskimo child burial. Harp’s success initiated visits from scholars such as Anne Stine and Helge Ingstad (famed for their L’Anse aux Meadows discovery), notable Arctic archaeologist Henry B. Collins, and author Farley Mowat.

This book is primarily a photographic memoir, as the title suggests, and the text seems to play a supportive rather than a primary role. The portraits are so captivating and charming that even without the accompanying text, they themselves could tell an interesting story of rural Newfoundland between 1949 and 1963. The year 1949 is pivotal for Newfoundland, since it signifies confederation with Canada. Through photography, Harp documents chronologically the steadfast changes brought by this new union, such as paved roads and the management turnover of coastal boats like the Northern Ranger to Canadian National Railways. Only one picture is allotted per page, even on those without text, which is quite appealing. This enhances the vivid colour and accentuates the realism of the images, which embody the cheerful essence of rural Newfoundland. Harp also captures cultural practices that are waning in fishing villages, as well as outports that no longer exist. For this reason Harp has provided a great service to the province by publishing these images. I would equate the significance of these photos with those of
the French photographer Paul Émile Miot, esteemed in both Canada and France for his engaging photos of Newfoundland’s French shore from 1857 to 1860.

A few minor critiques that do not devalue the book can be made about this volume. Photo captions put outports in context with correlating points on a map (located at the beginning of the book). However, some photos lack matching map locations, e.g., Cape Charles (p. 25) and Sandy Cove (p. 185). Because Harp tells his story in sequence, the reader shares his place-to-place journey and receives the authentic impression of a contiguous coastline unfolding. Consequently, when a photo has no connecting map location, it seems as if the reader has been denied access to a stopover. In addition, some captions lump adjacent communities together: for example, a caption that records a “fine and rich example of housebuilding in Bird Cove, Brig Bay” (p. 38) implies that Bird Cove is located within Brig Bay, which is not so. These two distinct fishing villages are named after, and centred on, two distinct bays, one smaller and more sheltered than the other. With regard to the pictures, one might wish that old fashioned “times” had been better represented, since anecdotes of cordial drinks and instrument-ridden socializing are mentioned in the final chapters, and this activity is a defining characteristic of outport Newfoundland. However, Harp does mention in the book that his camera was best suited for outdoor photography.

Harp has created a publication filled with quality photos, a charming narrative, and a testimony to outport people whom he met and befriended. This book is worthy of shelf-sharing with other Newfoundland classics. It is easy to read, has no jargon, and is highly recommended as a resource book for the general public and academics alike. Students in disciplines that involve fieldwork should digest this book as a reminder of the joys that can be experienced in the process of research, rather than in the end results. Lives and Landscapes is also recommended for those who have always wanted to take a trip to Newfoundland. However, Harp does mention in the book that his camera was best suited for outdoor photography.


The title of the book does not adequately convey its contents, although the author is involved with such a journey throughout most of the book. Dewart was a member of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) scientific research programs in Antarctica in 1957–58, taking part as a U.S. geophysicist in the very beginning of the IGY, when locations were being selected for construction of stations on the coast. The United States had seven stations, including one at the Geographic South Pole. The IGY was an opportunistic time for research in that the emphasis on Antarctica, with studies conducted by the 12 countries that established stations there, was the first major research effort in that part of the world. Furthermore, it was the time of the Cold War: the United States, the Soviet Union, and their allies were deeply involved in an escalating arms race with the potential for a thermonuclear confrontation. The cooperation that characterized what transpired in Antarctica in IGY seemed to temper the hostilities, perhaps diverting attention from war-making to research. As the IGY developed, and the countries working in Antarctica began to realize the future potential of additional information from the continent, 12 countries signed the Antarctic Treaty in December 1959. When ratified in June 1961, it became a unique document: it resolved, for the most part, the seven territorial claims that had been made in Antarctica, three of them overlapping (the claims were not relinquished, but were made unenforceable); made Antarctica a nuclear-free zone; prohibited military build-up; and specified free access to all of it, with research results made public. The area of 5.5 million square miles thus remains the largest part of planet Earth to belong to no country. No passport is required for access.

Dewart was thus a player in the days when many areas of the continent were unexplored. Little was known about most of it, in fact, including the amount of ice, its wildlife, the geology, the marine resources, and its role in weather patterns in the Southern Hemisphere. (The ozone hole had not yet been “discovered”; nor had the potential damage to the ozone layer that a yet-to-come chemical—CFC—would ultimately be accused of.) Dewart was mainly concerned with operating a seismological program to assess the incidence of earthquakes in Antarctica and record those outside the area. An analysis of the crustal plate that Antarctica sits on would be a product of this part of his research and would also result in a significant publication for this young scientist.

The book begins with Dewart’s travel by ship to the continent, making stops to leave people at various locations before ending his journey on the coast where the United States would establish Wilkes Station. Much is made of the interaction between the participants in the program, especially in the wintering process, when it is hoped that personalities will mesh and pet peeves will not overcome reason. A major component of this aspect of polar living, especially in winter isolation, is the station leader. In this case, it was Dr. Carl Eklund, a seasoned and experienced biologist who could manage any situation that arose, and did so. Eklund had command of not only civilian scientists but also U.S. Navy personnel who were there to support science. The men (no women in Antarctic research