

NASBY, Judith, 2002 *Irene Avaalaaqiaq: Myth and Reality*, Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 128 pages.

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Scandinavians, that the machines had a major impact easing some of the challenges of driving reindeer, hunting down predators, and they provided quick access from villages to reindeer camps, thereby permitting herders to operate from villages as opposed to remote camps. They have also created their share of problems, not the least being the cost of maintaining and fueling them. Unfortunately, the experiences of herders recorded in this study predated snowmachines. It would be of interest to know how the machines changed herding in Northern Canada. Other points of common interest concern management of the herds and herd size fluctuations. When the herds reached Canada, they adapted a “close herding” policy (whereby herds were watched constantly by herd owners). This is in contrast to the Alaskans who had begun with a “close herding” management but switched in 1920 to “collective herding” (where herds from village areas were watched by hired herders). The Canadians switched to open herding in 1968 under Fish and Wildlife Service Management. Another interesting comparison is the rise and decline of the herds. The Alaskan herds experienced drastic declines in the 1930s and 40s and revitalization in the 1960s and post 60s period, an increase that continued until the recent massive influx of caribou. In *Reindeer Days Remembered* we learn that for the Mackenzie Delta herds, there was considerable variation in the years 1935-1960s but no sign of the devastating lows experienced in Alaska.

While students of the reindeer industry will find the comparisons of interest, the purpose of *Reindeer Days Remembered* is not primarily to induce comparison; it is to highlight the experiences of Inuvialuit herders in their region. It is to share the herders’ recollections with their children and grandchildren who may never experience that way of life. Thanks to this book, now they can imagine and appreciate their elders’ life a little bit more.

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NASBY, Judith

2002 *Irene Avaalaaqiaq: Myth and Reality*, Montreal and Kingston, McGill-Queen’s University Press, 128 pages.

*Irene Avaalaaqiaq: Myth and Reality* by Judith Nasby is about the life and art of Baker Lake artist Irene Avaalaaqiaq. This book combines the artist’s life history with historical accounts by ethnologists. Twenty-eight art works including wall hangings, prints and colour pencil drawings are presented with the author’s interpretations.

Baker Lake artists are well-known for their prints, sculpture and wall hangings and several catalogues featuring Baker Lake art have been published. Biographies or retrospectives about Baker Lake artists have been written about Jessie Oonark

(Blodgett and Bouchard 1986), Victoria Mamnguqsualuk (Moore 1986) and now Irene Avaalaaqiaq (Nasby 2002). Ruth Annaqtuusi Tulurialik (Tulurialik and Pelly 1986) and Simon Tookoome (Tookoome with Oberman 1999) have each co-authored a book about their art and stories while to this day, Armand Tagoona is perhaps the only Baker Lake artist and author to have his name appear alone on the front cover of his book (see Tagoona 1975). Nasby's book is comparable to those Inuit art books that provide a greater emphasis on history.

An example of how Nasby presents one of the 28 art works in this book is her discussion about a wall hanging titled "Woman Alone" (plate 12). The art work and the artist's depictions are described and some of the artist's commentaries are included. Themes in the artist's work are touched upon and the artist recalls seeing an *ijiraq*, a caribou that can speak like a human. Further comments by the artist not already incorporated in the text about the plates are in Appendix 1: Information about Plates.

The remainder of the book includes appendices which are additional quotes by the artist about her art works; "Exhibitions and Honours" listing solo and select group exhibitions; and an Honorary Degree citation by the Dean of Arts of the University of Guelph; as well as an address by Irene Avaalaaqiaq at the University of Guelph convocation.

From cover to cover the colour illustrations are, of course, central. The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre at the University of Guelph commissioned nine art works for their collection. These art works were featured with some of Avaalaaqiaq's other works in a solo exhibition and are featured in this book. The selection of photographs cannot be overlooked. There are early photographs of the small community of Baker Lake, an embroidered cloth bag collected in 1922 with motifs similar to Avaalaaqiaq's stitch, Avaalaaqiaq's adoptive father Siksigaq in 1950, to current photographs of Avaalaaqiaq the hunter, and Avaalaaqiaq posing in front of her favourite wall hanging.

Like most other books on Inuit art, a general map is included. Avaalaaqiaq's birthplace is shown on the map, but places mentioned such as Qingaugattuaq where Avaalaaqiaq fell into the water, Mallery Lake and Timanaqtuarjuk where Avaalaaqiaq used to live, a river crossing at Anitguq, and Qiqitarjualik where Avaalaaqiaq and her family travelled, are places not indicated on the map. Either a description of the locations mentioned or a map indicating these places is important for the reader who wants a better sense of where Avaalaaqiaq travelled and what cultural group she belongs to.

The only chapter in this book is entitled "Where Myth and Reality Intersect." The author states that "Avaalaaqiaq's art is grounded within the realm of storytelling and her life's experience. Myth and reality intersect as she translates multi-layered stories, transformation scenes, and personal memories into bold graphic imagery" (p. 3). Nasby is careful to quote the artist in saying that Avaalaaqiaq's art is based on stories her grandmother used to tell her. "[She] did them out of memory" (p. 33). Indeed the stories depicted in her art are not "myth" to Avaalaaqiaq, but her reality. As Norman Zepp explain: "What we call the 'imaginary' in literature—the supernatural, fantastic,



permanent residency in Baker Lake (p. 26). However, both Simon Tookoome and William Noah come from the area approximately 200 kilometres northwest of Baker Lake (p. 37).

There is only one mention of artist Ruth Tuluiialik and none of George Tatanig who are from the Kazan River located south of Baker Lake where Avaalaaqiaq is from. While it is important to compare Avaalaaqiaq's art works with other Baker Lake artists for example, Avaalaaqiaq's use of the double head in "Imagination Visions" that also appears in Simon Tookoome's art, to discuss fellow female artist Ruth Annaqtuusi Tuluiialik who comes from the same cultural group would only enhance the book. In her book *Qikaaluktut: Images of Inuit Life*, Ruth Annaqtuusi Tuluiialik (1986) does mention "hungry people." She recalls stories about people arriving in the settlements from the camps in 1958 during a starvation period.

In the preface, Nasby notes Avaalaaqiaq taped her memoirs in 1999, 2000 and 2001. "Editing was done by the author for consideration of clarity and length, while every attempt was made to retain the character of Avaalaaqiaq's speech" (p. vii). It is obvious that some quotes were cut and pasted. An example of this occurs in the beginning of the book where the artist is quoted: "I try to keep our culture alive through my art. Art is a way to preserve our culture. Most of the stories and legends had a moral to them and we would use the values taught to us in our everyday life" (p. 8). This excerpt was taken from the "Address by Irene Avaalaaqiaq at the University of Guelph Convocation" (pp. 111-112) but the preceding and following paragraphs have been taken from a different interview or interviews.

In closing, Irene Avaalaaqiaq's life history presented in this book was very riveting to read. As a fellow Baker Laker, I have a renewed respect for this remarkable woman who overcame many challenges. I also have a much deeper appreciation of Avaalaaqiaq's art. Avaalaaqiaq said: "[...] the people down South, who purchase art, would understand the wall hangings, drawings, and carvings better if the stories about them were written down so they could understand" (p. 74). I believe that readers of this book will gain a better understanding of the artist and her art. For writing this book, Judith Nasby could be considered the subject of Irene Avaalaaqiaq's wall hanging, a "helping spirit."

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RODON, Thierry

2003 *En partenariat avec l'État. Les expériences de cogestion des Autochtones du Canada*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 315 pages.

Thierry Rodon est professeur associé à l'École de politiques publiques et d'administration de l'Université Carleton à Ottawa. Son ouvrage intitulé *En partenariat avec l'État. Les expériences de cogestion des Autochtones du Canada* reprend l'essentiel de sa thèse de doctorat déposée en 1998 au département de sciences politiques de l'Université Laval. Cet ouvrage constitue une contribution fort appréciée à la réflexion sur la gestion partagée des ressources naturelles renouvelables ainsi que plus généralement sur les relations de pouvoir entre les peuples autochtones et l'État canadien. Après un peu plus de 25 ans d'expérience de cogestion au Canada, l'auteur pose un regard lucide et opportun sur la réalité et les enjeux du partenariat entre l'État et les peuples autochtones.