



The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment

at the National Museum of Denmark:

A Research Program based on the Archives of the late Jørgen Meldgaard

1st Annual Report, April 2010

1. The goals of the Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment Project

The aims of the Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment Project (CME Project) are:

- to conduct a complete registration of the archive of the late Jørgen Meldgaard and make the data accessible to the international research community
- to carry out a state-of-the-art research program on Meldgaard's archaeological material from primarily Igloolik, Canada, and Qajaa, West Greenland, and to publish scientific monographs and papers based on these analyses
- to experiment with diversified ways of creating dialogues between researchers and the public, including the local communities in Arctic Canada and Greenland

2. Initial work

Funded by the Rock Foundation and co-financed by the National Museum the four year CME-Project is carried out within the frames and scientific environment of 'SILA – Arctic Centre at the Ethnographic Collections', The National Museum of Denmark.

The project was initiated by May 1st, 2009. In advance associate researcher Martin Appelt and head of the project, research professor Bjarne Grønnow, prepared the project by receiving the 80 boxes of books and archival materials, which Jørgen Meldgaard's heirs, Morten, Mette and Malene Meldgaard generously donated to the National Museum. The books were sorted, registered and included in the department's library, and the comprehensive and diverse archival material was preliminary sorted.

The archival material was sorted according to types of material – diaries, field notes, plan drawings, letters, photos and films etc. – and year, expedition, and research project. A key to the sorting of the physical documents and other material was developed and tested, and at the present stage all documents from Canada and Greenland are stored in covers and standard archive boxes according to this key. The documents and drawings are in the process of being digitized. The positive photos, negatives and slides have been preliminary sorted and are now safely stored in the photo-storage of The Ethnographic Collections. The registration and digitalization of this material is on-going (see below). All of Jørgen Meldgaard's films – 16 mm as well as a number of video-films from Qajaa – has been professionally digitized and are now ready for registration in the database.

3. The Advisory Board

An advisory board was established in the initial phase. The advisory board meets about once a year. The board members are:

curator emeritus Claus Andreasen, The Greenland National Museum and Archive

head of Department Lene Floris, The National Museum of Denmark

curator Steven Loring, Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution

director Morten Meldgaard, Natural History Museum of Denmark, University of Copenhagen

dr. Vladimir Pitulko, Institute for the History of Material Culture, St. Petersburg

curator Susan Rowley, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, The University of British Columbia

curator Patricia D. Sutherland, Canadian Museum of Civilization

The advisory board held its first meeting in Copenhagen, June 2nd – 4th, 2009. The resulting advices are summarized as follows:

- The creation of a database/catalogue on the most important parts of Jorgen's archive must be prioritized within the first year of the CME-initiative. The realization of this catalogue is a precondition for making a more detailed plan, in particular concerning the comprehensive Igloodik material for the following three years of the initiative.
- Using the publication of Eigil Knuth's archive as a model, the advisory board suggested that the catalogue on the Canadian material could be published in the Mercury series from CMC. It would be appropriate to publish the Greenland material (mainly Qajaa) in 'Monographs on Greenland'.
- It is important to design and structure the home page of the CME so that it contains different levels: communication with the local communities, the general public and fellow researchers. An important component of the coming home page is Jørgen's ethnographical photos from Canada and Greenland.
- The archival material holds a great potential for an illustrated biography on Jørgen Meldgaard. The Advisory Board suggested that Jørgen's North East Greenland experiences from the 1940's, his Vinland discoveries and his stays in Igloodik during the 1950's along with selected papers by Jorgen himself could be components of the book.

4. The CME Database

Ph.D. student Peter Andreas Toft has developed and tested an electronic database (called the CME Base), which eventually will contain the entire and diverse Meldgaard archival material. This database forms the backbone of the CME Project.

The CME Base has a well-arranged user interface and will provide direct links from site descriptions to Meldgaard's digitized drawings, photos and films. The database is based on the Access program and is compatible with standard museum registration systems. Furthermore, the database links data on finds to the archaeological sites.

The photos are digitized in high resolution tif-format (1200 – 3600 dpi) and the documents are digitized in pdf-format in accordance with the principles of using standardized formats, which are readable by virtually all registration systems. All digitized materials are recorded in the Danish National Museum's Cumulus photo-database, but in addition they are kept in separate folders in order to ensure a seamless integration into other database standards.

Peter Andreas Toft is currently working on a meta-data description of the database and a user manual.

5. The CME team and the tasks

During the first year of the CME Project the research team of the project was established. At present the following are project team members:



Bjarne Grønnow



Martin Appelt



Jens Fog Jensen



Mariane Hardenberg



Ulla Odgaard



Nuka Godtfredsen



Jesper Kurt Nielsen



Peter Andreas Toft

research professor Bjarne Grønnow: head of the CME Project. He is the link between the National Museum and the Rock Foundation and takes care of the management of economy and work schedule. He is responsible for the research program and collaboration with other institutions. His research is focused on Meldgaard's Qajaa-material from the Saqqaq Culture in West Greenland and the neighboring Qeqertasussuk Site.

associate researcher, Ph.D. Martin Appelt: coordinator of the work with Meldgaard's Canadian and Alaskan materials. He is supervisor of the Ph.D. student of the CME-project, Mariane Hardenberg. He is responsible for sorting and registration of the archival material and for public outreach, in particular the graphic novel on Late Dorset. His research is focused on Meldgaard's archaeological investigations in the Igloodik area.

senior researcher, Ph.D. Jens Fog Jensen: responsible for registration via the CME Database of archival materials and for research on Meldgaard's Qajaa material in collaboration with Bjarne Grønnow. The stratigraphy at the site and the excellently preserved artifacts are described and analyzed, and this information forms an integral part of the planned publication of the Qajaa and the Qeqertasussuk sites.

senior researcher, Ph.D. Ulla Odgaard: responsible for registration of archival materials from the Igloolik area via the CME Database. Her research is focused on Palaeo-Eskimo dwelling structures and settlement patterns (in collaboration with Martin Appelt). The project aims at expanding our knowledge on dwellings beyond the functional aspects in order to explore how the Palaeo-Eskimos perceived and experienced their world. This will be approached by examining the relationships between the single structures and the layout and topographical positions of the sites.

Ph.D. student Peter Andreas Toft: responsible for the development and follow-up of the CME database.

archivist Jesper Kurt Nielsen: advisor concerning the archival materials. He is responsible for the integration of the Meldgaard archive into the archives of the National Museum.

artist Nuka K. Godtfredsen: the Greenlandic artist behind a high quality graphic novel based on our present knowledge on Late Dorset in the High Arctic, including results of Meldgaard's investigations in Thule and Igloolik. The graphic novel is an important part of the different kinds of public outreach activities of the CME Project.

Ph.D. student Mariane Hardenberg: responsible for the program 'Symbols in Palaeo-Eskimo Material Culture' (described briefly below). Her supervisor is professor Erik Brinch Petersen, SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen. Co-supervisors: Martin Appelt and Bjarne Grønnow, the CME Project.

student Kristian Koch Madsen: co-author (with Martin Appelt) of the book about the Vinland Journey of Jørgen Meldgaard (described below).

intern Carina Andersen: responsible for the registration and summarizing of the legal papers concerning Jørgen Meldgaard's activities in Greenland and Canada.

6. Collaboration with the Greenland National Museum and Archive and the Canadian Museum of Civilization

The CME Project is in contact with the national museums in Greenland and Canada in order to pave the way for the transfer of all relevant information from Jørgen Meldgaard's archive to these institutions as well as of the results of the project.

It is an ambition of the CME Project to ensure that the archival documentation generated during Meldgaard's field works is stung together with the relevant artifactual materials and that the documentation is made easily available for the international scientific community. Following the finalizing of the CME Project a number of recommendations will be presented based on the principle that the original documents should be housed at institutions, where they naturally belong.

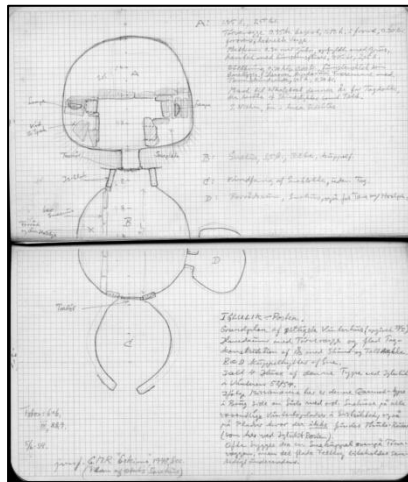
Recently contact to the vice-president of Research and Collections, the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC), has been established in order to deal with issues concerning the storage of Meldgaard's original archival materials from his investigations in Arctic Canada.

7. Registration Work by April 2010, an overview

Written archival material :

The material from investigations in Canada (primarily the sites in the Igloolik area): the field books and diaries from 1954, 1957 and 1965-seasons have been digitized and registered in the CME database.

West Greenland: all field note books and diaries from 1981 and 1982 (Ummannaaq and Qajaa) have been digitized.



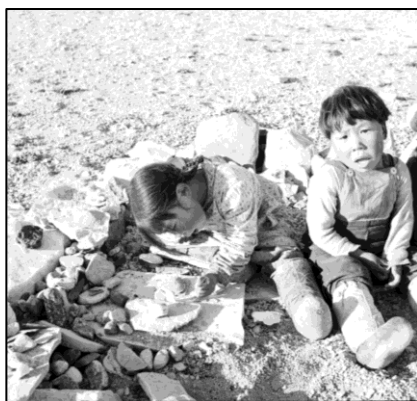
**Winter house, Igloolik.
Meldgaard's diary, 1954.**



**Guy Mary-Rousselière, surveying
Alarnerk, 1954.**

Photos:

Concerning Meldgaard's investigations in the Igloolik area, 660 of about 700 slides and b/w photos have been digitized in high resolution tif format. Out of an estimated 800 photos from Greenland (primarily Qajaa) 514 have been digitized. Registration of these photos in the CME database is in progress.



Alarnerk children in a play house, 1954.



Palaeo-eskimo ruin at Kaersut, 1954.

Mariane Hardenberg has digitized and recorded material from Graham Rowley's investigations at Abverdjar. Diaries etc. from these excavations was found among the Meldgaard papers. She has also digitized the photographic material relating to Meldgaard's work with Inuit and pre-Inuit art.

Films and videos:

Meldgaard's 16 mm films and video films from the 1952 and 1982-seasons in Greenland, as well as Meldgaard's and Richard Emmerick's films from Igloolik, have been digitized and transferred to mpeg-4 format so that they can be viewed on standard computers and are ready for registration in the CME database and for planned further studies within visual anthropology.



Pinatoq, Igloolik, 1954

8. The Ph.D.-program

The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland is funding a three year Ph.D-program in connection with the CME Project: **'Symbols in Palaeo-Eskimo Material Culture'**. The Greenlandic student, Mariane Hardenberg, initiated her Ph.D. study by January 1st, 2010. She primarily bases her research on Meldgaard's archaeological and archival materials from the Late Dorset Culture in Canada and Greenland. Her studies are conducted in Greenland (The Greenland University and the Greenland National Museum, Nuuk) as well as in Denmark (the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen and SILA).

Mariane Hardenberg's research aims at highlighting aspects of the Palaeo-Eskimo Dorset 'art' with a special emphasis on creating insight into the symbolic universe of the Dorset culture. She will focus on the relationship of the symbols and the diversity of Dorset art to gain a wider insight into the general production of 'art', which existed in the Dorset culture.

A collection of negatives, field report, and field notes connected to the late Graham W. Rowley from his 1938-39 archaeological work in Abverdjar, Baffin Island was found in the Meldgaard archive. The negatives, which were most likely sent to Meldgaard from Rowley himself, include photos of objects relevant for Hardenberg's Ph.D. project. Thus, contact with the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA),

University of Cambridge, has been established, since Rowley's Abverdjar collections are stored in Cambridge. Access to Rowley's Abverdjar collections has been granted for further examination and registration of the relevant objects. According to the plan, the collections will be examined during October 2010.

9. Archival material concerning Alaska

Sorting of Meldgaard's materials revealed two boxes containing Helge Larsen's archival materials from investigations in Alaska (Meldgaard was trustee in connection with Larsen's heritage). This material will be preliminary sorted and registered in connection with the CME Project. In order to create a basis for an evaluation of these Alaskan materials we invited our colleague from University of Alaska, Anchorage, associate professor Owen Mason to Copenhagen. He studied the archival materials during four days in March, 2010. The assessment will result in a report including an overview of the materials and a number of recommendations for future research based on the diaries, drawings, photos and notes left to Meldgaard by Helge Larsen. The goal is primarily to inform colleagues about the potentials of research into Helge Larsen's materials. In addition we wish to encourage Danish and Greenlandic students to develop an awareness of Alaskan archaeology, which may include participation in Alaska-based archaeological projects.

The assessment report including recommendations will be published medio May, 2010.

10. Field Work at Qajaa, 2009

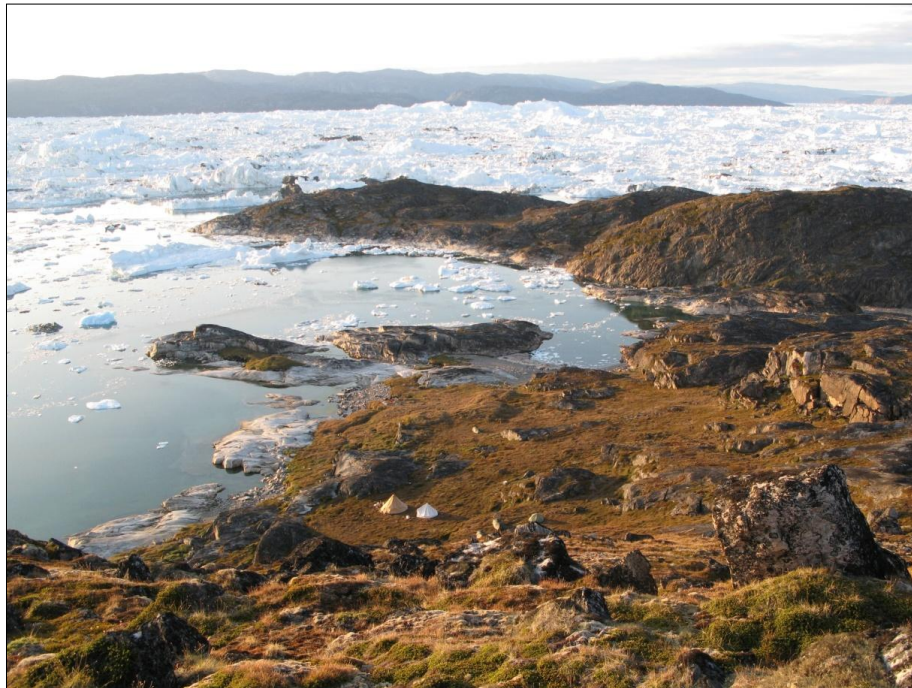
Bjarne Grønnow was a member of an interdisciplinary team, headed by curator Claus Andreasen of the Greenland National Museum and Archive and financed by this institution, which conducted investigations at the famous Qajaa site in Illulissat Ice Fiord – the permafrozen Saqqaaq site which Jørgen Meldgaard revisited in 1981 and investigated in 1982 and which is now part of the CME Project. The aim of this recent, supplementary research effort at Qajaa was:

- to map the permanently frozen culture layers at Qajaa and evaluate the effects of global warming and erosion on preservation conditions at the site
- to establish an automatic registration of the properties of the culture layers
- to collect frozen material for ancient DNA-sampling and carbon 14 dating of the culture layers
- to conduct a survey of the topography of the site with a precision GPS-equipment

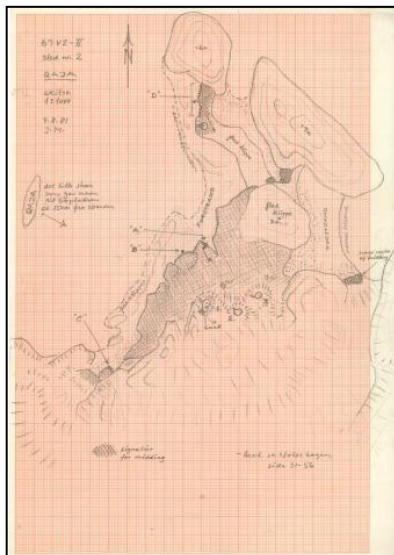
The team stayed at Qajaa ten days during August 2009. The program was carried out according to plans, and a number of permafrozen cores from drillings in the over 3 meters deep sequence of turf and culture layers are now being analyzed in the laboratories. A detailed contour map, which supplements Meldgaard's survey from 1982 is under construction at Institute of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen, and a number of 14-C datings will be run in order to explore the timing of the initial Saqqaaq phase at Qajaa.

The results of this supplementary field work will be included in the publication of Meldgaard's Qajaa-material within the frame of the CME Project.

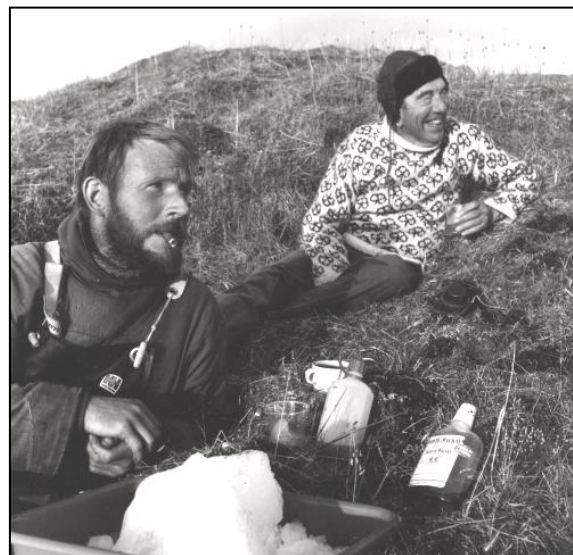
After the stay at Qajaa the team continued to Qeqertasussuk, the only site which matches Qajaa's excellent preservation conditions. Here drillings in order to extract intact permafrozen samples of the culture layers were conducted and precision GPS surveys were made. The results will be included in the planned joint publication of Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk.



Qajaa at Jakobshavn Isfjord. Overview from south, August 2009 (photo Bjarne Grønnow).



Survey of Qajaa (Meldgaard 81)



**Jeppe Møhl and Helge Larsen,
members of Meldgaard's team, 1982.**

11. Study Tour to Nuuk, April 2010

Senior researcher Jens Fog Jensen and research professor Bjarne Grønnow went to Nuuk for seven days in April 2010 in order to register and study in detail the wooden implements from Qajaa, which are stored at the Greenland National Museum and Archive. Intensive work resulted in registration of all wooden artifacts, fragments and shavings from Meldgaard's excavations at Qajaa (in total 438 pieces). A selection of artifacts was kindly loaned by the Greenland National Museum and Archive to the CME Project and brought to Copenhagen to be drawn and photographed for publication. In sum, the wooden finds form an important component of the publication of the Qajaa site and they are an indispensable comparative material in relation to the Qeqertasussuk site. Taken together, these materials provide a unique insight into early Palaeo-Eskimo technology.



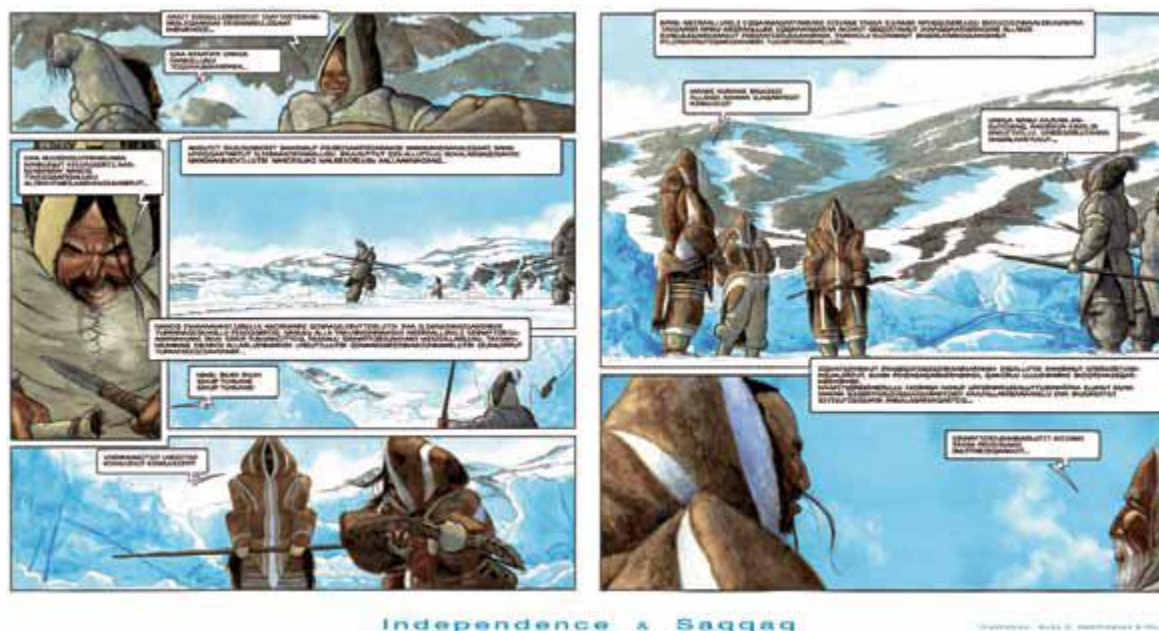
**Jens Fog Jensen records and studies the wooden artifacts from Meldgaard's excavations at Qajaa, 1982.
The Greenland National Museum and Archive, April 2010. Photo by Bjarne Grønnow.**

12. Public Outreach

The Greenland and Danish press marked the beginning of the CME-Project with a number of articles in May and June. Bjarne Grønnow informed about Jørgen Meldgaard's legacy, the donation from The Rock Foundation, and the current project in a nationwide broadcast in June. The front home page of the National Museum published the news about the donation from the Rock Foundation and the planned registration and research program.

A separate home page of the CME-project is under construction. Our home page will take advantage of the current framework and experiences with the home page of the new priority area of the National Museum: *Northern Worlds*. The homepage will present a selection of the photographic material left by Jørgen Meldgaard, including examples of the digitized 16 mm- and video films.

Co-financed by Illiniusiorfik (The Greenland Publisher of Schoolbooks) the CME-Project's artist, Nuka K. Godtfredsen, is creating the graphic novel on the Late Dorset Culture based on Meldgaard's discoveries in Igloolik, Arctic Canada, and excavations in Greenland. This, the second volume of 'The First Steps' - a planned four volume graphic novel on Arctic prehistory - is one of the first steps in the CME-Project's experimentation with diversified ways of creating dialogues with the public. Collaboration on distribution among northern societies in Canada (in Inuktituk), and an English and a French version is presently being concluded with Avataq Cultural Institute.



A page from the graphic novel, *The First Steps*, by Nuka Godtfredsen.

In connection with Bjarne Grønnow's new position as research professor in January 2010 he presented a well attended public inaugural lecture at the National Museum on the permafrozen sites in Disco Bay and Meldgaard's pioneering investigations at Qajaa.

The first presentation of the CME Project in Greenland has been launched. April 8th, 2010, Bjarne Grønnow presented a lecture on Qeqertasussuk and Qajaa and the wider perspectives of the recent studies of the Saqqaq Culture. Arranged by research coordinator of the Greenland Government, Lone Nukaaraq Møller, the presentation at Katuaq (the cultural house in Nuuk) was attended by a large audience.

13. Publications during the First Year of the CME Project

Appelt, Martin & Gulløv, H.C., 2009: Tunit, Norsemen, and Inuit in Thirteenth-Century Northwest Greenland - Dorset Between the Devil and the Deep Sea. In: Maschner, Herbert; Mason, Owen; McGhee, Robert (eds.): *The Northern World AD 900 – 1400*. The University of Utah Press: 300 – 320.

Godtfredsen, Nuka, 2009: Tutineq Siulleg - Oqaluttuaq 1: The First Steps. SILA – Arctic Centre at the Ethnographic Collections, and Ilinniuisiorfik, 2009: 60 pp.

Grønnow, Bjarne and Sørensen, Mikkel, 2009: 'De første Skridt' – fra idé til album. – In: Godtfredsen, Nuka Konrad: *De første Skridt*. Ilinniuisiorfik Undervisningsmiddelforlag and SILA – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning, Nuuk 2009: p. 52 – 60.

Rasmussen, Morten; Li, Yingrui; Lindgren, Stinus; Pedersen, Jakob Skou; Albrechtsen, Anders; Moltke, Ida; Metspalu, Mait; Metspalu, Ene; Kivisild, Toomas; Gupta, Ramneek; Bertalan, Marcelo; Nielsen, Kasper; Gilbert, M. Thomas.P.; Wang, Yong; Raghavan, Maanasa; Campos, Paula F.; Kamp, Hanne Munkholm; Wilson, Andrew S.; Gledhill, Andrew; Tridico, silvana; Bunce, Michael; Lorenzen, Eline Deidre; Binladen, Jonas; Guo, Xiasen; Zhao, Jing; Zhang, Xiuqing; Zhang, Hao; Li, Zhuo; chen, Minfeng; Orlando, Ludovic; Kristiansen, Karsten; Bak, Mads; Tommerup, Niels; Bendixen, Christian; Pierre, Tracey I; **Grønnow, Bjarne;** Meldgaard, M.; Andreasen, Claus; Fedorova, Sardana; Osipova, Ludmilla P.; Highham, Thomas F. G.; Ramsey, Christopher B.; Hansen, Thomas O.; Nielsen, Finn C.; Crawford, Michael H.; Brunak, Søren; Sicheritz-Pontén, Thomas; Vilems, Richard; Nielsen, Rasmus; Krogh, Anders; Wang, Jun; Willerslev, Eske: Ancient human genome sequence of an extinct Palaeo-Eskimo. *Nature* vol. 463, Issue no. 7282, 11 February 2010: 757-762.



Valgreen, Lisbeth; Appelt, Martin & Grønnow, Bjarne: "De første skridt" – en ny vej i forskningsformidlingen. Tidsskriftet Grønland, 2010, 1: 66 – 75.

In press:

A limited edition book '**Meldgaard's Vinland Vision**' by **Kristian Koch Madsen and Martin Appelt** will be published by the CME Project ultimo April 2010. This richly illustrated book invites the reader to 'look over the shoulders' of Jørgen Meldgaard on his 1956 pioneering tour to Labrador and Newfoundland in the wake of the Norse explorers thousand years ago. Meldgaard's brilliant photos and excerpts from his diaries make this book quite unique. The printing of the book is generously sponsored by the Embassy of Canada in Denmark.

Toft, Peter Andreas, Appelt, Martin & Guløv, Hans Christian 2010: "Nuuks grå guld". In *Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark*, 2010: 15 pages.

In prep:

An agreement between the CME Project and Det Grønlandske Selskab (The Greenland Society) has been made on producing a special issue, an illustrated biography on Jørgen Meldgaard, in the society's journal (Tidsskriftet Grønland) to be published in the spring of 2011. The volume will be edited by Bjarne Grønnow and Martin Appelt.