



The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment

The National Museum of Denmark

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

2nd Annual Report, April 2011

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 materials 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. CME Project team, 2010 – 2011

The team was presented in detail in the First Annual Report. Thus, the following serves as an abstract informing about the tasks of the team members:

research professor Bjarne Grønnow: head of the CME Project. His research is focused on Meldgaard's Qajaa-material from the Saqqaq Culture in West Greenland and the neighboring Qeqertasussuk Site.

associate researcher, curator, Ph.D. Martin Appelt: coordinator of the work with Meldgaard's Canadian and Alaskan materials.

senior researcher, Ph.D. Jens Fog Jensen: responsible for Meldgaard's Qajaa material in close collaboration with Bjarne Grønnow

senior researcher, Ph.D. Ulla Odgaard: responsible for registration of archival materials, including photos, from the Igloolik area via the CME Database.

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

archivist Jesper Kurt Nielsen: advisor concerning the archival materials.

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. Collaborates closely with Martin Appelt

Ph.D. student Mariane Hardenberg: responsible for the program 'Symbols in Palaeo-Eskimo Material Culture'.

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

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

anthropologist, research associate Anne Mette Jørgensen: responsible for registration and visual anthropological analyses of Jørgen Meldgaard's films from Igloodik and West Greenland.

At present research professor Bjarne Grønnow, research associate Martin Appelt, artist Nuka Godtfredsen and Ph.d. student Mariane Hardenberg are working full time on the CME-Project. Research associate Anne-Mette Jørgensen was working full time for the project from August 1st, 2010, to February 27th, 2011. Following his engagement in a historical archaeological project, Jens Fog Jensen is back again on the CME Project full time by March 1st, 2011, and likewise, senior researcher Ulla Odgaard is back from her leave full time for six months on the Project by April 1st, 2011. Archivist Jesper Kurt Nielsen, Ph.d. Peter Andreas Toft and student assistants Karina Andersen and Christian Koch Madsen have worked part time on the project.



Qajaq. Overview from south. Photo by Bjarne Grønnow, August 2009.

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

In prolongation of Jens Fog Jensen's and Bjarne Grønnow's research stay in Nuuk (March 2010) finds of organic material, in particular bone and wood, was sent from the Greenland National Museum and Archive to the National Museum in Copenhagen in order to be registered and analyzed by the CME Project and temporarily exhibited. At present, the wooden artifacts are back in Nuuk again.

The Greenland National Museum prepares a permanent exhibition on the palaeo-Eskimo cultures. The Qajaa material and the results of the CME Project's analyses form the backbone in this coming exhibition. In continuation of the collaboration between the two national museums an experimental archaeological project (including public outreach activities) aimed at exploring Saqqaq technology will be carried out in Nuuk during June, 2011.

The CME Project invited vice-president of Research and Collections, Moira McCaffrey, of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) to Copenhagen, November 2010. Through fruitful meetings we discussed issues about the storage of Meldgaard's original archival materials from his investigations in Arctic Canada, the return of find materials belonging to CMC, and future collaboration on publication of Meldgaard's archival materials from his Canadian expeditions.

Regrettably, it has appeared that access to the primary find material from the Canadian sites, which Jørgen Meldgaard excavated, is not possible. Due to current renovation of the storage facilities at CMC, the museum has not found itself in a position to comply with our wishes to access the finds from Igloodik. As a consequence a part of our planned research program has to be re-structured.

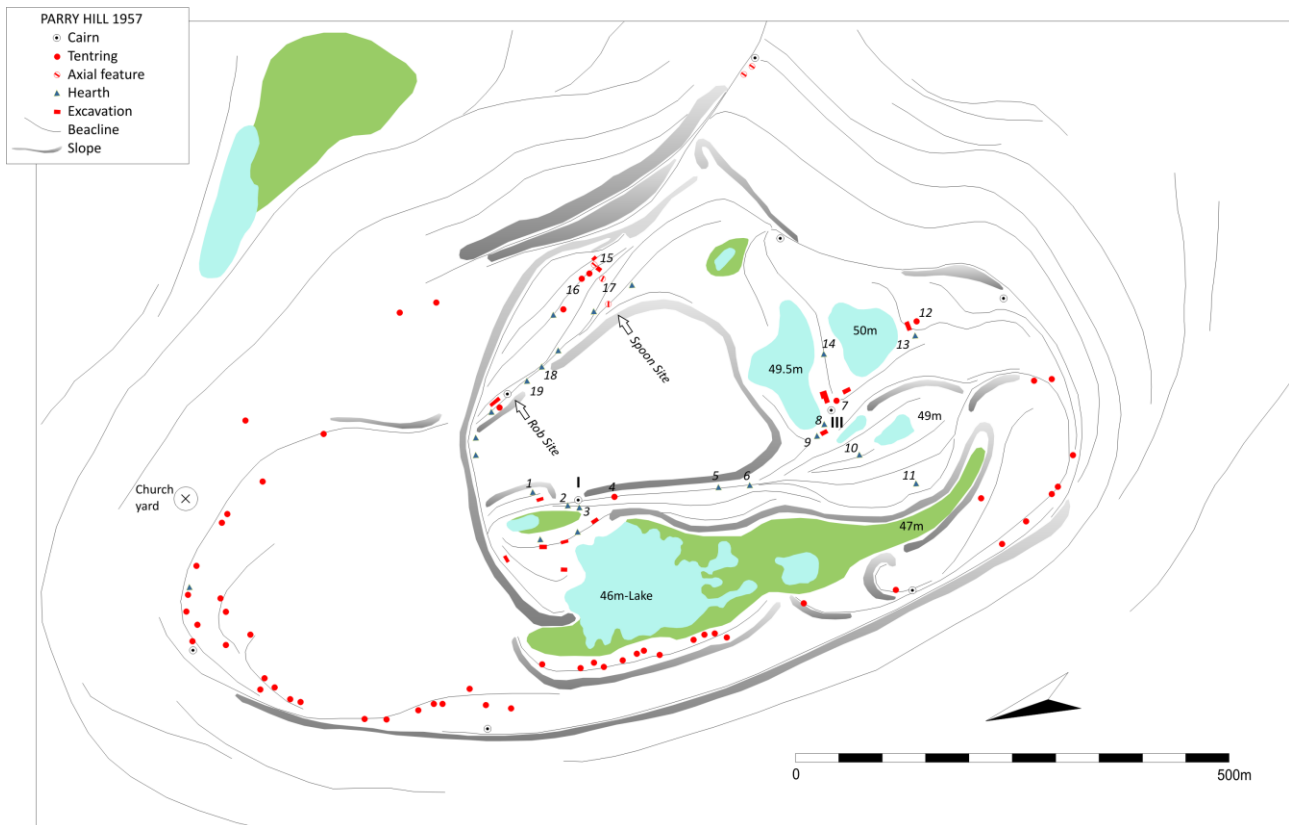
4. Registrations, Meldgaard's Canadian materials

Ulla Odgaard and Martin Appelt are continuing their work on the archival materials from Meldgaard's Canadian sites. The digitization of diaries and drawings are complete and the majority of the photos have been processed. They are now ready for inclusion in the Cumulus database, where contextual information will be typed in. Meldgaard's field books and diaries from the 1954, 1957 and 1965-seasons in Igloodik have been digitized and registered in the CME database.

Plans of sites and features have been re-drawn. Material from the archives is being prepared for Julie Ross of the Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. This information in particular relate to the Kaleruserk site (i.e. Parry Hill, Borden code NiHf-1), that are under threat by road construction.

Concerning Meldgaard's investigations in the Igloodik area, 660 of about 700 slides and b/w photos have been digitized in high resolution tif format. Registration of these photos in the CME database is in progress.

Additional photographic material and archival information has been received from professor emeritus Robert Petersen and senior researcher emeritus Bent Fredskild. Robert Petersen took part in the Igloodik expedition in 1957, while Bent Fredskild participated in 1965. Ulla and Martin visited and interviewed Robert Petersen in his home on the island of Funen, and Anne Mette filmed the meeting. At some later stage sequences from this interview will be presented at the CME-homepage.

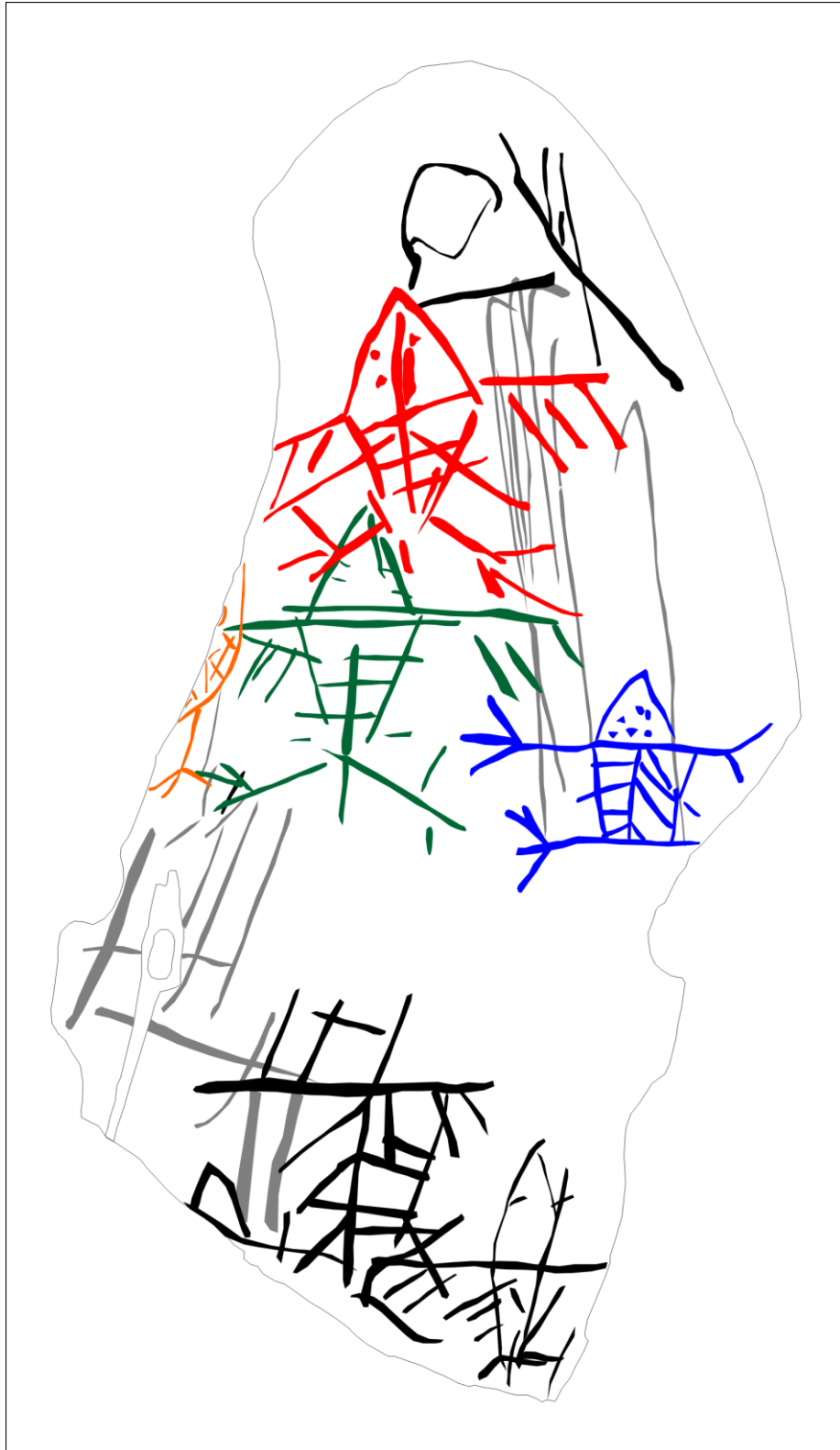


Meldgaard's survey of the Parry Hill site at Igloodik, 1957. Redrawn by Martin Appelt.

Abverdjar: In connection with her Ph.d. research Mariane Hardenberg has digitized and recorded material from Graham Rowley's investigations at Abverdjar. Diaries etc. from these excavations were found among the Meldgaard papers.

In 1965 Meldgaard made a few days' archaeological excavation at the famous Abverdjar site. More importantly, Meldgaard and his crew did a site plan, that includes a registration of both Graham Rowley's old excavation areas, and the ones made by the 1965-crew. Meldgaard's photographic material also includes a number of plates with some of the more spectacular artifacts from the site. During November 2010, Mariane Hardenberg and Martin Appelt spent a week in the laboratory of Cambridge University's archaeology department examining most of the organic artifacts from the site. The artifacts were recorded and photographs and sketches were made. Following the visit they have received Xerox-copies of Rowley's diaries and lists of artifacts. Besides the famous 'art-pieces' from the site Mariane and Martin were struck by the potential that the organic material holds for analyses of production-sequences. A large number of pre-forms and half-finished pieces are found among the objects.

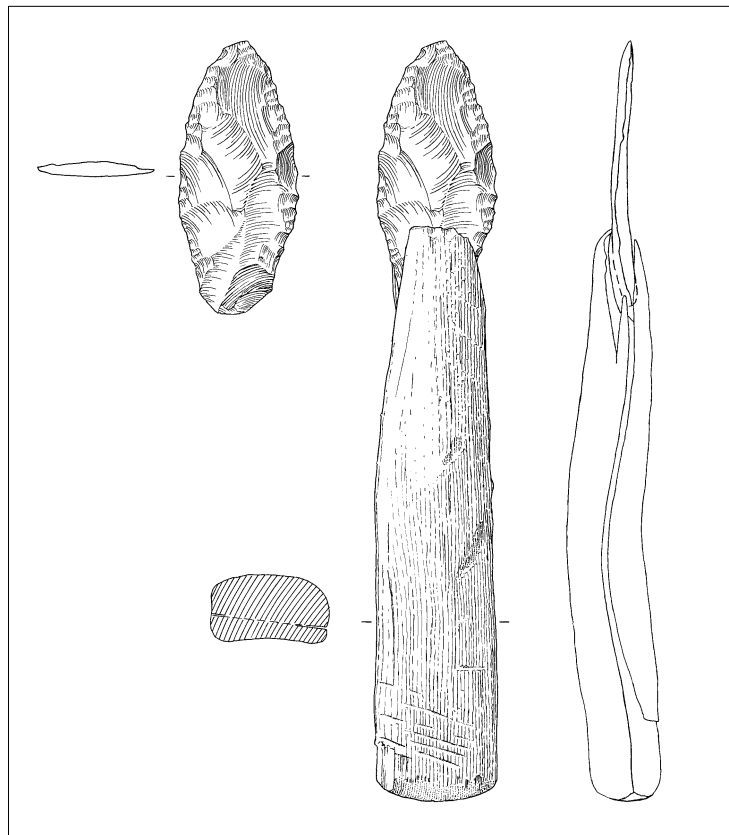
Meldgaard noted the remarkable figures, which had been scratched into some of the box parts. Now, many decades later, Mariane and Martin noticed in particular four of these scratched figures, which seem to show abstract birds and/or birdmen. They show strong resemblances to symbols found among more southerly and westerly prehistoric and historic American groups.



Schematic drawing of an ornamented amulet box, Abverdjar. Drawn and analyzed by Martin Appelt.

5. Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk

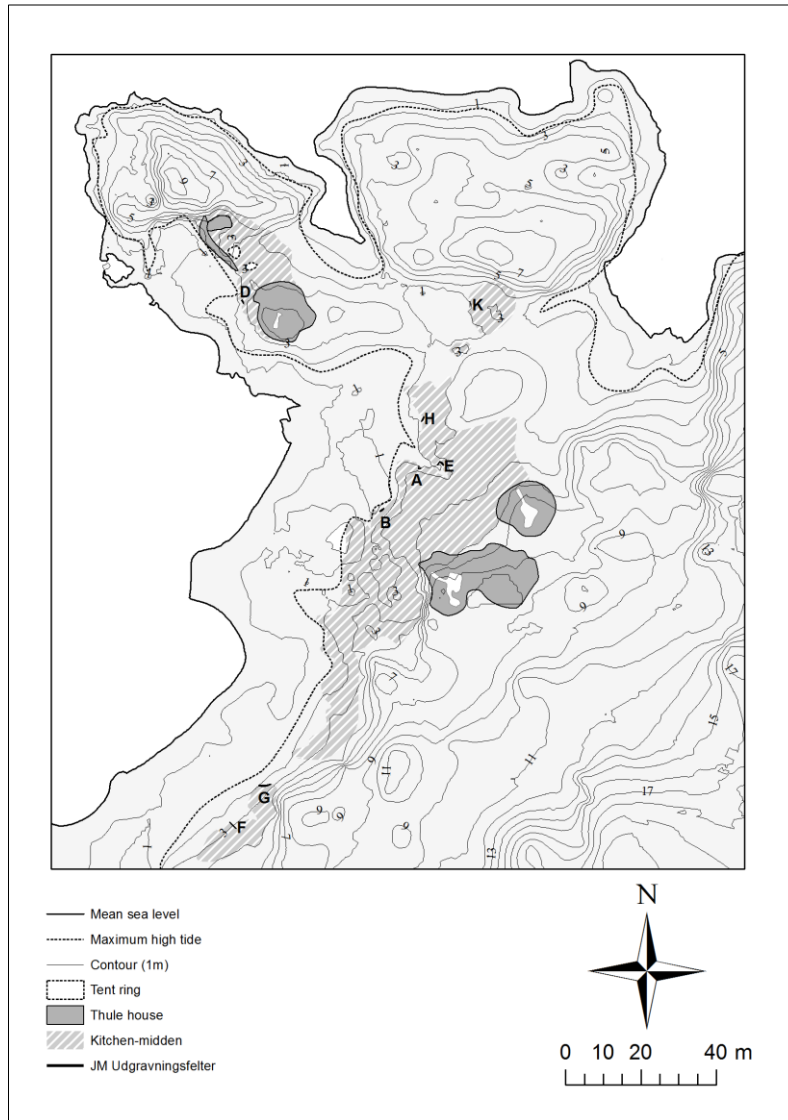
In prolongation of Jens Fog Jensen's and Bjarne Grønnow's research stay at the National Museum in Nuuk, March 2010, a number of artifacts of organic materials from Qajaa was sent to Copenhagen for registration and analyses (and some were exhibited, see below). This material was excavated during the 1982 season at Qajaa by Jørgen Meldgaard and his team, including Jeppe Møhl, Helge Larsen and Hans Lange. Jens Fog Jensen has concentrated his efforts on these finds. Subsequently the wooden artifacts have been returned to Nuuk. A number of artifacts of bone, antler and baleen and different samples are still in the process of being documented. Precise drawings and high quality photographs for publication are made.



Hafted knife from Qajaa. Driftwood and killiaq. Pia Breinholt del.

As mentioned in the Second Progress Report, Bjarne Grønnow recently identified a few fragments of drum frames in the Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk material. The publication of these quite interesting pieces representing the by far earliest musical instruments (and shaman's drums ?) in the Arctic awaits the Greenland National Day (June 21st), where the museums involved, including the local museum in Qasigianniguit, coordinate their activities to draw attention to these finds and the Saqqaq culture in general.

Bjarne Grønnow collaborated with geographer Jørgen Hollesen in order to produce an accurate topographical map of Qajaa based on surveys made with precision GPS during the summers of 2009 and 2010. Furthermore, Bjarne Grønnow has contributed to the joint paper in *Journal of Archaeological Science* about the influence of global warming on the permafrozen culture layers at Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk.



*First edition of topographical map of Qajaa. Jørgen Meldgaard's test pits are marked (A-K).
Survey by Bjarne Grønnow, 2009. Jørgen Hollesen del.*

Within the framework of 'Project Permafrost' headed by Henning Matthiesen of the Department of Conservation at the National Museum of Denmark, field work was continued at Qajaa during the summer of 2010 in collaboration with the Greenland National Museum and Archive. The interdisciplinary team enhanced the database concerning the chemical and physical conditions of the permafrozen culture layers at the site, and supplementary frozen soil samples for aDNA was taken. Both being integral parts of the 'Northern Worlds' research program of the National Museum, the CME Project and Matthiesen's team collaborate closely. Data are shared and public outreach is coordinated (see below).

Concerning Qeqertasussuk: Analyses of one of the human hair tufts from Qeqertasussuk led to the now famous reconstruction of the complete human genome of a Saqqaq man (published in Nature, February 2010 and presented in the 1.st. Annual Report of the CME-Project, April 2010). In prolongation of this, four other human hair samples from the site have been analyzed for ancient DNA at the Center for GeoGenetics, University of Copenhagen. Ph.d. student Manaasa Raghavan has extracted mtDNA from the samples, and her analyses show, that these Saqqaq individuals belong to the haplogroup D2a1, just like 'Inuk' (unpublished data, please do not cite). Later, the complete genome will be extracted from these hair samples providing new insights into the origins and life conditions of the Saqqaq. Interestingly, a human tooth (a molar) was recently identified in a box from Jørgen Meldgaard's excavations sixty years ago at the Saqqaq site, Itinnera, in the Nuuk Fjord. This molar is dated by AMS to middle or late Saqqaq, and extracted aDNA from this specimen is currently being analyzed.

Bjarne Grønnow continues his analyses of the archaeological material of artifacts from Qeqertasussuk. He has embarked on the laborious process of writing up the chapters on the complex hunting gear of the Saqqaq, which include a variety of harpoons, lances, darts thrown by means of atlatl, bows and arrows, and kayak like vessels. This excellently preserved material provides an amazing insight into the hunting techniques of the Saqqaq. Information from Meldgaard's Qajaa material supplements these analyses and is, in collaboration with Jens Fog Jensen, incorporated into the planned common publication of these two early Palaeo-Eskimo materials.

6. Visual anthropological analyses

Anthropologist Anne-Mette Jørgensen was working for the CME-Project from August 2010 until February 2011. Her task has been to digitize, register and conduct visual anthropological analyses of Jørgen Meldgaard's films and photos from Greenland and Canada.

The primary targets for Anne-Mette's analyses were the 16 mm archaeological and anthropological films from the Nuuk Fjord (1952) and the Igloolik area (1954). Furthermore, Jørgen Meldgaard's pioneering color video in Sony Betamax format from Qajaa (1982) is most interesting. Unfortunately, technical problems overwhelmed him, and the Qajaa movie was never finalized. Anne-Mette has succeeded in digitizing and improving the quality of the pictures and the sound tracks from the original tapes, and the results are now presented on the home page of the CME-Project (see below).



Visual anthropologist Anne Mette Jørgensen working with Meldgaard's films.

Anne Mette's visual anthropological analyses put Meldgaard's films into both a retrospective and contemporary perspective, and a manuscript for an international peer reviewed journal on visual anthropology will be submitted: *'Archaeology, Visuality, and Dialogue – Jørgen Meldgaard's film materials from the Arctic.'*

Based on the academic and practical experiences gained through Jørgen Meldgaard's and Richard Emmerick's films Anne Mette and Martin – in collaboration with the Head of Ethnographic Collections - have now submitted an application to the Danish Heritage Board. If successful, a new grant will ensure that all historic ethnographic films housed at the Ethnographical Department are digitized and made available to a wider audience in Denmark and in the areas they were filmed.

7. 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'**. Our student from Nuuk, 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 carried out in Greenland (The Greenland University and the Greenland National Museum), in Canada, and in Denmark (the SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen and SILA).

Mari Hardenberg has attended a number of workshops and conferences, i.a. the annual meeting of Canadian Archaeological Association in Calgary, Alberta. She has studied Dorset Culture finds kept on the Greenland National Museum and Archive and presented a guest lecture for the museum staff and students from Ilisimatusarfik (The Greenland University). Her field work included participation in excavations at the Dorset site, Point Ridge, headed by professor Priscilla Renouf, Memorial University of St. John's. In St. John's she recorded figurines and other pieces of portable art of the Dorset Culture, and subsequently she went to Ottawa to the CMC, where she got the chance to look at Jørgen Meldgaard's finds of Dorset art from the Igloodik area before this material became inaccessible due to the renovation of the storage rooms at CMC.

8. Public Outreach

The home page of the CME Project got momentum during the past year. You can find our home page in Danish as well as in an English version on The Northern World's front page:

(http://nordligeverdener.natmus.dk/the_carpenter_meldgaard_endowment)

The home page includes introductions to the aims and the structure of the CME-project, the reports on progresses, and important extracts from Meldgaard's photo collection and film production. The home page is obviously constantly developing and more photographic and archaeological material will be added.

Co-financed by Illiniusiorfik (The Greenland Publisher of Schoolbooks) and the Greenlandic newspaper Sermitisiaq the CME-Project's artist, Nuka K. Godtfredsen, and Martin are creating a graphic novel on the Late Dorset culture based on Meldgaard's discoveries in Igloolik and excavations in Greenland. The two CME-Project team members have made several presentations in connection with art exhibitions of the original drawings, and the graphic novel was presented in a broadcast by TVAvisen (news on the national Danish television). A 20 pages introduction in Greenlandic and Danish to the graphic novel has been produced by Martin Appelt and the vice-director of the National Museum of Greenland – Pauline K. Knudsen. It will be published in Sermitisiaq from April 1st 2011. Nuka has now done a little more than half of the illustrations for the second volume. Agreements have been signed with Avataq Cultural Institute ensuring the publication of the first two volumes in Canada (in Inuktitut, French and English). In addition, agreements are about to be finalized with the graphic novel publisher 'Aben Maler', in order to publicize in various European countries.

In prolongation of Anne Mette Jørgensen's visual anthropological work, she and Martin are laying the foundation for the initiative "Filmic Dialogues". The goal of this initiative is to have all of the National Museum's historic films from Greenland digitized. This forms the basis for creating, on the one hand, a repatriation process ensuring local access to the films in the areas, where they once were filmed. On the other hand, an on-line electronic installation/artwork, that will encompass sequences from the historical films, will be developed.

By June 18th 2011 a special Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment issue of the journal "Tidsskriftet Grønland" will be published. The volume will be edited by Bjarne and Martin. It includes 70 pages on Jørgen Meldgaard's archaeological fieldwork as well as presentations of some of the new results of the CME Project.



*Ukaliatsiaq and Umimmaq – two Late Dorset characters
appearing in the second volume of 'The first Steps'.
Nuka Godtfredsen del.*

A film crew from National Geographic visited the CME Project at SILA and spent a whole day filming Nuka Godtfredsen's work with water color images of the 'aDNA reconstructed' Saqqaq man. The crew also filmed Bjarne Grønnow working in his laboratory with the Qeqertasussuk-material, in particular the human hair tuft from which the ancient DNA was extracted. Bjarne Grønnow and Martin Appelt were archaeological consultants for the National Geographic team, and furthermore Martin and Mikkel Sørensen reconstructed a number of Saqqaq tools, that were used in re-enactment scenes, which later were filmed in Greenland.

A harpoon head from Qeqertasussuk was selected for a special exhibition dedicated to the Danish Queen Margrethe II on the occasion of her 70th birthday. In this connection Bjarne Grønnow wrote a chapter in the book about the Queen's archaeological activities. The exhibition opened at the National Museum in October 2010 and closed again by February 2011.



Saqqaq harpoon head from Qeqertasussuk.

As mentioned above, the CME Project lent a number of artifacts from Qajaa, kept by the Greenland National Museum and Archive. They became part of a small so-called 'flex-exhibition' in the Hall of the

Museum, where the idea was to inform the visitors about the research history of Qajaa and about the current investigations of the effect of global warming on the frozen midden layers. In one glass case part of the Section A, which was prepared in the field in 2010, was on exhibit, showing the beautiful, 3 meter deep turf and culture-layers at the site. A second glass case showed Jørgen Meldgaard's original field notes, maps, camera etc. and some of the most important Saqqaq artifacts, which he excavated and drew in the field, for example an atlatl of whale bone, harpoon heads, and a hafted burin. It was our intention to give the museum visitors just a little impression of the enthusiasm of Meldgaard and his team when they, for the first time, recovered organic artifacts from the Saqqaq culture.



One of the showcases from the exhibition on Qajaa. The Hall of the National Museum, February 2011.

Visitors, Conferences and Workshops

April 2010: Mariane Hardenberg presented a poster describing her research on Dorset art. Canadian Archaeological Association, Calgary.

August 2010: Martin Appelt presented a paper at the International Federation of Library Association's international meeting, Copenhagen. Paper title: "The First Steps – sketches from a unique project".

October 2010: Jens Fog Jensen and Bjarne Grønnow presented a joint paper on the conference 'Frozen Pasts', Trondheim, Norway. Paper title: 'Archaeological Treasures from West Greenland: The frozen sites of Qeqertasussuk and Qajaa'.

November 2010: Adelaide de Menil and Edmund Carpenter visited SILA, Ethnographic Collections. Following a welcome lunch at the museum restaurant, they visited the Carpenter-Meldgaard Project staff, and all the different aspects of the project were presented by and discussed with the individual researchers. The program lasted until 5 PM and was a great success.

February 2011: professor Jan Borm from Le Centre d'Études Arctiques, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and about 20 students and researchers from his center visited SILA. A joint workshop was held. Borm's team presented their work, in particular archaeological and ethno-historical projects in Siberia, and the SILA staff presented ongoing work with the Meldgaard archive.

February 2011: Bjarne Grønnow co-organized an international specialist workshop (Global Climate Change and the Polar Archaeological Record) at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He presented a paper entitled: 'Fragile and Limited Resources: Archaeological Sites in the High Arctic'.

Reports

Appelt, Martin & Andersen, Karina, 2010:

Memo on Agreements between Jørgen Meldgaard and CMC relating to his Canadian Field Work. (26 text pages and c. 100 scanned documents)

Appelt, Martin, 2010

Memo on two Archaeological Materials from Arctic Canada (Isingut and Uglit). (16 text pages and 32 illustrations and tables).

Mason, Owen, 2010

An Assessment of the Archives of Professor Helge Larsen held at the Danish National Museum, Copenhagen.

Publications (April 2010 – March 2011)

Appelt, Martin & Damkjar, Eric submitted

Late Dorset. Manuscript submitted for Oxford Handbook of Arctic Archaeology (eds. Friesen, T. M. & O. Mason).

Appelt, Martin & Madsen, Christian Koch 2010

‘Meldgaard’s Vinland Vision’. The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment at the National Museum of Denmark: 50 pp.

Appelt, Martin & Knudsen, Pauline K. 2011

Hermelinen/Ukaliatsiaq. Ten articles to be published in *Sermitsiaq* from April 1st. 2011.

Elberling, Bo; Matthiesen, Henning; Jørgensen, Christian Juncher; Hansen, Birger Ulf; Grønnow, Bjarne;

Meldgaard, Morten; Andreasen, Claus; Shfaqat Abbas Khan 2011

Paleo-Eskimo kitchen midden preservation in permafrost under future climate conditions at Qajaa, West Greenland. – Journal of Archaeological Science (2011), doi:10.1016/j.jas.2011.01.011

Grønnow, Bjarne 2010

Foreword. – In: Appelt, Martin & Madsen, Christian Koch: ‘Meldgaard’s Vinland Vision’. The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment at the National Museum of Denmark: p. 5

Grønnow, Bjarne 2010

Fangstfolk ved Diskobugten (Hunters in the Disco Bay). - In: Laursen, Lars & Jørgensen, Lars (eds.): Dronning Margrethe og Arkæologien (Queen Margrethe and Archaeology). Moesgaard Museum og Nationalmuseet. Gads Forlag, 2010: 217 – 223.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2010

Foreword. – In: Sørensen, Mikkel: The Archaeology of Old Nuuliiit: Eigil Knuth’s Investigations in the Thule Region, North Greenland, 1952-1990. Monographs on Greenland/Meddelelser om Grønland, Vol. 349. Man & Society, vol. 39: 5 – 7.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2010

The History of Archaeological Research in North East Greenland: Putting the GeoArk Project into Perspective. Danish Journal of Geography, Vol. 110(2): 117 – 130.

Grønnow, Bjarne submitted

Independence I and Saqqaaq – The First Greenlanders. Manuscript submitted for Oxford Handbook of Arctic Archaeology (eds. Friesen, T. M. & O. Mason).

Grønnow, Bjarne; Gulløv, Hans Christian; Jakobsen, Bjarne Holm; Gotfredsen, Anne Birgitte; Kauffmann, Laura Hauch; Kroon, Aart; Pedersen, Jørn Bjarke Torp; Sørensen, Mikkel 2011

At the Edge: High Arctic Walrus Hunters during the Little Ice Age. *Antiquity* 85(2011): 1-18.

Hardenberg, Mariane 2010

In Search of Thule Children: Construction of Playing Houses as a Means of Socializing Children. *Danish Journal of Geography*, Vol. 110(2): 201 - 214.

Hardenberg, Mariane 2011

Kunstforståelse i en arkæologisk sammenhæng (The interpretation of art in an archaeological context). *Atuagagdliutit/Grønlandsposten*, 23. Marts, 2011: p. 27

Jensen, Jens Fog submitted

Greenlandic Dorset. Manuscript submitted for *Oxford Handbook of Arctic Archaeology* (eds. Friesen, T. M. & O. Mason).

Jensen, Jens Fog and Krause, Tilo 2010

Eskimonæs og Hansa Bugt – ruiner fra Anden Verdenskrig i Nordøstgrønland, *Tidsskriftet Grønland* nr. 4, december 2009: 292-303.

Jensen, Jens Fog and Krause, Tilo in press

Wehrmacht occupations in the new world: archaeological and historical investigations of World War II allied and German weather stations in northeast Greenland, *Polar Record*.

Odgaard, Ulla 2010

Feeding the Fire in the Circumpolar Hearths. In: Westerdahl, C. (ed.) *A Circumpolar Reappraisal: The Legacy of Gutorm Gjessing (1906-1979), Proceedings of an International Conference Held in Trondheim, Norway, 10th-12th October 2008, Arranged by the Institute of Archaeology and Religious Studies, and the SAK Department*: p. 225-239.

Pasda, Kerstin & Odgaard, Ulla 2011

Nothing is Wasted: The ideal “nothing is wasted” and divergence in pasts and present among caribou hunters in Greenland. In: *Quaternary International* (2011).

Toft, Peter Andreas, Appelt, Martin & Gulløv, Hans Christian 2010

Nuuk’s “grå guld”. *Nationalmuseets Arbejdsmark*, Nationalmuseet: 68-83.

Valgreen, Lisbeth, Appelt, Martin & Grønnow, Bjarne 2010

”De første skridt” – en ny vej i forskningsformidlingen. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*, nr. 1 (marts) 2010.