



The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment

The National Museum of Denmark

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

3rd Progress Report

April – September, 2011

1. The Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment Project (CME-Project) team, April – September, 2011

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. Martin Appelt is consultant and manuscript author in connection with the graphic novel, *Ukaliatsiaq*. He supervises Mariane Hardenberg's Ph.d. program.

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.

archivist Jesper Kurt Nielsen: advisor concerning the archival materials.

artist Nuka K. Godtfredsen: the Greenlandic artist behind the high quality graphic novel, *Ukaliatsiaq* ('The First Steps Vol. 2'), based on Meldgaard's research in the Igloolik area and our present knowledge on Late Dorset in the High Arctic.

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

student assistant Kirstine Møller: assists the CME-Project team with entering scanned photos and documents into the CME-database.

2. Advisory Board Meeting

During the days May 26th – 27th, 2011, the Advisory Board of the CME-Project gathered in Copenhagen. The following members attended the meeting:

Morten Meldgaard, Steven Loring, Susan Rowley, Vladimir Pitulko, and Claus Andreasen. Patricia D. Sutherland had to stay home due to illness, but she sent her comments through a Skype connection.

The program contained the following presentations by the team members of the CME-Project:

Welcome – status and progress of the CME project (BG)

The archival material ‘ Hands-on’ (MA, JKN)

Database and catalogue: Meldgaard’s materials from Canadian sites (MA, UO, PTO)

Meldgaard’s photos and films – registrations and visual anthropological analyses (AMJ, UO)

Meldgaard’s and Emmeric’s film from Igloolik, 1954.

Dorset art studies – a Ph.d. project, the Carpenter-Meldgaard Project (MH via Skype)

Work in progress: Meldgaard’s Greenlandic materials (the Saqqaq site, Qajaa) (JFJ)

Analyses and publication of the Qeqertasussuk material (BG).

Extracts from Meldgaard’s Qajaa film (1982) (BG)

Extracts from Meldgaard’s Nuuk Fjord film (1952) (MA)

Presentation of the graphic novel, Ukaliatsiaq, and discussion on the perspectives on public outreach of the project (NG and MA)

On Friday 27th we summed up the *Advices from the Advisory Board*, and during the afternoon an informal workshop including presentations by an invited researcher (Manassa Raghavan, The GeoGenetics Centre) and Vladimir Pitulko was held under the heading: ‘Arctic Archaeology – where do we go from here?’

The comments and advises from the Advisory Board and the subsequent discussions were valuable for the CME-Project team. We intend to follow up on all advises. Most importantly, we were advised to present the outcome of the CME-Project to the international scientific community via sessions on the upcoming Inuit Studies Conference in Washington D.C., fall 2012. At present we have submitted proposals for a session (***Paleoeskimo Problems: Large Scale Patterns and Changes***), in which results originating in the CME-Project will be presented and put into perspective by contributions from international colleagues. A proposal for a round-table discussion has been submitted, as well, entitled ***The Right Format – Edmund Carpenter Memorial Round Table***. The round-table is intended to explore alternative ways of communicating human science and reflections on the interplay between experimental forms of communication and scientific analysis.

Furthermore, the Advisory Board’s advises and discussions dealt with public outreach strategies and community involvement in particular in relation to the native communities in the Igloolik area.

During the subsequent workshop, concerns about protection of sites and monuments in the High Arctic and accelerating erosion due to climate changes were put forward. Moreover, a number of current and future research topics were discussed, including: potentials in aDNA studies, Arctic Small Tool tradition origins, interconnectedness of Arctic cultures, dating methods, studies of spiritual aspects of prehistoric cultures, cultural landscape and resource studies, and Arctic prehistory in a global perspective. Finally, Steven Loring and Vladimir Pitulko presented results of their latest research projects in prolongation of the dinner, Friday evening.

In sum, the meeting was extremely fruitful and inspiring for the CME-Project team. The combination of progress reports from the project components followed up by a workshop including discussions on current research topics was a great success and added a new, interesting dimension to the Advisory Board meeting.

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

Greenland

Following Jens Fog Jensen's complete registration of Meldgaard's find material from Qajaa, all artifacts of organic materials have been returned to the Greenland National Museum with Martin Appelt and Jens Fog Jensen as couriers. They combined this task with brief research stays at the museum in Nuuk.

In June, a team including Martin Appelt carried out archaeological experiments in Nuuk, funded by the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland. The experiments originated in the spectacular finds from the excavations by Jørgen Meldgaard's and Bjarne Grønnow's teams at the frozen sites in Disco Bay. Parts of the Saqqaq hunting tool kit, bows, arrows, bird darts etc., which have been documented through analyses of the archaeological finds from Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk, were reconstructed, and so was the drum of the Saqqaq culture.



Martin Appelt and Natuk Lund-Olsen in front of the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk showing the reconstructed Saqqaq drum (June 2011).

The experiments followed standard “total-experiment” procedures, and was designed to accomplish two goals. On the one hand the aim was to provide experiences with material properties, explore Saqqaq workmanship and functionality of the reconstructed composite implements, and identify topics for future systematic experiments. On the other hand the goal was to reconstruct implements to be displayed alongside with the original finds at the Greenland National Museum’s new permanent exhibition “Prehistory”.

The team managed to meet both goals successfully, and the reconstructed pieces have now been mounted in the permanent exhibition. The experiments in particular highlighted important information on wood technologies, and properties of various species of driftwood used by the Saqqaq-people, and not the least the need for further and systematic experiments. The finished reconstructions were tested for functionality by local experts. These experiments included the use of the atlatl and harpoon by the Greenland champion in kayak and harpooning, and the butchering of a seal with a stone-bladed knife by a seasoned hunter’s wife, and pieces of the seal cook in a box-hearth with the use of broiling-stones. The bow and arrow was put to use by an experienced long-bow user, and the drum played by a practiced drum-singer. All production sequences and use-episodes were documented by both still-photos and in live film.

The team consisted of Martin Appelt (CME), photographer Ole Malling (Malling Films), associated professor Mikkel Sørensen, curator emeritus Jeppe Møhl, master-student Astrid Wolff-Jensen (all University of Copenhagen), vice-director Pauline K. Knudsen, curator Mikkel Myrup (both Greenland National Museum & Archives), and master –student Michael Nielsen (University of Greenland). In addition important contributions were made by curator Aviaaja R. Jakobsen and Dorthe Vold (both Greenland National Museum & Archives).



Experiments with a reconstructed Saqqaq harpoon and atlatl. Note the harpoon hanging in mid-air.

Nuuk, June, 2011.

Canada

In prolongation of our meeting last year in Copenhagen with vice-president of Research and Collections, Moira McCaffrey, of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) a memorandum of understanding between the National Museum and CMC has been drawn up concerning the collaboration on the Canadian materials belonging to the Meldgaard Archive and the subsequent publication of the catalogue describing Meldgaard's investigations at the Igloolik sites. The memorandum is about to be signed by the museums. As mentioned in the Second Annual Report, access to the primary materials kept at CMC is made difficult due to renovation of the storage facilities at CMC. Accordingly, we have prioritized our research efforts concerning the primary materials on Mariane Hardenberg's studies of Dorset art. She plans to visit CMC for continued registrations of the portable art ('symbolic representations') from the Igloolik region during fall, 2011. Resources have been transferred to the archival part of the CME Project. However, it is still our hope

to be able to carry out some additional direct AMS-datings on the artifact sequences from Igloodik in collaboration with the CMC.

4. Registrations, Meldgaard's Canadian materials

In accordance with the budget adjustments of the CME-Project during the spring of 2011 (see above) more resources have been put into registration and analyses of the Meldgaard Archive itself.

Ulla Odgaard is continuing analyzing information from the diaries, drawings and photos of the single archaeological structures and the organization of the settlements in the Igloodik area. She is coordinating and proof reading the information that Kirstine Møller is entering into the CME Database. Almost all 'raw data' on the Igloodik sites have now been entered. Selected photos from the database have already been published as a sample of this unique material (see 'Public Outreach').

Martin Appelt continues his work with Jørgens' surveys of the important sites. He is redrafting the site maps and preparing them and the connected data for publishing in the planned catalogue.

5. Qajaa and Qeqertasussuk

The registration of the archaeological material from Meldgaard's 1982-season at Qajaa is almost complete. Jens Fog Jensen is preparing drawings and photos of the most important artifacts, and he has gathered contextual data from the Meldgaard Archive. He will use the last three months of his part of the CME-Project to write a manuscript on the Qajaa material – a manuscript which will be an integral part of the monograph including the Qeqertasussuk investigations.



Distal fragment of atlatl made from whale bone. Excavated by Jørgen Meldgaard's team at Qajaa, 1982.

Bjarne Grønnow has worked on artifact analyses and has submitted two manuscripts for international journals during the summer. One paper, *The Backbone Of The Saqqaq Culture: A Study Of The Non-Empirical Dimensions Of The Early Arctic Small Tool Tradition*, is aimed at the journal *Arctic Anthropology* (proceedings of a session at the ICASS-conference in Akureyri (see below). The other paper, *The Earliest Wooden Hunting Tools of the Eastern Arctic: An Archaeological Reconstruction of Saqqaq Bows, Darts, Harpoons and Lances*, is written for a special volume of *Études/Inuit/Studies* dealing with the utilization of driftwood among Arctic cultures. Work on the planned monograph on the archaeology of Qajaa and Qeqertassusuk continues as planned.

6. Visual anthropological analyses

Anthropologist Anne-Mette Jørgensen has submitted her manuscript '*Archaeology, Visuality, and Dialogue – Jørgen Meldgaard's film materials from the Arctic*' to the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies*.

Anne Mette Jørgensen's work in the frame of the CME-project resulted in an application to the Danish Heritage Board, concerning preservation, digitization, analyses and public outreach programs for all historic ethnographic films housed at the Ethnographical Department at the National Museum. The application was met, and Anne Mette now heads a two year project on our films.

This case, like several others including Mariane Hardenberg's ph.d.grant, clearly demonstrates that the funding of the CME-Project by the Rock Foundation promote substantial funding from other external sources.

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**'. Mariane Hardenberg 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 and Archive), in Canada, and in Denmark (SAXO Institute, University of Copenhagen and SILA).

The course of the PhD project for the last months has essentially focused on disseminating preliminary research results to a wide range of audiences. Thus, different parts of the research have been presented at international conferences, network meetings, course lectures and radio broadcasts. Furthermore, a couple of short papers have been published in popular journals and newspapers. In addition to the dissemination scope of the PhD project, a great deal of time has been spent on coordinating a field school project held in South Greenland, August 2011, for graduate students from Northern countries. The object registration of Dorset art finds is also still ongoing.

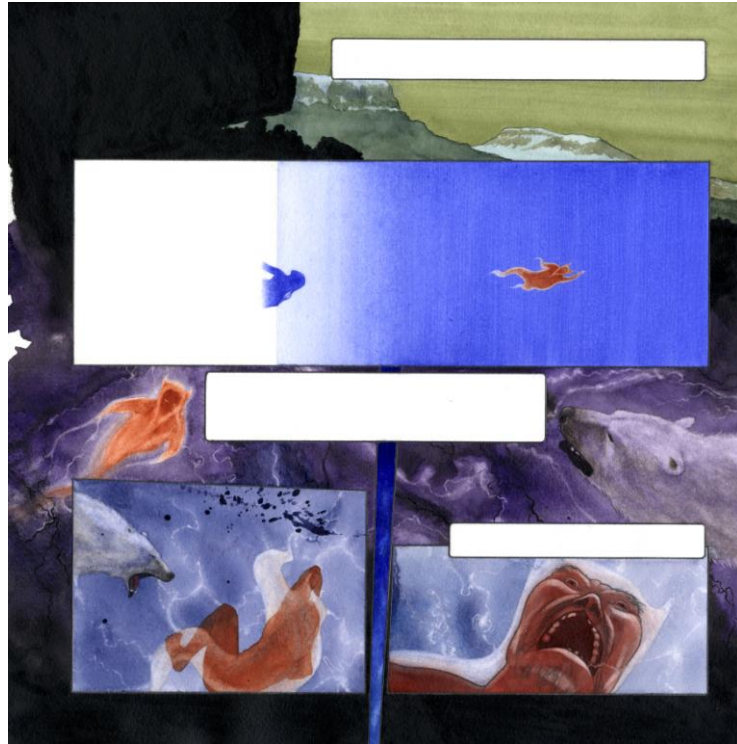
8. Public Outreach

A two-full page article on Jørgen Meldgaard's ethnographic photos was published in the important Danish newspaper Politiken (August 28th, 2011). Written by science journalist Camilla Stockmann, the paper was based on interviews with Ulla Odgaard, Martin Appelt and Anne Mette Jørgensen. Meldgaard's brilliant photos created remarkable public attention. The Greenland Radio and Television (KNR) did an interview with Bjarne Grønnow on the CME-Project. The interview originated in the newspaper article in the Politiken.

The home page of the CME Project is presented in Danish as well as in English on the following adress: (http://nordligeverdener.natmus.dk/the_carpenter_meldgaard_endowment)

The home page, which is aimed at the general public as well as professionals, includes introductions to the aims and the structure of the CME-project, reports (annual and progress reports), and extracts from Meldgaard's photo collection and film production.

The second volume of the graphic novel by Nuka K. Godtfredsen (story by Martin Appelt) is progressing well. Following a prologue written by Martin Appelt and Pauline Knudsen (The Greenland National Museum and Archive) a page of the 50 pages volume is now printed every week in the Greenlandic newspaper, Sermitsiaq. The last page in the newspaper by February 2012, and subsequently all pages will be gathered in Volume 2 entitled 'Ukaliatsiaq' (The Ermine), planned to be published by Illinnisiorfik (the Greenland Schoolbook Publishers) in March 2012.



A page from 'Ukaliatsiaq' interpreting a Dorset shamanistic session (Nuka K. Godtfredsen).

The identification of drum rim fragments in the Qajaa as well as in the Qeqertasussuk materials created a lot of public attention as the information was published in Danish and Greenlandic newspapers and other media by June 16th this year. The CME-Project collaborated with the Greenland National Museum and the local museum in Qasigiannuguit on the press release, and a special exhibition opened in Qasigiannuguit on the very day of the release.

Manuscripts for a special volume of the journal 'Tidsskriftet Grønland' dedicated to the Carpenter-Meldgaard Endowment Project have been submitted. Publication is expected by November, 2011.

9. Visitors, Guest Researchers, Conferences, Lectures and Workshops

September 16th, a delegation of senators from the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa visited the CME-Project. Mari Hardenberg and Bjarne Grønnow guided a tour in the exhibitions and subsequently the senators were introduced to the CME-Project and the SILA – Arctic Centre at the Ethnographic Collections. The visit, which ended in the workshop of Nuka Godtfredsen, who presented his graphic novel, created great attention and interesting comments by the senators. Members of the delegation were:

Mr. David Tilson (MP, President, Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association), Joan Fraser (senator), Michel Rivard (senator), Mr. Scott Simms (MP), Karin Phillips (Advisor), Mr. Philippe Méla (Secretary), Peter Lundy (Ambassador).

In prolongation of her Ph.d. dissertation on Jørgen Meldgaard's finds of organic materials from a couple of the Igloolik sites, Claire Houmard, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre and Université Laval, has been awarded a post.doc. by the Fyssen Foundation. Bjarne Grønnow, who was member of Claire Houmard's Ph.d. committee, is supervising her post.doc. Claire will benefit from the research environment of the CME-Project as a major part of her research consists of technological analyses of the Thule and Dorset collections kept at the National Museum.

Senior geographer Najat Bhiry from Université Laval, Quebec, stayed during May and June as guest researcher at SILA and the CME-Project. During her stay she presented her research, which was part of an International Polar Year program, and we discussed further possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Senior geologist Lotte Selsing from the Arkeologiske Museum i Stavanger, The University of Stavanger, Norway, spent September as visiting researcher with us at the CME-Project. She presented a colloquium on territories during the Mesolithic era in the Norwegian mountains.

Bjarne Grønnow attended the Seventh ICASS Conference in Akureyri, Iceland, June 22nd – 25th. He presented a paper based on the CME-Project entitled *The Backbone of the Saqqaq Culture: A Study of The Non-Empirical Dimensions of The Early Arctic Small Tool Tradition* in a session dedicated to the memory of Ernest Tiger Burch.

Martin Appelt has presented guest lectures at Ilisimatusarfik (the Greenland University in Nuuk) and at the University of Copenhagen.

11. Publications

Appelt, M. and M. Hardenberg (in press)

Tunit og fuglene – ekko fra en anden verden. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*.

Appelt, Martin & Pauline K. Knudsen 2011

- Hermelinen. *Sermitsiaq* 13/2011: 28 – 29
- Tunit mellem myte, drøm og virkelighed/del 1. *Sermitsiaq* 14/2011: 24 – 25
- Tunit mellem myte, drøm og virkelighed/del 2. *Sermitsiaq* 15/2011: 59
- Knogler og gener. *Sermitsiaq* 16/2011: 36
- Tunits livsopfattelse/del 1. *Sermitsiaq* 17/2011: 40
- Tunits livsopfattelse/del 2. *Sermitsiaq* 18/2011: 28 – 29
- Små familier – store slægter. *Sermitsiaq* 19/2011: 19 – 20

Appelt, Martin (submitted)

Eastern Arctic Late Dorset. - 50 pg. manus plus ill. to be published in Oxford Handbook of Arctic Archaeology (T. Max Friesen and Owen Mason eds.).

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): pp. 960-977.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2011

Eigil Knuth et l'archéologie de l'Extrême Nord. *Inter-Nord – Revue Internationale d'Etudes Arctiques. Problèmes Arctiques: Environnement, Sociétés et Patrimoine*. Vol. 21: 123 – 135.

Hardenberg, Mariane 2011

Unmasked Dorset People: communicated visual expressions. *Art and Communication in Pre-Literate Societies*, pp.246-254, XXIV Valcamonica Symposium Papers.

Hardenberg, Mariane 2011

Kunstforståelse i en arkæologisk sammenhæng. *Atuagagdliutit Grønlandsposten nr. 16*.

Hardenberg, Mariane (in press)

Maskerne falder. *Sermitsiaq*.

Jørgensen, Anne-Mette (submitted)

Archaeology, Visuality, and Dialogue – Jørgen Meldgaard's film materials from the Arctic'. Submitted to the journal *Études/Inuit/Studies*.

Odgaard, Ulla (in press)

Arkitektur som erindring – med eksempler fra Jørgen Meldgaards udgravninger af pre-dorset og dorset strukturer i Igloolik området. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*.