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Ledkov's Novella *White Hawk*

A Nenets Epic Reconstruction

ABSTRACT This article presents a reading of the “epic novella” *White Hawk* by the Nenets writer Vasilij Ledkov, which was published in 1982, in the last decade of the Soviet Union. *White Hawk* is an epic reconstruction from a Nenets point of view of the historical events that are otherwise recorded only by the Russian colonisers. These events are known as “the century of wars” between the Nenets and the Russians prior to the subjugation of the Nenets to Russian rule. In other Soviet sources on the Nenets this century of wars has been passed over in silence. In the late Soviet period, in 1982, Ledkov attempted to loosen the constraints of what was permissible, while at the same time he sought to protect the text from condemnation by allowing for a number of divergent readings. He may have done this not least in order to avoid the accusations of nationalism to which he had previously been subjected. It is my contention that the text must have appealed to the particular type of Soviet reader who was aware of the practice of double coding as a way of loosening ideological constraints. Such a reader would be willing to disregard the elements of the text that gave it ideological legitimacy and would have a keen eye for innovative – or what were previously “nonpermissible” – elements. Not a few Soviet authors are known to have participated in the development of an increasingly more Aesopian language, and it would be a mistake to view writers from the Northern peoples as less capable in this respect.

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Northern Science and Research

Postsecondary Perspectives in the Northwest Territories

ABSTRACT The International Polar Year (IPY) provides an opportunity to reflect on Northern science and research. For all Canadians, science and research should contribute to living a good life. A good life includes successfully making sense of the world within local contexts, sharing this knowledge beyond the immediate community and reconciling it with knowledge held by outsiders. Northern science and research are inherent in Traditional Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis knowledge; and they continue to be reflected in Northern governance, economy, and cultures. Alongside Aboriginal sciences are Western sciences; these are primarily disciplinary in nature and formally structure postsecondary education globally. Postsecondary science and research education is still being introduced to the Northwest Territories (NWT). Over the last forty years the territorial government has developed the capacity for educational services, funding, institutions, and authority through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The delivery of Northern-based postsecondary education through Aurora College provides Northerners with the capacity to generate science and research in the North. What place do science and research have in the North? (North in this paper demarcates the socially constructed geopolitical territories north of the 60th parallel that we use cautiously as a structural term for the purposes of our narrative.) What kinds of investments need to be made and will Northerners be prepared to overcome barriers and take advantage of the opportunities?¹

ELENA BALZAMO

Le «heureux hasard»

A propos de la redécouverte de la Carta marina

ABSTRACT The article, a “case study”, deals with questions concerning the fate of the two known copies of the famous *Carta Marina* (1539), the earliest map of the Nordic countries that gives details and presents geographical entities in a recognisable way. It was created by the last Swedish Catholic archbishop Olaus Magnus (1492–1557) during his long exile, first in Poland (Danzig), then in Italy (Venice, Trento, Rome). The map was printed in Venice from nine woodcut blocks; the resulting print measures 1.70 m x 1.25 m but the number of printed copies remains unknown. The map was accompanied by a separately printed commentary by Olaus Magnus, who, some years later, wrote a book on the same subject: *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus*, Rome 1555 [‘A Description of the Northern Peoples’]. The latter is generally considered a larger commentary on the map and remains, together with the map itself, the main source of information about the Nordic countries in the sixteenth century. At the end of the seventeenth century, the map disappeared from public knowledge until 1886, when a relatively badly preserved copy was found in a library in Munich, Germany. For more than a half-century, this map was considered to be the only one in existence. However in 1962 another copy, in much better condition, was purchased on behalf of the Uppsala University Library and brought to Sweden. Little is known about the “biographies” of the two known copies and a number of questions arise as soon as one tries to find out where they come from, to whom they belonged and how they came into the possession of their previous owners. The first part of the present article takes up circumstances under which the so-called Munich copy was discovered by Oscar Brenner in 1886 and problems related to its restoration by German specialists in 1950. The second part is devoted to transactions which lead to the acquisition of the second copy by Uppsala University Library in 1962. Most of the documents related to the purchase were kept secret until recently and the opening of the sealed dossier in 2002 threw some new light on the recent history of the *Carta Marina*. The present investigation is focused on the enigmatic figure of Emeryk Hutten-Czapski (1897–1979), a Polish map collector, who sold an extraordinarily well-preserved copy of the *Carta Marina* to the Swedes. At what point and under what circumstances did he acquire the map? Where was the map kept at previous stages if its existence? Different hypotheses are examined in the light of some recently published and unpublished documents in order to trace the history of this masterpiece of Renaissance cartography.

SUSAN BRANTLY

Whatever Happened to the Black Swedes?

Ola Larsmo's *Maroonberget*

ABSTRACT This article examines how historical fiction can impact a nation's narrative of itself, and hence, issues of

national identity. Ola Larsmo's *Maroonberget* (1996) presents a story that challenges the narrative of Swedish homogeneity by tracing a history of black Swedes back to the 1700s. The novel undermines binary oppositions such as white/black and Swede/Immigrant by positing a model of hybridity. The reception of the novel in the Swedish press is examined in order to gauge the reactions to Larsmo's novel in the contemporary cultural debate.