

archaeology. To the extent that the papers in this volume touch on these subjects, the volume both looks to the past and points to a direction forward at a time in which BC archaeology is emerging from a decade of rapid change, particularly when seen in light of the situation that obtained in Phil Hobler's early years.

On that note, one final point is in order. With the retirement of Phil Hobler in 2001 and, subsequently, RG Matson in 2004, the last of the second generation of pioneers in BC archaeology leaves the stage. Roy Carlson and Phil Hobler (SFU), Donald Mitchell (UVic) and RG Matson (UBC) all left an indelible stamp on the trajectory of BC archaeology. They held their theories and views of BC archaeology strongly, and often debated them fiercely, and this guided BC archaeology in some productive directions. Yet with this volume there seems to be, even amongst archaeologists trained primarily in the SFU school, an expanding range of questions that are considered worthy of asking. While likely, in part, a product of there being more archaeologists and more foundational knowledge

to move forward with new questions, a concerted effort appears to be mounting to expand the range of archaeological practice to newly defined areas of inquiry. Despite the limitations of the volume, it documents a particular juncture in what will hopefully be a continued press forward into new domains. As such, it warrants the price and the space on one's bookshelf.

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The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America

By Brian M. Fagan.

Updated paperback edition. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2004. xxiv + 288 pp., further readings, illus., maps, index. ISBN: 0-8130-2756-X. US\$24.95.

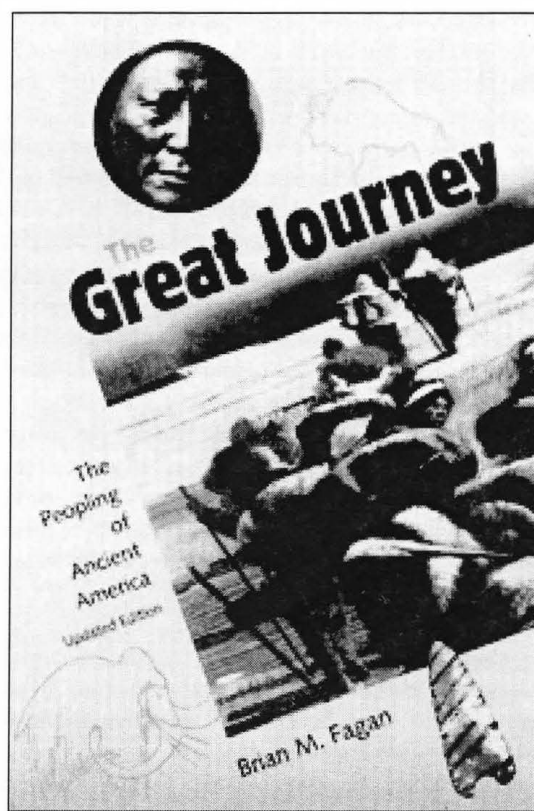
A Journey to a New Land

Barbara J. Winter, Janice Graf, and M. Craig Rust, editors.

SFU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Burnaby, BC, 2005. Publication No. 32, Archaeology Press, Simon Fraser University. viii + 72 pp., quality colour illus., glossary. ISBN: 0-86491-276-5. Cdn\$45.00. Companion website at: <http://www.sfu.museum/>.

It has become popular to refer to the dispersal of anatomically modern humans from our African place of origin as a "journey." This implies a purposeful and active undertaking resulting in the peopling of the world's other continents. The two books presently reviewed are similar in that they use this "journey" metaphor to present the current state of knowledge about the first settlement of the Americas to a mainly senior secondary and junior post-secondary audience. However, this is no easy task considering the almost daily new discoveries in the field, and the two books are, in fact, very different in their specifics.

Let us start with Brian Fagan's updated edition of *The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America*, a book that originally appeared in 1987. Professor Fagan is possibly the most prolific writer of archaeology textbooks today, and most students of Anglophone archaeology will likely recognise his name. I read two of his textbooks during my undergraduate studies, and I have to admit that my expectations of *The Great Journey* were high. Therefore, it was a little disappointing to find out that we're dealing here with



an exact reprint of the 1987 first edition, complete with original typographical errors; only a short, preface-like "Update of the 2004 Edition" is new.

Fagan's book is divided into five parts consisting of two or three chapters each, preceded by the already mentioned Update and by the introduction to the original edition. The Update makes an ambitious recap of everything that has gone on since 1987, while the introduction explains the "archaeological drama" metaphor that Fagan employs in organising the main body of *The Great Journey* into a series of acts (parts) and scenes (chapters). Part One reviews the history of (Euro-American) scholarly interest in the origins of the Native Americans, from the racist and

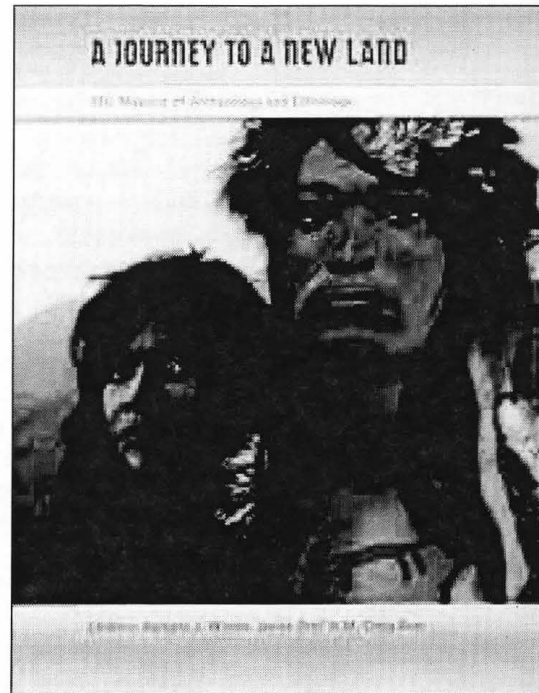
religious-fundamentalist musings during the conquest to the later 20th century search for a pre-Clovis presence. Part Two (Act One) then puts the peopling of the Americas into a global context by reviewing the evolutionary history of hominids, culminating in the dispersal of anatomically modern humans during the Late Pleistocene. The crossing through Beringia into what is now Alaska and Yukon takes place in Part Three (Act Two), while Part Four (Act Three) has the actors move south of the Late Wisconsinan ice sheets. The different routes possibly taken by these south-moving humans are weighed in Chapter 7 (Interlude); the evidence for pre-Clovis settlement is scrutinised in Chapter 8 (Act 3, Scene 1); and the Clovis culture is discussed in Chapter 9 (Act 3, Scene 2). Finally, Part Five again places the peopling of the Americas into perspective, but this time from the vantage point of later developments in (North) American prehistory.

In critiquing this book, I have to consider that the original edition must have been received to great acclaim back in 1987. It was well researched by a more-than-competent outsider to the subject; it presented the available information clearly and, I think, even-handedly; the writing-style was appropriate for its intended audience; annotated guides to further reading for each chapter allowed for the verification of ideas and facts as presented; and the author made well-argued recommendations for future research. On the other hand, it is a bit of a stretch to claim, as Fagan does in the Update of the 2004 Edition (p. ix), that the book was the first to place the peopling of the Americas into a broad, global context (consider, for example, Macgowan and Hester 1962). However, it is true that Fagan may have been among the most explicit to argue systematically and consistently for understanding the peopling of the Americas within the context of the dispersion of anatomically modern humans in the Late Pleistocene, and this is, indeed, the genius of his work.

Now, as far as the 17-page Update to the new edition is concerned, it almost has a written-at-the-last-moment, tacked-on quality to it. The Update stands clearly apart from the main body of the book, in which discussion of discoveries made in "the present decade" (p. 54) actually refers to the 1980s, and in which we still find invaluable references to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Lapplanders, and the Eskimo. In the end, it was always going to be an uphill battle to summarise everything that has happened in First Americans research (and beyond) over the last 15 to 20 years; hats off to Fagan, though, for even finding space to mention that the Cold War had concluded in the meantime, thus creating new opportunities for North American investigators to search for the probable ancestors of the First Americans in northeastern Siberia.

Fagan also attempts to divorce Clovis-the-time-period from Clovis-the-culture: his argument is that Clovis-the-time-period is still the best designation for the earliest inhabitants of the Americas, but that the traditional interpretation of Clovis-the-culture as a big-game hunting society cannot and must not be applied to all the First Americans. This argument, as presented in the Update, lacks the expected Faganesque clarity; moreover, it goes very much against the arguments presented in the main body of the book. Of course, this idea is extremely important—so much so that it should have warranted a complete rewriting of Fagan's original work.

The Update may not have entirely achieved its ambitious



goal, but it did provide references to useful stepping stones for more detailed information, the most important of which are the scholarly articles in Nina Jablonski's edited volume, *The First Americans: The Pleistocene Colonization of the New World* (Jablonski 2002), erroneously listed seven times as published in 2000. (It is somewhat sad that most typographical errors and mishaps occur precisely in the Further Readings bibliographies—in my opinion the most important sections of the book.) The only new addition I would make to the bibliography is Vivian Scheinsohn's (2003) review of hunter-gatherer archaeology in South America, in which she discusses problems pertinent to the peopling of the Americas.

Perhaps Fagan's biggest problem area is the Northwest Coast. He refers to Prince Rupert as being on the mainland (p. 233) and the Ozette mudslide as occurring 500 years ago (p. 234). His treatment of the coastal route theory is critical but rather weak, and in the Update he had to recant his earlier affirmation of the existence of an ice-free corridor throughout the entirety of the Late Wisconsinan glaciation. Luckily for us, the other book presently reviewed—the volume from SFU's Archaeology Press—provides a nice contrast, having, as it does, the Northwest Coast as its strong point.

A Journey to a New Land, edited by a team of scholars and educators from Simon Fraser University, is a hard copy of material publicly available on the website of SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology as part of the Virtual Museum of Canada. The website was designed with the explicit purpose of serving as an educational tool for the general public, from primary to post-secondary level. It was the brainchild of Dr. Barbara Winter, Director of SFU's Museum, in collaboration with the Learning and Instructional Development Centre, also of SFU. The book itself contains material aimed at the secondary and post-secondary

audience. It is a high-quality publication on glossy paper, with full colour photographs and computer-designed illustrations.

The book is divided into several sections: Post-Secondary (focusing on the peopling of the Americas), Secondary (focusing on glaciation), Site Descriptions (of important archaeological sites), Interview Transcripts (of interviews with prominent, SFU-affiliated scholars), and a Glossary (for the Secondary level). All this is available on the website, which also includes a post-secondary glossary, the video-taped interviews, more photographs and simulations, and suggested readings for further information about individual archaeological sites. The online text has hyperlinks to outside information and has all scientific jargon linked directly to the glossary, making it very user-friendly. I would highly recommend anyone to take a look at the website—it doesn't cost you anything and it's fun.

Overall, there is a strong visual component to both the website and the book. Even if a few graphics are of debatable scholarly value, as a whole the visual component facilitates learning by making scientific knowledge more accessible and eye-catching. There is no doubt that the book was published professionally with substantial editing, for which SFU's Archaeology Press has to be complimented. However, the repetition of most site descriptions in sidebars within the Post-Secondary section seems a little redundant. I also don't understand why the suggested readings were dropped from the Site Descriptions.

As far as the post-secondary section is concerned, it views the peopling of the Americas with a heavy emphasis on local research on the Northwest Coast. There are great appraisals of the merits and problems of the ice-free corridor route versus the coastal route. The Foothills Erratics Train in southern Alberta, not even mentioned by Brian Fagan in his account, is a glacial feature that provides sensible evidence that the ice-free corridor was an unlikely route for the first Americans to move south during the Terminal Pleistocene. Perhaps not surprisingly, the SFU team concludes that the coastal route is the more likely route and, certainly, worthy of further investigation. The interview with Dr. Knut Fladmark, one of the more prominent proponents of the coastal route, works wonders, as do the interviews with other scientists currently piecing together the picture of the coastal route's feasibility. These interviews certainly make up for the lack of a detailed bibliography!

Finally, I'd like to note a problem with the whole "journey" metaphor: the peopling of the Americas is likely to have been a more complex process than a single journey by a few adventurous human beings from northeastern Siberia thousands of years ago. Was it really the result of purposeful planning or was it an accident like Columbus' re-discovery of America? Did these people set out with the intent of settling and conquering new lands, or was the peopling of the Americas the result of recreational wanderings by different individuals over many generations? These questions are important because there's more than a scientific component to them: the different metaphors for describing the peopling of the Americas can be employed to validate certain mentalities in today's world. As Tom Dillehay (2000) has argued, there is a need to consider different strategies of human dispersion, migration, and finally colonisation—the different strategies may leave different traces in the archaeological record. Neither Fagan nor the SFU team consider this systematically and consistently, but

it could be very useful in evaluating the distinct evidence for Clovis and "pre-Clovis" occupation, for movement through the ice-free corridor or along the coastal route, as well as for different lithic technologies in Siberia, Alaska, and the unglaciated parts of North America.

In conclusion, I think that both Fagan's *Great Journey* and SFU's *Journey to a New Land* are good reads. Though both have their flaws, taken together they provide a solid synthesis of the state of research into the peopling of the Americas at the beginning of the third millennium. The former puts the First Americans into context, while the latter is packed with information pertinent to British Columbia. I would recommend both books to educators, but more as teaching tools and reference guides, rather than as textbooks.

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