



Journey to the Ice Age: Discovering an Ancient World.

By Peter L. Storck.

Royal Ontario Museum and UBC Press, Vancouver, 2004. xx + 356 pp., refs., illus., maps, index.
ISBN: 0-7748-1028-9, \$39.95

The study of Early Paleo-Indians has always fascinated archaeologists and captivated the general public. The harsh environments of the Great Ice Age setting in which they lived around 10,500 years ago, and the skill needed to make the fluted spear points diagnostic of their tool kits, make these early inhabitants of the Americas some of the most written about archaeological peoples. *Journey to the Ice Age: Discovering an Ancient World* combines the story of Early Paleo-Indians of southern Ontario with an autobiographical account of archaeological research by an eminent expert on the subject.

Péter L. Storck is Senior Curator Emeritus at Royal Ontario Museum's Department of Anthropology in Toronto. With more than three decades of research into the earliest inhabitants of southern Ontario, he is an authority figure on the material remains left behind by these people and, thus, is in a privileged position to interpret these remains. In the innovative *Journey to the Ice Age*, Storck thanks the general public, which has funded much of his research, by unveiling the results of his work, and

also by introducing the reader to all the intricacies that go on in the professional life of an archaeologist—particularly all those crucial steps that happen between rare opportunities to make public announcements of significant discoveries.

This hybrid book starts off with extensive acknowledgments and an introduction, which together set the stage for the subsequent main body of eight chapters. The chapters are divided chronologically according to important stages in the author's career, forming (along the way) a cumulative story about current knowledge of Early Paleo-Indians. Through Storck's surveys of the Niagara Escarpment and of the raised beaches around the Lake Huron basin, and through his excavations at sites like Banting, Hussey, Fisher, Udora, Sheguiandah, and Red Wing, the reconstruction of Paleo-Indian lifeways takes the reader from the 1960s when only a scatter of surface-collected fluted points were known in all of Ontario to the more recent scenario of multidisciplinary research at large sites suggestive of temporary social aggregation. Well written and a pleasure to read, these chapters simultaneously tell the story of how archaeology happens, from initial hypotheses and plans for testing them, through writing proposals to receive permission and funding to carry out these plans, to deciding where to dig. Other topics that are covered are the involvement of specialists from other disciplines like geology, the requirements for putting together a museum display, the significance of changing cultural heritage legislation, and sensitivity to the concerns of First Nations. For the details, however, you will need to read the book yourself.

The chapters expand on excerpts from the *Royal Ontario Museum Archaeological Newsletter* in which Storck had informed the public of his fieldwork. Sidebars in grey boxes, which elaborate on some of the more technical concepts, along with high quality illustrations, informative maps, and well-placed photographs, further enhance this publication. The epilogue paints a vivacious vignette of a hypothetical Early Paleo-Indian youth attempting to knap a fluted spear point, and Storck ends by reiterating the importance of hypothesis testing in archaeology, a particularly useful message to students just starting out in the discipline. The up-to-date list of suggested readings (both general and scholarly) is a good starting point for those interested in furthering their knowledge. For real keeners, the book even includes an appendix with driving instructions for a self-guided archaeological tour of southern Ontario.

Storck's writing is exemplary in its quality, and he achieves that ever-elusive balance between communicating the excitement of discovery and the soberness of asking the right questions that can lead to discovery. In more than 370 pages, I have only come across 13 typographical errors, none of which affect the intelligibility of the text. The only quip I have against this fine work has to do with semantics: in bringing to life the Early Paleo-Indians who have left the archaeological remains he and his colleagues have uncovered, Storck sometimes (pp. 81, 113, 116, 316) de-emphasizes that the identities of these people have been reconstructed and delimited through the remains of their material culture—especially their stone tools—by archaeologists. Thus, for example, "other Early Paleo-Indian peoples of different cultures" (p. 113) might be more correctly expressed as "other Early Paleo-Indian peoples with different material cultures." Because the major part of this book was written in 1997-1999, some excit-

ing new developments in Paleo-Indian research have inevitably been left out. The ritual deposit of purposefully broken projectile points from the Caradoc site near London, Ontario (Ellis and Deller 2002), for example, although dating to a somewhat later Paleo-Indian period, is of particular interest to the discussion of the secular and the sacred in Paleo-Indian lithic technology (e.g., pp. 98-99 in *Journey to the Ice Age*). These minor nitpickings, however, should not be seen as detracting from Storck's excellent work.

While obviously written for the general public, and specifically for the readership of the *Royal Ontario Museum Archaeological Newsletter*, most anyone interested in the earliest periods of New World prehistory should find this book an enjoyable read. They should, however, remember that the Early Paleo-Indians of southern Ontario inhabited an Arctic-like environment, so their lifeways and tool kits are not necessarily the same as those of contemporaneous people in other parts of the Americas (see, for example, Dillehay 2000). Professional archaeologists might also learn a thing or two about writing for the general public from this innovative text. On the other hand, advanced students who only desire a quick overview of the Early Paleo-Indian period in southern Ontario might want to consider consulting the appropriate sections in the gargantuan, but somewhat outdated, *Prehistory of Southern Ontario to A.D. 1650* (Ellis and Ferris 1990). Those looking for Coyote might also be disappointed, as Storck does not give consideration to indigenous origin stories. I would, in any case, particularly recommend *Journey to the Ice Age* to students contemplating, or just starting out in, a career in archaeology, as Storck's extensive behind-the-scenes look at the discipline is often missing in undergraduate courses. By the time Storck paints the hypothetical vignette in the epilogue, the reader will have acquired enough of an understanding of archaeological science to be able to distinguish those details of the vignette supported by the archaeological record from those still requiring further supportive evidence to be discovered by Storck and his colleagues or—who knows—perhaps even by you!

At \$39.95 for a hardcover volume, *Journey to the Ice Age* is worth the money, and I highly recommend it. To find out if it is worth your money, head over to www.ubcpres.ca, where you can take a sneak peak at the 6-page introductory chapter, which is an accurate specimen of Storck's writing style.

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Rastko Cvekic has recently graduated from the University of British Columbia with a BA in anthropology (archaeology). Among his research interests is the peopling of the Americas.

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