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I artikkelen *Den mindre vikige døden* av Ann Kathrin Jantch og Mone Ødegården.

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The book *Marine Ventures: Archaeological Perspectives on Human-Sea Relations* is an edited volume including 25 papers with the introduction, 22 of which were presented at the “Marine Ventures International Symposium” in 2013 in Trondheim. The Symposium and the present volume are the result of the Marine Ventures research project of the University Museum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and the Argentinean Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas (CADIC-CONICET) in Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego. The project focused “on problems relating to early marine foraging and the dynamics of Human-Sea relations” as the editors demonstrate in their preface (p. 4). The book deals with maritime subsistence adaptations mainly in Norway and Patagonia including also papers from other regions, with a focus on the early and middle Holocene.

While marine subsistence has been previously discussed in edited books (e.g. Rick and Erlandson 2008; Ford 2011) the *Marine Ventures* volume offers a new, alternative, more holistic approach to understanding the anthropogenic responses and cultural processes stimulated by certain environmental conditions, in this case marine conditions. This is accomplished by a pioneer comparison between two geographically and culturally different parts of the world: Scandinavia and Patagonia. An attempt

that at first glance might appear daring because of the different and distant geographical and cultural environments that the two regions represent. However, as the editors in a very comprehensive introduction explain (chapter 1), the coastal morphology in both regions with raised shorelines and seascapes of archipelagos was formed after the isostatic or tectonic uplift following the late- and post-glacial sea level rise in both areas (p. 6).

The idea of this volume is to go beyond simple comparison by trying to identify humans’ conceptualization of their maritime environment and the mechanisms behind subsistence adaptation, or as the editors prefer to describe it, the notion of “aquatic relations” (p.11): how and why did humans start marine foraging, how did they develop and optimize their hunting and fishing strategies through time, how is that reflected in their settlement patterns and environmental context. This comparison starts with the paper by Bjerck et al. (Chapter 4) who explore the role of pinnipeds in human colonization in the seascapes of Scandinavia and Patagonia during the early Holocene. They argue that humans were initially attracted to inhabit and operate in the coastal regions of Scandinavia and Patagonia because of the dominant presence of seals. Despite the different habitats, different seal species and different cultures, the authors succeed to highlight the similarities of the processes on

how humans perceive their natural environment and how they interact with it by adapting their subsistence to the preferable exploited prey, and how this adaptation potentially leads to the development of seaworthy vessels. However, as the Baltic Sea is a substantial part of the natural environment of Scandinavia, it would have been worth mentioning the earliest seal hunters of this region and the special environmental conditions that prehistoric humans in the Baltic Sea were subjected to (e.g. Storå 2001; Glykou 2014; Ukkonen et al. 2014;). The comparison between Scandinavia and Patagonia continues in the paper by Zangrando et al. (chapter 8) who discuss the use of the term “cultural complexity” to describe the subsistence of marine foragers, and underline the necessity of an archaeological clarification of the term. Frøtheim et al. (chapter 11) undertake a cross-cultural comparison to discuss relations between dwelling traditions and settlement patterns in three regions, central Norway, Northern Norway and the Beagle Channel in Tierra del Fuego. Breivik et al. (Chapter 5) examine patterns in adaptive behavior focusing on mobility in Norway and Patagonia. The study suggests that other parameters than climate and effective temperature play a more important role for the adaptive behavior of the highly mobile, boat-using forager groups of high latitudes.

Mobility vs. sedentism and settlement patterns of coastal societies in Norway and other parts of the world are discussed in a series of papers. Bergsvik et al. (Chapter 3) discuss this in a comprehensive cross-disciplinary study which comprises analyses of faunal remains, bone and lithic artifacts, radiocarbon dates and archaeological evidence from two case studies from the rockshelters of Sævarhelleren and Olsteinhelleren by the Hardanger Fjord in Norway. This study brings light to the processes such as intensified exploitation of marine resources, extensive utilization of marine environments for foraging, fishing and collecting of shellfish, which lead to full sedentism around 4000 cal BC. The authors recognize different settlement patterns that include task groups operating from sedentary settlement systems

and task groups operating from residentially mobile settlement systems. Solheim and Persson (chapter 16) present similar results as they show that settlement patterns of Middle Mesolithic groups in the Oslofjord region have a more stable character than previously thought from 7500 cal BC onwards, and diversified subsistence strategies between sites in the outer archipelago and sites in the inner archipelago or mainland. The paper by Woodman (chapter 7) discusses the earliest expansion of humans into the N.W. Atlantic region during the early Holocene and focuses on two regions, the Arctic Norway and Ireland, while Skar et al. (chapter 14) present a multidisciplinary study comprising archaeological and anthropological analyses, radiocarbon data and stable isotope analyses to reveal that hunter-gatherers during the Middle Mesolithic in Norway had a fully adapted marine subsistence and a diet based exclusively on marine resources. Soares (chapter 15) presents the Mesolithic economy and settlement patterns of the Sado palaeo-estuary groups in Portugal based on lithic industry, pottery and faunal analysis. Román et al. (chapter 10) discuss the development of marine hunter-gatherer subsistence and stability of settlement patterns in Southernmost Patagonia from 7400 cal BP to ca 1500 cal BP by studying lithic and bone technologies. Álvarez-Fernández (chapter 2) presents a faunal analysis from ten caves situated on La Garma hill in Cantabria and reveals the role and importance of marine molluscs in human diet from the Upper Pleistocene to the middle Holocene. Nielsen et al. (chapter 23) discuss the utilization and importance of quartz throughout the Mesolithic in southern Norway. Hysøy and Swensen (chapter 22) explore the Yamana-English Dictionary by Thomas Bridges as a source for exploring the settlements and foraging patterns of the Yamana people of Tierra del Fuego by combining the retrieved information with archaeological and ethnographic data.

The volume succeeds to describe archaeological questions and methodological problems that archaeologists encounter at different coastal regions around the world

as a result of alterations in sea level and displacement of shorelines or erosion, making coastal sites in some cases inaccessible for modern research. A valuable contribution, showing the potential of good coordinated multidisciplinary methodological approaches, is the paper by Fedje and McLaren (chapter 6) about the Hakai Passage region of the central Pacific coast of Canada which summarizes the combined results from archaeological and palaeoenvironmental investigations (isolation basins and stratigraphic sections) to localize the old marine shorelines revealing the very complex history of sea level change and establishing evidence for the earliest maritime adaptation to approximately 11,300 years ago. Erlandson (chapter 20) presents a review on the reconstruction of Palaeogeography of California's Channel Islands and discuss the impact of the rise in sea level and consequent landmass decrease on seafaring and economy (reduction of terrestrial resources and increase of marine). Reyes et al. (chapter 9) address isostatic rebound and local tectonics as additional regional challenges to the sea level change, that may result in poor archaeological evidence, and show that systematic surveys along the coastline in western Patagonia Channels brings to light evidence for the presence of people adapted to the sea. An impressive paper by Harmsen and Karunaratne (chapter 12) presents the preliminary results of archaeological surveys at the southeast coast of Sri Lanka where a series of prehistoric sites of coastal hunter-gatherer groups were recovered associated with Holocene emerging fluviomarine shell beds. The study correlates the archaeological evidence with geophysical information on shoreline displacements, natural depositions of fluviomarine shell beds, palaeo-tsunami records and radiocarbon data, and interrelate human activity with geomorphic changes and palaeo-tsunami events. Finally, the authors discuss how these data can be utilized as an assessment for future measures on resilience for regions which are threatened by natural disasters and climatic change. The impact of drastic climatic change on the preservation of human cultural inheritance in the Arctic is

addressed by Rogers (chapter 13), as sites situated in the permafrost zone are rapidly eroded by warming of the climate.

Boats are substantial part of marine ventures and are the focus of several papers in this volume. Boats are seen as a mean of transportation, as a communication tool enabling interactions between shores, and as a substantial part of subsistence and economy enabling fishing and trade. The importance of trade during the Bronze Age in the Baltic Sea is discussed by Sperling (chapter 25), focusing on production, distribution and circulation of metals in the context of long-distance maritime relations. Trade of dried cod is presented by Sørgeheim (chapter 17), who illustrates how cod fishing and fishing trade, which gradually from the 12th century became professionalized, had an impact on the development of settlements along the coast of Norway. Crompton and Rankin (chapter 19) present the development of trade between the French and the Inuits in Southern Labrador between the 16th -18th centuries and the role of trade in maritime technologies. The same authors (Rankin and Crompton, chapter 24) discuss the impact of this trade on the everyday life of Inuits, their settlements patterns, group identity and the interrelations to other Inuit groups. Anichtchenko (chapter 18) draw on archaeological, historical and ethnographic data to present a nice review on indigenous Arctic sailing technology. The contribution by Gjerde (chapter 21) on Stone Age rock art focuses on the role of boats in rock art and argues that these depictions are not only visualizations of an imaginary world but a lot more they are illustrations of real life activities such as fishing, seal and whale hunting, whereas the large collective hunting scenes provide us with information on their advanced hunting strategies and may give insights into their social organization.

The book provides a good mixture of original research, review papers and case studies, involving theoretical, archaeological, zooarchaeological, ethnographic and historical approaches. However, it would have benefited from more contributions based on application

of scientific methods to answer questions on interactions between humans and their marine ecosystems, as for example terrestrial vs. marine diet, as the only paper included in this volume by Skar et al. nicely shows, or mobility vs. sedentism. The book is very well illustrated with topographic maps, plenty of useful coloured photographs of artefacts and landscapes, and informative tables making the volume appealing for specialists and general public. *Marine Ventures* is an inspiring volume which offers a stimulating discussion on past interactions between humans and the sea and opens new paths to explore.

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