

Book Review: *Islands of Place and Space. A Festschrift in Honour of Arne Kruse*

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CHRISTIAN COOIJMANS (ed.): *Islands of Place and Space. A Festschrift in Honour of Arne Kruse*. Scottish Society for Northern Studies. Edinburgh 2022. Pp. 330. ISBN: 978-1-3999-3523-4.

It is always a pleasure to review a festschrift for an esteemed colleague. Festschrifts tend to be idiosyncratic and eclectic, which makes them a joy to read, because they encapsulate the nature of the individual being celebrated – in this case, Dr Arne Kruse, who has recently retired from the University of Edinburgh after a long and illustrious career.

This quietly dignified and charming festschrift starts with a preface from Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs, and Culture, acknowledging the importance of Arne's research in furthering the understanding between Scotland and Norway. We then move to a warm and comprehensive introduction to the life and career (and post-retirement activities) of Arne, co-written by the editor Christian Cooijmans and Birgitte Guenier-Kruse. This leads us to a splendid collection of fifteen contributions reflecting the interests, academic and otherwise, the influence, and the long career of Arne.

The volume is structured particularly well, sending the reader on a voyage of discovery flowing from one research topic to another as they have featured in Arne's long career, and also encapsulating other interests, such as fishing. The order of the contributions cleverly mirrors the relationship each contributor has had with Arne, and three of them (Chapters III, XII, and XV) are particularly personal and anecdotal. We begin with a paper looking at the building blocks of language in fine academic style in an excellent paper by Arnstein Hjelde on the changes in Minnesota-Norwegian dialects since the 1980s and we end with a lyrical prose poem about the journey home by Hilde Rognskog and Heidi Rognskog Mella, finishing with the emotive coda "Tomorrow, the wind will abate", signifying journey's end.

The sense of place and space is well established through several papers on place names, again reflecting Arne's interests. The second and third contributions in the festschrift deal specifically with place names in Norway - Botolv Helleland looks in detail at metaphors in the mountain place names of Western Norway and Berit Sandnes looks at the methodology surrounding the Møre and Romsdal place-name project of 1985-95 to which Arne contributed. The sixth, ninth and eleventh contributions look at aspects of the onomastics of Scotland

and the Norse influence on them, which became one of Arne's great research interests. His colleague from the Department of Scandinavian Studies, Alan MacNiven, takes another look at – *dalr* place names in Scotland; Anke-Beate Stahl analyses the specific place names of the island of Mingulay; and Peder Gammeltoft reflect on what spatial analysis can tell us about place names ending in *-staðir* and *-bolstaðir*. We also have fascinating papers on Norse sheilings in Caithness from Ryan Foster, on language shift in Scotland and the Irish Sea region after the Vikings by Pavel Iosad and on Nynorsk, which Arne enthusiastically espoused, from Guy Puzey.

Arne's cultural heritage interests are well expressed by papers ranging from one on Selma Lagerlöf by his long-term colleague at Edinburgh, Bjarne Thorup Thomsen, to an explanation of the Arne Kruse Method (being pragmatic, interdisciplinary and scholarly) in looking at fieldwork Liv Willumsen undertook with him pertaining to the North Berwick witch trials; to a discussion of Norse magic and Norn words from Andrew Jennings; to a note from Brian Smith on the place name *pursaskr* which is found in *Orkneyinga Saga*; and to a discussion of the herring boom and recession in Shetland from Linda Riddell. Echoing the book's ethos, these last three contributors are islanders themselves, writing about island matters.

This book is certainly an analysis of islands of place and space – all connected by the swirling, boundless intellect that is Arne Kruse.