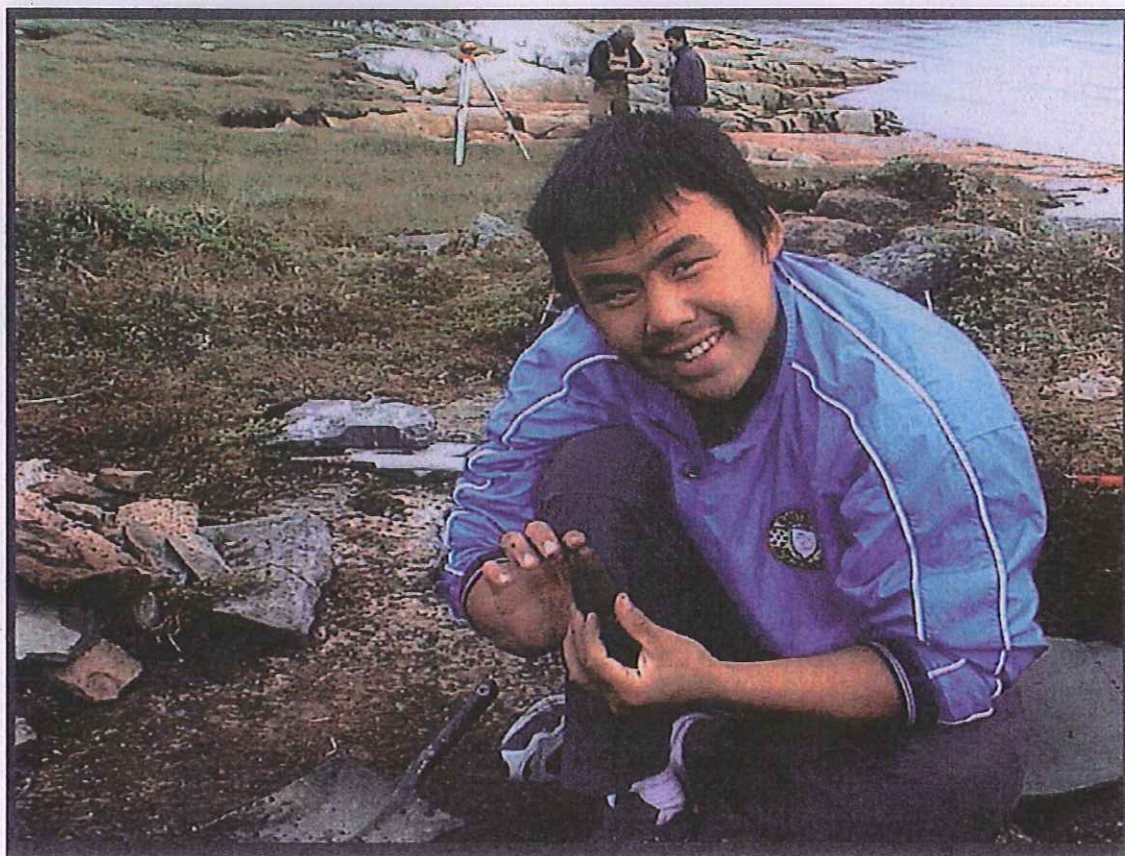


SILA- THE GREENLAND RESEARCH CENTRE  
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK  
ANNUAL REPORT 2003 AND FINAL REPORT

Bjarne Gronnow, director





# ANNUAL REPORT 2003

and

# FINAL REPORT

# SILA

– THE GREENLAND RESEARCH CENTRE  
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK

Copenhagen, May 2004

ANNUAL REPORT, 2003, and FINAL REPORT.  
SILA – THE GREENLAND RESEARCH CENTRE AT THE  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK

by  
Bjarne Grønnow  
director

1. The Aim of SILA	2
2. Annual Report 2003 and Final Report	2
3. Background	2
4. Framework of SILA	3
5. Economy	4
6. Research Projects	5
7. Guest Lecturers at SILA during 2003	18
8. Education: Lectures Presented by the SILA Staff	19
9. Workshops and Conferences	19
10. Collaboration	21
11. Ph.D.-programmes	22
12. Field Work, 2003	24
13. Public Information and Outreach	28
14. Other Activities at SILA	29
15. The International Evaluation	29
16. Research and Education Activities, 2000 – 2003. SILA at a glance	30
17. The Future of the Greenland research environment	31
18. Publications, 2003 (until May 2004)	32
Appendix 1: Budgets and Annual Balance	
Appendix 2: The Report of the International Evaluation Committee	
Appendix 3: Comments from Danish and Greenlandic Institutions	
Appendix 4: Letter of support from the Greenlandic members of the North Atlantic Group of the Danish Parliament	
Appendix 5: Reply by Helge Sander, Minister of Science, Technology and Development	



## **1. Aim of SILA**

The aim of SILA is to conduct research on Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology on the highest international level. The shared collections and archives of the national museums in Denmark and Greenland provide the starting point for SILA's research. The purpose is to strengthen the scientific environment and recruit new researchers to the discipline.

Furthermore, SILA anchors Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology at the National Museum of Denmark, thus paving the way for research continuity beyond the initial phase (2000 – 2003) of the centre.

## **2. Annual Report 2003 and Final Report**

This report covers the fourth and final year of SILA's activities during the first centre period. The report is aimed at members of the centre council ('Det Faglige Råd'), the administration of the National Museum, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the external collaboration partners as well as international reviewers.

Popular descriptions of the activities of SILA are found in, e.g., 'NYT fra Nationalmuseet' (News from the National Museum). Readers are encouraged to visit SILA's homepage ([www.sila.dk](http://www.sila.dk)).

SILA was evaluated by an international committee during the last month of 2002 and January 2003 and subsequently the evaluation was submitted to relevant institutions in Greenland and Denmark. Thus, the report includes the report of the committee and a summary of the endeavours to achieve funding for a continuation of the centre. Regrettably - in spite of the positive evaluation and support by colleagues and Greenlandic authorities - funding from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation terminated by the end of 2003 due to political decisions. Consequently SILA's activities have ceased after four profitable years.

## **3. Background**

As a result of the transfer (1981) of the administration of cultural heritage to the Greenland Home Rule and the subsequent establishment of the National Museum and Archive of Greenland, Nunatta Katersugaasivia Allagateqarfialu, Denmark and Greenland entered a contract for the return of ethnographic and archaeological objects. The comprehensive collections of the Danish National Museum were divided so that representative, preserved



and registered collections would be housed at both museums. Directed by the Greenland Secretariat, this process took about 17 years.

The establishment of SILA – The Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark in 2000, marked a new epoch in collaboration between the two nations. The focus turned from repatriation to public information and research based on the shared collections. SILA is founded on a contract of collaboration between the national museums in the two countries.

It was the aim of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, through the foundation of SILA, to strengthen the continuity and development of Inuit and Norse archaeology. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Denmark has played an important role within these disciplines, but a scientific environment was never established on a permanent scale in Danish museums or at universities. This resulted in severe difficulties maintaining the international position of the Danish Arctic archaeological research and the recruitment of talented researchers from Denmark and Greenland.

In 1999 the Ministry donated 20 mill. D.kr. to the National Museum in order to fund the first phase of SILA, 2000 – 2003.

#### **4. Framework of SILA**

##### **4a) Structure**

SILA was until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002, associated with the Department of Research at the National Museum. At present (2003), SILA is associated with the Department of Research and Exhibitions. The director of the centre reports directly to the head of this department, Per Kristian Madsen, and the director of the National Museum, Carsten U. Larsen, who are responsible in relation to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The activities of the centre has been followed by 'Det Faglige Råd' ('The Board of SILA') which consists of two representatives from Denmark – during 2003 the head of the Department of Research and Exhibitions (Per Kristian Madsen) and the director of the National Museum (Carsten U. Larsen) - and two representatives from Greenland: the director of the Greenland National Museum and Archives (Emil Rosing) and the deputy head (Joel Berglund). The Board meets twice a year.

#### 4b) Offices

The centre is housed on second floor above the Dept. of Ethnography at the National Museum. SILA has 14 desks with computers, etc. in eight offices (one being a combination of a meeting room and guest researcher's office). A reference library is set up in one of the rooms, and there is direct access to the comprehensive library, archives and collections of the Department of Ethnography as well.

#### 4b) Staff and associates, 2003

director Bjarne Grønnow (mag.art., Inuit archaeology)

senior researcher Jette Arneborg (Ph.D., Norse archaeology)

research professor Hans Christian Gulløv (dr. phil., Inuit archaeology and ethnohistory, associated with SILA via the Department of Research and Exhibition)

Ph.D.-student/research associate Martin Appelt (M.A., Inuit archaeology) (until Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>)

Ph.D.-student/research associate Dorte Veien Christiansen (M.A., Norse archaeology) (until Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)

Ph.D.-student Mikkel Sørensen (M.A., Inuit archaeology) (funding until medio 2005)

post.doc. Ulla Odgaard (Ph.D., Inuit archaeology) (until Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)

research assistant Mille Gabriel (mag.art., Inuit archaeology) (until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>)

secretary Jutta Frandsen

assistant secretary Marit Zimmermann

#### Associates of SILA:

curator Hans Kapel (The Dept. of Ethnography)

research associate Jens Fog Jensen (The University of Copenhagen)

research associate Einar Lund Jensen (The Department of Research)

curator emeritus Jørgen Meldgaard (Dept. of Ethnography)

#### Student assistants:

Cille Krause, Caroline Paulsen, Niels Ahlgren Møller, Pipaluk L. Høegh, Aviaja Absalonsen

### 5. Economy

#### 5a) Budgets 2000-2003 and Annual Balance 2003

Budgets and Annual Balance: Appendix 1

Accountant Ragnhild Jørgensen, Department of Administration, is warmly thanked for her invaluable assistance during SILA's four years.

### **5b) External Funding**

The Pearyland Foundation, The Augustinus Foundation, Det Kongelige Grønlandsfond, and Hielmstjerne-Rosencroneske Stiftelse has provided funding for the monograph 'The Northernmost Ruins of the Globe' based on the archives of Eigil Knuth.

The Carlsberg Foundation has funded the ethno-historical research by Einar Lund Jensen as part of the project 'Tunuup Saqqaa'.

The following foundations have funded fieldwork in connection with the project 'Coast-, Fiord- and Inland Dwellers': The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, Knud Rasmussens Mindefond.

The following foundations have sponsored the forthcoming book on the prehistory of Greenland:

Den Kongelige Grønlandsfond, Konsul Georg Jorcks og Hustru's Emma Jorcks Fond, Knud Rasmussens Mindefond, Dronning Margrethe d. II's Arkæologiske Fond, Folketingets Grønlandsfond, Beckett Fonden, Augustinus Fonden, Knud Højgaards Fond, Kulturfonden Danmark-Grønland, Landsdommer V. Gieses Legat, Qilakitsoq Fonden, Litteraturrådet.

## **6. Research Projects**

In accordance with the master plan, several projects were concluded during 2003 and fieldwork in Greenland was limited to two activities: archaeological/ethnohistorical investigations in the inland area Angujaartorfiup Nunaa and a survey and field school for young Greenlanders in Nanortalik and Qaqortoq municipalities. Publication projects directed by guest researchers from Denmark, Greenland and abroad were carried out at the centre, and the national and international research network was reinforced.

### **6a) Projects - concluded in 2003**

*Title:* Igloolik – the Dorset Graves.

*Abstract:* The human skeletal material from Dorset-graves in the Igloolik area, Central Canadian Arctic, has been analysed and the contexts of the graves have been presented in an international journal.

*Timing:* 2001-2003



*Presentation:* Paper in the journal 'Arctic', 2003.

*Directed by:* curator emer. Jørgen Meldgaard and researcher Martin Appelt.

*Collaboration partners:* associate professor Niels Lynneryp, Antropologisk Laboratorium, University of Copenhagen.

***Title:* The Subsistence Economy of The Farm Beneath the Sand – the Faunal Material**

*Abstract:* The aim of the project is to understand the subsistence economy of the Farm. In particular, attention is paid to changes in the exploitation of domestic as well as wild fauna through time.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003

*Presentation:* a volume in Monographs on Greenland has been published

*Directed by:* senior researcher Inge Enghoff

***Title:* Nipisat – a Saqqaq Site in Sisimiut District, West Greenland**

*Abstract:* The investigations of the Nipisat site are the most comprehensive excavations of a Saqqaq site in Greenland. This project will result in a scientific publication including analyses of the structures, the activity patterns and the subsistence economy at the site. A faunal analysis adds new perspectives to our perception of the Saqqaq economy in West Greenland. Through analyses of the stratigraphy, chronological problems in particular concerning the late Saqqaq Culture are enlightened.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003

*Presentation:* Manuscript for Monographs on Greenland finished.

*Directed by:* senior researcher Tinna Møbjerg, researcher Anne Birgitte Godtfredsen

*Collaboration partners:* Department of Prehistoric Archaeology (University of Aarhus), Sisimiut Museum, Zoological Museum (University of Copenhagen), GEUS (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland).

***Title:* Mobility and Aesthetics – on Paleo-Inuit Style in Nuuk Fiord, Greenland.**

*Abstract:* The project represents an alternative approach to the traditional processual analyses of the early cultures of Greenland. The project aims at understanding the Paleo-Inuit perception of landscape and the aesthetic aspects of the Saqqaq technology. The starting point of the analyses is sites surveyed and excavated in the Nuuk area.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003

*Presentation:* Reports, papers in journals and doctoral thesis (after 2004).

*Directed by:* researcher Maria Hinnerson-Berglund

*Collaboration partners:* The University of Göteborg, Sweden, The Greenland National Museum and Archives.

***Title:* Late Dorset Communication and Cultural Meetings**

*Abstract:* The starting point of the project is the results of the comprehensive investigations of the 'Gateway to Greenland'-project, Hatherton Bay, Inglefield Ld. (1996-97). The main subject of the project is the subsistence and the long distance contacts of the Late Dorset at the North Water Polynia. The relations between the Late Dorset to the early Thule Culture in the High Arctic region are discussed. A hypothesis on the disappearance of the Dorset Culture is introduced.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003.

*Presentation:* Ph.D.-dissertation was defended in January 2004.

*Directed by:* researcher Martin Appelt

***Title:* Early Thule Culture and the Supposed Meeting between Inuit and Norse in Southern Greenland**

*Abstract:* The dating and character of possible contacts between the Inuit of earliest Thule Culture and the last Norse in the Eastern Settlement area is the main subject of this project. Through archival material, surveys and excavations the earliest traces of Inuit dwellings are identified. Detailed stratigraphical investigations are carried out at sites where Early Thule culture dwellings are situated in or next to Norse farms.

*Timing:* 2000 - 2003

*Presentation:* Technical reports. Papers in international journals.

*Directed by:* professor H.C. Gulløv

*Collaboration partners:* Nanortalillip Katersugaasivia og Qaqortoq Katersugaasivia

***Title:* The Prehistory of Pearyland – Publication of the Eigil Knuth Archives.**

*Abstract:* During 1999, an Access-database was made including the comprehensive archives of Eigil Knuth (1903-1996) kept in the Queen's Library, Amalienborg. This database is the starting point of a scientific publication presenting in detail every site, which Eigil Knuth surveyed and excavated during 50 years' investigations in High Arctic Greenland, in

particular in Peary Land. The catalogue is supplemented with new analyses and a presentation of the faunal material.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003

*Presentation:* A monograph in Monographs on Greenland has been published.

*Directed by:* director Bjarne Grønnow, researcher Jens Fog Jensen

*Collaboration partners:* The Peary Land Foundation, The Queen's Library, Amalienborg, Danish Polar Center.

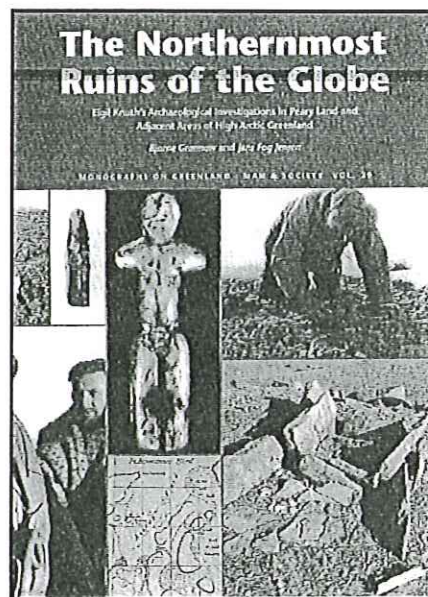


Fig. 1 The monograph on Egil Knuth's archives, by Bjarne Grønnow and Jens Fog Jensen.

*Title:* Argisbrekka - A Viking Age schieling site on The Faroe Islands

*Abstract:* The starting point was the excavation during the mid-1980's of a large Faroese Viking Age – Early Medieval shieling site at Argisbrekka, Eysturoy, consisting of the remains of some 22 buildings. The functional composition of these units, the location of the site, atypical of the known Viking Age settlement pattern in the Faroes, which is coastal, and the place name 'Argisbrekka' all pointed to an interpretation of the site as a shieling. The project focuses on the Landnam economy, the economic and topographic incompatibility of the "ærgi"-infield/outfield systems, the internal and external economic and political factors that led to the discontinuation of the "ærgi" system in the Faroe Islands.

*Timing:* 2003

*Presentation:* manuscript in English for a scientific monograph series, completed.



*Directed by:* curator Ditlev L. Mahler

*Collaboration partners:* Faroese National Museum, Museet på Kroppedal.

***Title:* The Norse Middle Settlement**

*Abstract:* The project aims at a publication of the surveys during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the so-called Middle Settlement of the Norse situated in the Arsuk-area of South West Greenland. This part of the Norse Eastern Settlement is quite unknown to the scientific world.

*Timing:* 2002-2004.

*Presentation:* manuscript for monograph in Danish Polar Center Report Series.

*Directed by:* senior researcher Jette Arneborg and researcher Svend Erik Albrethsen

**Status, December 2003: manuscript completed** – text completed, translation and scanning of illustrations going on.

***Title:* Demography, Subsistence and Material Culture in Nuussuaq, Upernavik District.**

*Abstract:* Ethnographical and ethnohistorical empirical material collected in the 1960's in the hamlet of Nuussuaq form the starting point of an analysis of long-term stability and changes in a hunting society in Northern Greenland.

*Timing:* 2001-2004

*Presentation:* Manuscript for Monographs on Greenland

*Directed by:* curator Keld Hansen

*Collaboration partners:* The Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Upernaviup Katersugaasivia.

**Status, December 2003: completed** – Manuscript for Monographs on Greenland delivered by Hansen. The manuscript has been peer reviewed and the publication is expected during 2004.

**6b) Current projects, 2003 -**

***Title:* Churches, Christianity and Chieftains**

*Abstract:* The role of the Church and the social and political development in the Norse Settlements are enlightened through investigations of the small churches and burial grounds

connected to important Norse farms. Written sources as well as archaeological data form the starting point and new data are added through excavations at the small churches and studies of the burials and human skeletal remains. The results are evaluated in a North Atlantic and Scandinavian perspective.

*Timing:* 2000 - 2004

*Presentation:* Reports and papers in international journals, manuscript for Monographs on Greenland

*Directed by:* senior researcher Jette Arneborg

*Collaboration partners:* The local museums of Nanortalik, Narsaq and Qaqortoq, Institute of Physical Anthropology, University of Copenhagen.

**Status, December 2003: running** – Report 2001 delivered. Report on 2002-investigations is about to be completed. Publication planned in Monographs on Greenland on the churches of Tunulliarfik.

***Title:* Trade and Communication of the Greenland Norse**

*Abstract:* The organisation and intensity of trade between Greenland and Mediaeval Scandinavia and the North Atlantic area is investigated. The analysis focuses on the character and distribution of trade goods and investigations are carried out at supposed trading sites like Sandhavn in the Nanortalik district.

In connection with the communication part of this project, SILA and the Unit of Maritime Archaeology of the National Museum collaborate on investigations of the maritime aspects of Norse culture. Excavations of a supposed boathouse at Herjolfsnæs, analyses of ship parts, etc., are included.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2004

*Presentation:* Ph.D.-dissertation, reports and papers in international journals

*Directed by:* researcher Dorte Veien Christiansen, curator Hans Kapel.

*Collaboration partners:* Nanortalik Museum, Nationalmuseets Marinarkæologiske Undersøgelser, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Copenhagen.

**Status, December 2003: running (Veien), completed (Kapel)** (report, manuscript for Tidsskriftet Grønland).

*Title:* **The Farm Beneath the Sand**

*Abstract:* Archaeological investigations of the Norse farm, Gården under Sandet ('The Farm Beneath the Sand'), took place between 1991 and 1996. Publication manuscripts are now being written. The project is coordinated by SILA and the Greenland National Museum & Archives, SILA has funded the final analysis of the faunal material and archaeological finds.

*Timing:* 2000 - 2005

*Presentation:* Manuscripts for monographs, papers in international journals

*Directed by:* senior researcher Jette Arneborg and curator Joel Berglund

*Collaboration partners:* The Greenland National Museum and Archives, the Zoological Museum (University of Copenhagen), the National Museum of Iceland, University of Sheffield, University of Alberta.

**Status, December 2003: running** - zoology completed (see above), final analyses in progress, the archaeological basis of bio-archaeological and entomological investigations completed by Arneborg. Stratigraphical analyses (Albrethsen, Arneborg and Olafsson) completed. Berglund's analyses of wooden artefacts etc. in progress.

*Title:* **Coast-, Fiord- and Inland Dwellers: Settlement Patterns of Central West Greenland.**

*Abstract:* The aim of the project is to highlight the changes in Thule and historic settlement patterns in Central West Greenland. The initial phase includes studies of inland summer settlements and hunting structures in the Angujaartorfiup Nunaa area, Maniitsoq Municipality - an area, which has a remarkably high archaeological visibility. Archaeological surveys and datings are carried out and the results are combined with comprehensive ethnohistorical sources from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This forms the basis of a 'direct historical approach' to the processes of change and native landscape perceptions. Ultimately, the inland investigations will be combined with the results of surveys in the coastal zone carried out by the Greenland National Museum and Archives.

*Timing:* 2000 - 2005

*Presentation:* Papers in international journals

*Directed by:* post. doc. Ulla Odgaard and director Bjarne Grønnow

*Collaboration partners:* The Greenland National Museum and Archives, Universität Jena, The Geological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Department of Archaeology, Universitetet i Tromsø.



**Status, December 2003: running** – papers published by Clemens Pasda and Kerstin Pasda (now Universität Jena), manuscript for ‘Arctic Anthropology’ being completed by Odgaard primo 2004.

**Title:** Tunup Saqqaa – the Front side of the Back: Contacts between East- and West Greenland (Phase 2).

**Abstract:** This project represents an ethnohistorical investigation of the influence of the East Greenlandic culture in Southern West Greenland particularly with respect to the consequences of the migrations from Southern East Greenland around Cape Farewell. It is based on archaeological data, oral tradition, linguistics and information from the archives of the colonial administration and missionary stations.

**Timing:** 2003-2004 (phase 2).

**Presentation:** reports and papers in international journals

**Directed by:** professor H.C. Gulløv, research assistant Einar Lund Jensen

**Collaboration partners:** Nanortalik Museum (Nanortallip Katersugaasivia).

**Status, December 2003: running** – papers have been published in Tidsskriftet Grønland and (Lund Jensen) in Inuit Studies, Vol. 26(2).

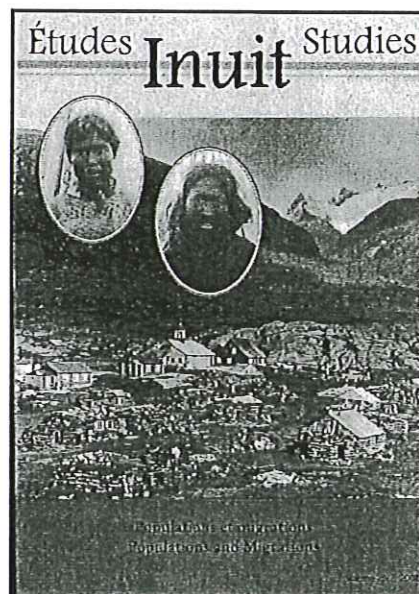


Fig. 2 The front page of Inuit Studies, Vol. 26, including Einar Lund Jensen's article.

*Title:* Qeqertasussuk – Analyses of a Saqqaq Site in the Disko Bugt

*Abstract:* The Qeqertasussuk Site was investigated during the years 1983 – 1990. The site is among the earliest from the Eastern Arctic, and, due to permafrost, the site is excellently preserved. This project is aimed at finishing scientific manuscripts concerning the faunal material and the archaeological finds. New analyses of wear marks on selected stone tools from the site are included.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2004

*Presentation:* Manuscripts for monographs in Monographs on Greenland

*Directed by:* director Bjarne Grønnow, director Morten Meldgaard

*Collaboration partners:* researcher Claus Skriver, University of Aarhus.

**Status, December 2003:** completed (Morten Meldgaard, Claus Skriver), running (Grønnow) – Meldgaard has finished manuscript for doctoral thesis (in print) in the Monographs on Greenland series. Skriver has reported on use wear analyses. Grønnow is working on manuscript for Monographs on Greenland.

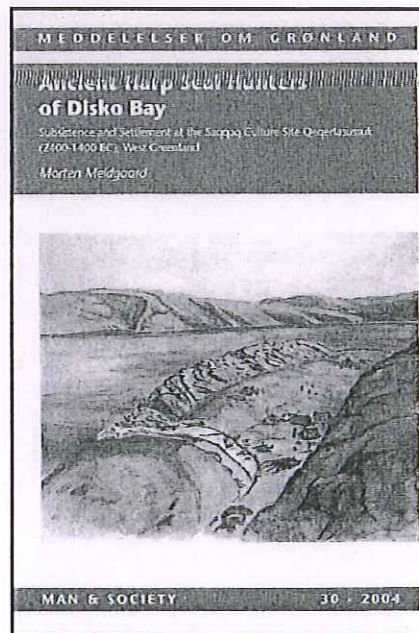


Fig. 3 Morten Meldgaard's monograph on the subsistence economy of Qeqertasussuk.

*Title:* From Saqqaq to Dorset in the Disko Bugt.

*Abstract:* The aim is to provide a new understanding of settlement patterns, raw material utilization and internal organisation of the Paleo-Eskimo sites in a very thoroughly surveyed region – the Sydostbugten – of Disko Bugt. The much discussed transition from Saqqaq to

Dorset is examined as well through AMS-datings and beach line chronology. Intra- and intersite analyses of several excavated small 'single-phase' sites form the basis of the study.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2003

*Presentation:* conference papers, manuscript for Monographs on Greenland

*Directed by:* associate professor Erik Brinch Petersen

*Collaboration partners:* University of Copenhagen, Asiaat Museum.

**Status, December 2003: running** – Petersen is working on manuscript for Monographs on Greenland.

**Title: Eigil Knuth Site – Paleo-Eskimo Cultures in North East Greenland**

*Abstract:* The Eigil Knuth Site is a Paleo-Eskimo site close to the Nordostrundingen, North East Greenland. The site consists of well over 100 dwelling structures, primarily from the Independence II Culture. Investigations in the 90's have shown that this site holds great potential for studying site lay-out and internal raw material distribution through topographical analyses and refitting of lithic materials. Furthermore, the faunal material adds new information on Independence II subsistence economy. Of particular interest is the exploitation of game resources of the great polynia, Nordøstvandet.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2004

*Presentation:* conference papers, manuscript for Monographs on Greenland

*Directed by:* curator Claus Andreasen, associate professor Sheila Coulson

*Collaboration partners:* The Greenland National Museum and Archives, The University of Oslo, Norway.

**Status, December 2003: running** – Andreasen and Coulson are working on their manuscript for the series 'Monographs on Greenland'.

**Title: Zoo-archaeological Investigations of Ø-34, Qoorlortup Itinnera**

*Abstract:* The subsistence economy of the Norse farm Ø-34 in Qoorlortup Itinnera is enlightened from the pioneer phase around 1000 AD until the abandonment of the farm around 1350 AD. The analyses are based on recently excavated, comprehensive and excellently preserved faunal material as well as pollen, macrofossils and insect remains in the peat bog in front of the main farm building.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2004

*Presentation:* Manuscript for Monographs on Greenland.



*Directed by:* museum director Georg Nyegaard

*Collaboration partners:* Qaqortup Katersugaaasivia, Department of Natural Science at the National Museum of Denmark, Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen.

**Status, December 2003: running** – Nyegaard has completed analyses, now working on his manuscript.

**Title: Greenland Isotopes**

*Abstract:* A large number of samples of human bone from Norse Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands has been dated by AMS and the content of  $^{13}\text{C}$  and the relationship between stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes have been measured. These data are analysed in order to resolve calibration problems and understand the temporal variation in the relationship between terrestrial and maritime food resources. The results are evaluated and interpreted in a culture historical context. For comparative reasons parallel samples have been measured from Thule Culture human bones.

*Timing:* 2000 – 2005

*Presentation:* Papers in international journals

*Directed by:* senior researcher Jette Arneborg, director Jan Heinemeier, professor Erle Nelson, senior researcher Niels Lynnerup

*Collaboration partners:* Laboratory of Physical Anthropology (University of Copenhagen), Simon Frazer University (Vancouver), The national museums of Iceland, Faroe Islands and Greenland.

**Status, December 2003: running** – several papers have been published. The aim is to publish in Monographs on Greenland. Several chapters are completed.

**Title: Late Dorset Communal Structures**

*Abstract:* A distinctive feature of the Late Dorset period in Arctic Canada and Greenland was the seasonal use of large, multifamily dwelling structures, commonly referred to as 'longhouses'. During three years of field studies, six Late Dorset sites, including three longhouses, were investigated on Creswell Bay, Somerset Island, in Arctic Canada. This material, along with comparative data from other places, will be used to explore why these aggregations took place and why they took this unusual form.

*Timing:* 2002 - 2004

*Presentation:* conference papers, Ph.D. dissertation

*Directed by:* curator Eric Damkjar, Edmoñton, Canada

**Status, December 2003: running** – Damkjar is working on the concluding chapters of his manuscript for the Ph.D.-thesis.

***Title: The Prehistory of Greenland***

*Abstract:* A joint project between the researchers of SILA and The Greenland National Museum and Archives. The aim is a synthesis on the Prehistory of Greenland describing the culture history of the Inuit as well as the Norse. For the first time knowledge on the 4.500 years of cultural history of Greenland is compiled and viewed in a broader context. The book will be published by the Gyldendals Forlag. The book is aimed at the public as well as students and it is part of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Home Rule.

*Timing:* 2001-2004.

*Presentation:* Book published by Gyldendal, 2004.

*Directed by:* professor H.C. Gulløv (editor).

*Collaboration partners:* The Greenland National Museum and Archives and Gyldendals Forlag.

**Status, December 2003: running** – text completed, ongoing work on illustrations

***Title: Technological traditions of the Palaeo-Eskimo Cultures in the Eastern Arctic***

*Abstract:* The project deals with the problem: do the typologically defined archaeological Palaeo-Eskimo cultures reflect ethnic groups in an anthropological sense or do they represent archaeological constructions?

The approach is based on the concept of 'le chaîne opératoire', i.e. the 'life circle' of the artefacts from raw material acquisition and tool production to hafting, use, modification and, finally, discard. The artefacts are analysed through refitting, reconstruction of working processes and dynamic technological classification. A new basis for comparative studies of archaeological cultures is created.

*Timing:* 2002-2005

*Presentation:* Ph.D.-dissertation, articles in scientific journals, conference papers

*Directed by:* researcher Mikkel Sørensen

**Status, December 2003: running**

*Title:* Eskimonæsset and The Neo-Eskimo Settlement at The Northeastwater

*Abstract:* The present project includes analyses of artefacts collected during excavations and surveys along the polynia known as the Northeastwater in Northeast Greenland. Information on the architecture of the Thule winter houses is included in the analyses.

*Timing:* 2002-2004

*Presentation:* monograph in Danish Polar Center report series.

*Directed by:* curator Hans Lange

*Collaboration partners:* The Greenland National Museum and Archives.

**Status, December 2003: running** – Lange is working on the illustrations and conclusions of his publication manuscript.

*Title:* Toftanes – A Viking Age farmstead from The Faroe Islands

*Abstract:* During the years 1982-1987 Føroya Fornminnisavni (Faroese National Museum) conducted large-scale rescue excavations at the site Toftanes in the village of Leirvík on Eysturoy. Five house structures of the Viking Age, representing a farmstead, were excavated. The project is aimed at completing the analyses of the extensive data material from Toftanes and compiling it for a full publication.

*Timing:* 2002-2004.

*Presentation:* manuscript for scientific journal.

*Directed by:* director Steffen Stummann Hansen

*Collaboration partners:* Faroese National Museum

**Status, December 2003: running** – Stummann is about to finish the first version of his monograph manuscript.

### 6c) Guest researchers at SILA, 2003

*Guest researcher:* associate professor Max T. Friesen

*Period at SILA:* 13.03.03 – 29.03.03

*Project:* The Iqaluktuuq Project (Prehistoric Settlements on Victoria Island, Central Canadian Arctic).



*Guest researcher:* curator Ditlev Mahler, Museet på Kroppedal

*Period at SILA:* 01.01.03 – 15.06.03

*Project:* Argisbrekka – A Viking Age Shieling Site on the Faroe Islands

*Guest researcher:* researcher Svend Erik Albrehtsen, Kulturarvsstyrelsen (KUAS)

*Period at SILA:* 01.04.03 – 30.04.03

*Project:* The Norse Middle Settlement

*Guest researcher:* Ph.D. Georg Nyegaard, Qaqortoq Katersugaasivia, Greenland

*Period at SILA:* 01.10.03 – 15.12.03

*Project:* Zoo-archaeological investigations of Ø-34, Qoorlortup Itinnera.

*Guest researcher:* curator Hans Lange, The Greenland National Museum and Archives

*Period at SILA:* 01.10.03 – 31.10.03

*Project:* Eskimonæsset and The Neo-Eskimo Settlement at The Northeastwater

*Guest researcher:* Ph.D.-student Latonia Hartery, University of Calgary, Canada

*Period at SILA:* 11.12.02 – 12.01.03

*Project:* Zoo-archaeological analyses of fauna material from Paleo-Eskimo sites in New Foundland.

*Guest researcher:* senior researcher Steffen Stummann Hansen

*Period at SILA:* 15.11.02 – 15.03.03

*Project:* Toftanes – A Viking Age farmstead from The Faroe Islands

## **7. Guest lecturers at SILA during 2003**

The international guest lectures, which have been running since 2000, were completed in 2003. The lectures were held in the lecture theatre or in the festival hall of the National Museum and were well attended by colleagues and students from universities and museums.

**WILLIAM W. FITZHUGH**, director, Arctic Studies Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA.

March 12<sup>th</sup>: Mongolia's Northern Connections: New Research on Central Asia's Arctic Frontier.

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Labrador - Greenland's Alter Ego

**T. MAX FRIESEN**, associate professor, University of Toronto

March 26<sup>th</sup>: Inuvialuit Origins: The Archaeology of Early Beluga Hunting Societies in the Mackenzie Delta, Northwest Territories

**PRISCILLA RENOUF**, research professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dorset Hunter-Gatherers at Philip's Garden, Northwestern Newfoundland

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Hunting and Ideology: A Groswater Palaeoeskimo Site at Port au Choix, Northwestern Newfoundland.

## 8. Education: Lectures presented by the SILA staff during 2003

The SILA staff has presented lectures on Inuit and Norse archaeology at several universities, in particular at the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Copenhagen, Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Aarhus, Ilisimatusarfik, the Greenland University, and Institute of Archaeology, University of Tromsø.

## 9. Workshops, Colloquiums and Conferences

*In 2003 SILA organized a workshop led by assistant professor Orri Vesteinsson, University of Iceland, Reykjavik:*

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Archaeological Investigations in Iceland

*A series of colloquiums for the staff, students, guest researchers and invited guests were held during the year*

Lill Rastad Bjørst: En formidlingsstrategi for Grønlandsamlingerne på Nationalmuseet

Inge Enghoff: Faunamaterialet fra 'Gården under Sandet'

T. Max Friesen: Late Dorset Longhouses, Victoria Island.

Einar Lund Jensen: Historiske migrationer i Kap Farvel-regionen, Sydgrønland  
Jette Arneborg: Nordboernes kunstvandingsanlæg.  
Ulla Odgaard og Mikkel Sørensen: Beretninger om sommerens feltarbejder i Kangerlussuaq og i Nordøstgrønland.  
Martin Appelt: Sen Dorsetkultur – vandrende shamaner.  
Bjarne Grønnow: Glimt fra sommerens feltarbejder i Sydgrønland.  
Dorte Veien Christiansen: Nordboernes kontakter over Atlanten.  
Mikkel Sørensen: Teknologistudier – foreløbige resultater af Ph.D.-projektet.  
Hans Kapel: Undersøgelser på Landnamsgården, Narsaq.

*The following list presents an overview of the **conferences**, in which members of the SILA-staff have presented papers during 2003:*

April: **Canadian Archaeological Association, Annual Meeting**, Hamilton, Canada.  
(Mikkel Sørensen).

April: **Ruralia, Lyon – Savoien**, France. (Jette Arneborg).

September: **European Archaeological Association**, Skt. Petersborg, Russia. (Ulla Odgaard).

September: **Site Structure, Site Organization and Settlement Patterns in the South Scandinavian Mesolithic**, Museumshøjskolen, Sorø. (Ulla Odgaard, Mikkel Sørensen, Martin Appelt, Bjarne Grønnow).

September: **Landscape and Humans at the Dryas III – Preboreal Transition on the European Plain**, Greifswald, Germany. (Mikkel Sørensen).

September: **Medieval Textiles**, Middelaldercenteret, Nykøbing Falster. (Jette Arneborg).

October: **De store Spørgsmål (The Great Questions)**, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of Copenhagen. (Mikkel Sørensen, H.C. Gulløv).



October: **Kristendommen i Danmark. Symposium**, Roskilde Museum, Roskilde. (Jette Arneborg).

November: **Archaeological Research Strategies in Greenland**, Nuuk. (H.C. Gulløv, Jette Arneborg, Bjarne Grønnow).

## 10. Collaboration

### 10a) Internal collaboration partners

SILA has collaborated with several departments and units of the National Museum of Denmark: Ethnographical Collections, Environmental Archaeology and Archaeometry, Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance.

### 10b) External and International collaboration partners

The close collaboration between SILA and the *Nunatta Katersugaasivia Allagaateqarfialu* (The Greenland National Museum and Archives, NKA) were continued during 2003. SILA has provided funding and working space for curator Claus Andreasen and for curator Hans Lange from NKA. SILA and NKA are in close contact, as well, through the two yearly meetings of the board of SILA ('Det Faglige Råd'), the director and vice-director of NKA being members of the board.

Collaboration with the local museums in Southern Greenland was continued:

*Nanortallip Katersugaasivia* (Nanortalik Museum) was an important collaboration partner in connection with SILA's surveys along the coasts between Nanortalik and Alluitsup Paa. As always, museum director Kristine Raahauge provided invaluable assistance and local knowledge to SILA's research programme. Nanortalik Museum is also a close collaboration partner in connection with the ethnohistorical project: 'Tunup Saqqaa – the Front side of the Back: Contacts between East- and West Greenland'.

*Qaqortup Katersugaasivia* (Qaqortoq Museum) was SILA's collaboration partner in connection with the archaeological field school in August in Qassimiut. Furthermore, museum director Georg Nyegaard spent about two months in Copenhagen in connection with his research on the faunal material at the Norse farm, Ø-34, which is as project funded by SILA.

*Ilisimatusarfik* (The University of Greenland), *Institute of Cultural and Social History*, is collaborating with SILA through education activities. SILA staff members arranged lecture series on Greenland's prehistory at the university in Nuuk and were supervisors on

the field school. Professor Yvon Csonka from Ilisimatusarfik, was appointed member of the international board in connection with the evaluation of SILA.

*External collaboration partners in Denmark:*

GEUS (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland)

The Zoological Museum (University of Copenhagen)

The Geological Museum (University of Copenhagen)

The Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology (University of Copenhagen)

Institute of Prehistoric Archaeology (University of Aarhus)

Institute of Mediaeval Archaeology (University of Aarhus)

Institute of Physics and Astronomy (University of Aarhus)

The Laboratory of Physical Anthropology (University of Copenhagen)

The Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde

Institute of Eskimology (University of Copenhagen)

Institute of Geography (University of Copenhagen)

*International collaboration partners:*

NABO, City University of New York

The National Museums of Faroe Islands and Iceland

Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, Canada

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

L'Institut Culturel Avataq, Quebec, Canada

Department of Archaeology, University of Tromsø, Norway

Institut für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Universität Jena, Germany

## **11. Ph.D.-programmes**

One of the aims of SILA is to create a continuous and dynamic scientific environment, which promotes recruitment of young researchers within Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology.

SILA was funding and hosting three Ph.D.-programmes during 2003:

1) *Late Dorset in the High Arctic: maintaining contacts* (Martin Appelt). The dissertation was successfully defended in January, 2004.

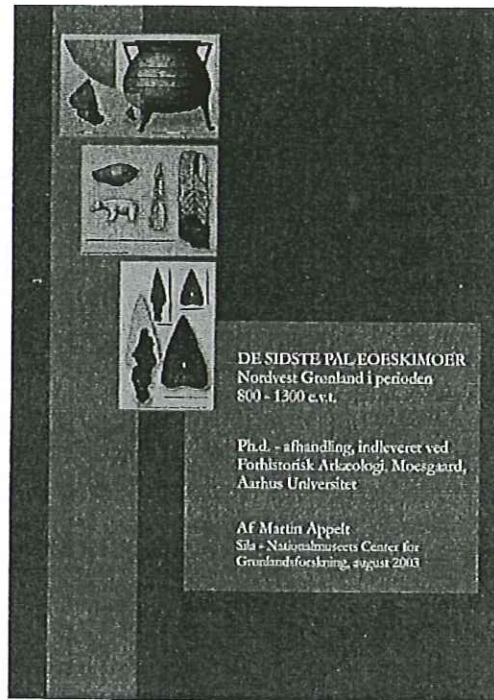


Fig. 4 Front page of Martin Appelt's Ph.D.-dissertation

2) *The Norse Settlement in Greenland: Trade and communication in the North Atlantic*. (Dorte Veien Christiansen). Dissertation, 2004.

3) *Technology and 'Chaine Operatoire' in the Paleo-Eskimo Cultures of Eastern Arctic*. (Mikkel Sørensen). Dissertation, 2005.

Supervision is shared between the University of Copenhagen, SILA and the Danish Middle Ages and Renaissance at the National Museum.



## 12. Fieldwork, 2003

### *Coast-, Fiord- and Inland Dwellers: Settlement Patterns in Central West Greenland.*

*Team:* Ulla Odgaard, SILA (head of project), Pauline Knudsen, University of Tromsø, Norway.

This summer's investigations in the inland of central West Greenland completed the fieldwork of the main project. The research programme combined archaeology and ethnology. One week was spent at the old assembly camp in Angujaartorfik, where recent caribou hunters still camp for some weeks during the summer. One of the native informants - Agnethe Rosing - and her family stayed here. During this part of the project the ethnologist H.C. Petersen participated. The field team joined a hunting trip, where the butchering of the animal was documented on video. In the camp Agnethe Rosing demonstrated how the meat was prepared for drying in the traditional way. The butchering and meat utilization processes - also the cooking of soup and smoking of the tongue - was documented.



Fig. 5 Agnethe Rosing preparing caribou meat for drying (phot.: Ulla Odgaard, August 2004).

After the stay in Angujaartorfik the team followed one of the traditional routes inland to the high plains. Ancient sites and structures were surveyed from the Paradise Valley and further inland. Due to bad weather the survey ended at the edge of high plain. This gave

time for archaeological surveys in a lower lying area close to Kangerlussuaq: Ammalortup Nunaa. In this area 5 basé campsites were registered with traces of use from the Thule culture until recent times.

The results of the fieldwork will – besides contributing to the main project – also form the basis of Pauline Knudsen's master thesis in Archaeology at the University of Tromsø.

*Survey in Northeast Greenland - Wollaston Forland, Lindeman Fjord, Tyroler Fjord, Young Sound – a pilot project in collaboration with the Greenland National Museum & Archives and Institute of Geography, University of Copenhagen.*

*Team:* Claus Andreasen (Curator at the Greenland National Museum & Archives), Mikkel Sørensen (Ph.D. student, Sila), Bjarne Holm Jakobsen (Associate Professor, Institute of Geography, University of Copenhagen), Henrik Sulzbrück Møller (Geographer, Ph.D. student at Institute of Geography, University of Copenhagen)

From July 22 to August 20 the Archaeological and Geographical expedition "GeoArk" surveyed the coasts of; Wollaston Forland, Lindeman Fjord, Tyroler Fjord, Young Sound. The aim of the expedition was two fold: 1) to record prehistoric and historic sites, 2) to record and analyse coastal morphologies and thereby describe changes in the Holocene landscape and climate within the Wollaston region.

The following cultures/traditions were located within the area: Independence I (2400-2000 BC), Greenlandic Dorset/Independence II (800-400 BC), Thule (1400-1850 AD).

Three Independence I sites were located, determined by burins and burin spalls. The Independence I sites are generally located in the outer fjord areas of Young Sound. Most Palaeoeskimo structures found were determined as remains from the Independence II/Greenlandic Dorset. The structures appeared as tent ruins either as midpassage structures, triangular pavements, circular depressions, circular tent rings, - further box hearths and outdoor summer hearths from this period were located.

Thule turf (winter) houses were mainly found at the outer coasts, at the same sites tent rings were generally found too. Three Thule winter sites were found in the inner fjords, suggesting that the Thule people occasionally had their winter camps in the inner fjord regions too. Thule tent rings were seen on most of the sites, but they were also placed solitary in the



landscape as remains of single family habitations. In all 14 Thule sites with more than a single structure were recorded.

Because of climatic changes the last winters have been mild and the ice have broken up early in the Wollaston area. This unusual phenomenon has led to an increased erosion of the beaches especially along the outer coasts and therefore the expedition recorded several sites and structures, which have been heavily eroded during the last seasons.

### *Archaeological Surveys from Nanortalik to Alluitsup Paa and around Qaqortoq*

*Team:* H.C. Gulløv (research professor, SILA), Hans Kapel (contract archaeologist), Bjarne Grønnow (director, SILA), Niels Algreen Møller (student assistant, SILA), Cille Krause (student assistant, SILA), Kristine Raahauge (Nanortalliip Katersugaasivia).

From August 6<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> archaeological surveys were carried out in selected coastal areas from Nanortalik to Alluitsup Paa. Some of the ‘classical’ Norse, Inuit and Historical sites in the area were visited and the crew attempted (in vain) to locate Palaeo-Eskimo sites.

After the completion of the field school in Qassimiut the crew made surveys by means of a Zodiac mainly in the archipelago west of Qaqortoq. A single, small Dorset site with dwelling structures was located just 0.5 – 1 metre above sea level on a small island.

### *Archaeological field school in Qassimiut, 2003 – in collaboration with Qaqortup Katersugaasivia and the Greenland National Museum and Archives*

*Team:* H.C. Gulløv (research professor, SILA), Bjarne Grønnow (director, SILA), Niels Algreen Møller (student assistant, SILA), Cille Krause (student assistant, SILA), Erle Nelson (professor, Simon Frazer University, Canada), Robert G. Comisso (Ph.D. student, Simon Frazer University, Canada), Emil Rosing (director, The Greenland National Museum & Archives), Hans Lange (curator, the Greenland National Museum & Archives), Georg Nyegaard (director, Qaqortup Katersugaasivia).

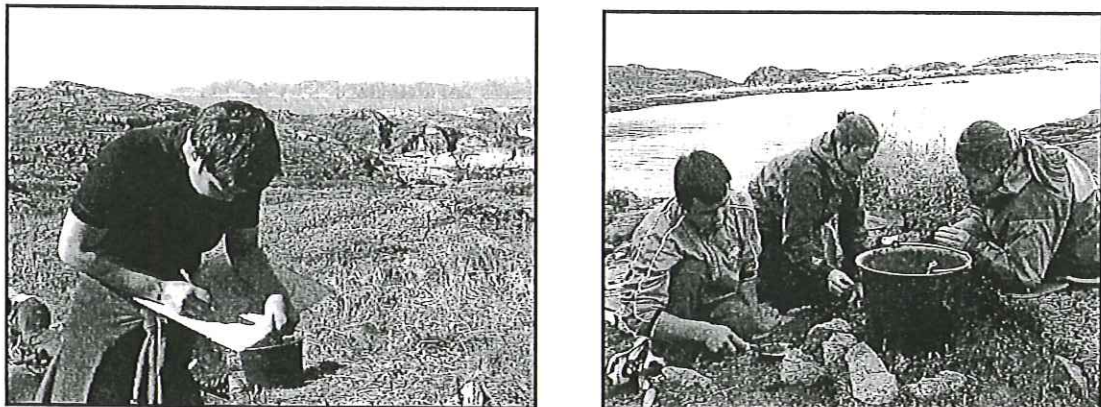
One of the aims of SILA is to strengthen interest in archaeology among young Greenlanders. It is SILA’s hope that some of the students might continue from the high school into studying archaeological and historic disciplines at the universities in Greenland and abroad. Two years ago, SILA and Qaqortoq Museum joined forces and conducted a field school at a medieval Norse farm in Qoorlortup Itinnera for high-school students from Sydgrønlands



Gymnasiale Skole in Qaqortoq. This summer the Greenland National Museum and Archives joined the field school collaboration, and together the three institutions arranged an archaeological field school, August 20th – 27th, for 24 students from the high school. The field school included excavations at the site, Kujallerpaat, close to the hamlet of Qassimiut, about 50 kilometres West of Qaqortoq. The students worked in six teams, each headed by an instructor from one of the collaborating institutions.

The Kujallerpaat-site contained about 14 Thule Culture and Historic Inuit ruins and adjacent middens. The excavation areas were placed so that the students gained an impression of the development from round, single-family houses of the 1600-1700, via the large communal (long) houses of the 1700-1800's to the latest, square, single family houses, dated to immediately before the establishment of the Qassimiut village by the colony administration. Sections were made in the midden areas to demonstrate via the faunal material and the trade goods the changes in the economy from pre-colonial times to colonial times. The students were instructed in archaeological registration, interpretation and interdisciplinary collaboration, e.g. the 14-C-dating method and analyses of stable isotopes.

The field school was a great success. The students were extremely interested, and the peak of the week occurred, when the students made an exhibition of their finds in the communal house of the village.



**Fig. 6** Twentyfive students from the high school of Southern Greenland and Ilisimatusarfik participated in the archaeological field school held in Qassimiut.

### *Victoria Island, Canada – the Iqaluktuq Project*

*Team:* Marit Zimmermann (student assistant, SILA) joined a Canadian team from University of Toronto, headed by associate professor T. Max Friesen.

Marit Zimmermann from SILA was invited to join the Iqaluktuq Project - an ongoing cooperation project between The Kitikmeot Heritage Society of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut and associate professor Max Friesen, University of Toronto, Dept. of Anthropology. This summer the project focused on excavating two Dorset dwellings; one at the Ekvanna Site, near the town of Cambridge Bay and one at the Fergusson Lake Site, about 60 km NV of Cambridge Bay. A few test pits were also done on the sites Wellington Bay, Menez and Peetuk, all of which are situated near Ekkaluk River and Fergusson Lake, the core area of the Iqaluktuq Project.

### **13. Public information and outreach**

The homepage of SILA ([www.sila.dk](http://www.sila.dk)) is updated until the end of 2003 by the Danish Polar Center.

SILA puts weight on public outreach and the staff has contributed to newspaper articles and participated in television and radio in Denmark and Greenland. The staff has presented popular lectures in 'Det Kongelige Nordiske Oldskriftselskab', The Royal Geographical Society, The Greenland Society, and other societies in Greenland and Denmark.

SILA and the Greenland National Museum and Archives collaborated on a series of popular presentations in the modern culture house of Nuuk - Katuaq - during April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. This event was a great success for both institutions: 2-300 Nuuk-citizens attended the presentations by Emil Rosing, Jette Arneborg, Claus Andreasen, Hans Lange, H.C. Gulløv and Bjarne Grønnow.

During 2003 research professor H.C. Gulløv and specialists from SILA and the Greenland National Museum and Archives have put lots of efforts into the comprehensive popular text book 'Grønlands Forhistorie' (Prehistory of Greenland). The complete manuscript was delivered to the publishers (Gyldendal) in March 2004.



## 14. Other activities at SILA

On the initiative of secretary Jutta Frandsen SILA presented the Canadian movie 'The Fast Runner' in the cinema of the National Museum. About 100 persons attended the event. Ph.D. student Dorte Veien Christiansen arranged a study tour to Norse sites in Iceland. Research assistant Einar Lund Jensen and his collaborator, museum director Kristine Raahauge, Nanortalp Katersugaasivia visited Herznhut in Germany in order to collect and study information on the East Greenlandic immigrants in South Greenland as recorded in the archives of the mission.

Student Lill Rastad Bjørst from Syddansk Universitet stayed 2 months at SILA while working on a report presenting a new strategy for a Greenland/Arctic exhibition at the National Museum.

Senior researcher Jette Arneborg was appointed member of the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland and member of the Danish committee for the International Polar Year. In connection with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland Jette Arneborg presented a guest-lecture on the history of the Commission at the celebrations in May in Nuuk.

Jette Arneborg presented a guest lecture ('The Prehistory of Greenland and Current Archaeological Research') for the Science Committee of the Danish Parliament.

In connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eigil Knuth and the publication of the volume 'The Northernmost Ruins of the Globe' in Monographs on Greenland, director Bjarne Grønnow, presented one of the lectures in the Royal Geographical Society. The Queen, the Prince Consort and the Crown Prince attended the meeting.

Preparations for SILA's international conference '**Dynamics of Northern Societies**', were given much attention by the staff during 2003. SILA has entered into collaboration with the NABO-network about this conference, which is held at the National Museum and Nordatlantens Brygge in May, 2004.

Martin Appelt defended his Ph.D.-dissertation on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, at Moesgaard, University of Aarhus.

## 15. The International Evaluation

During December 2002 and January 2003 an external, international evaluation of SILA was conducted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development. An evaluation committee was appointed: professor Mogens Trolle Larsen, The Carsten Niebuhr Institute



(University of Copenhagen), professor Thomas McGovern, City University of New York, and professor Yvon Csonka, Ilisimatusarfik, Greenland. The evaluation report was delivered to the Ministry on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003, and subsequently it was sent to relevant institutions and the State Research Council in Greenland and Denmark.

The evaluation and the comments from the institutions were very positive and recommended that SILA should be continued into a second centre period. (Appendix 2 and 3).

## **16. Research and education activities, 2000 – 2003. SILA at a glance**

### *Research*

**27 research projects** has been conducted or sponsored by SILA. 8 of these were new projects including fieldwork in collaboration with Greenlandic museums and 19 projects were based on analyses and publication of existing sources.

The research programme resulted in **86 publications** by the SILA staff and guest researchers. **9 of the publications are monographs** (3 in print), 30 are articles in peer reviewed journals, 20 are published technical reports and 27 are popular books and papers. **16 scholars from abroad and 8 from Denmark** have spent from 1 – 12 months at SILA as guest-researchers. (4 from Greenland, 1 from Iceland, 1 from Norway, 5 from Canada, 2 from USA, and 3 from European countries (England, Germany)).

**26 guest-lectures** have been presented in SILA's international series.

### *Seminars, workshops and conferences*

**23 colloquiums and 10 international workshops** were held at SILA. The staff presented **44 papers at international conferences**. (It should be added that the SILA/NABO-conference in May 2004 was attended by 140 scholars from 12 countries.)

### *Education*

**3 Ph.D.-programmes** were conducted by SILA in cooperation with the universities in Copenhagen and Aarhus.

**2 complete BA-courses** in North Atlantic and Arctic Archaeology were arranged by SILA and approximately **50 guest lectures** at universities in Denmark, Greenland and abroad were presented by the staff.

**75 Greenlandic students** (high-school level and BA-level from Ilisimatusarfik) took part in SILA two field schools in Greenland.

## 17. The Future of the Greenland Research Environment at the National Museum of Denmark

In spite of the recommendations of the evaluation committee, the comments from Greenlandic and Danish institutions (Appendix 2 and 3), and the support of the North Atlantic Group of the Danish Parliament (Appendix 4) it was politically decided that SILA, like all research centres of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Development, should not be directly sponsored from the Ministry beyond 2003. Future applications for funding must be addressed to the State Research Council (Appendix 5, The Minister's reply). This was clear by the conclusion of the state budget debate in the beginning of December 2003.

Seen in the light of the very starting point of SILA and the contract with The Greenland National Museum and Archives, which emphasizes *continuity* in the archaeological research environment and education in Denmark and Greenland, these political decisions are most regrettable.

At the last meeting of the Board of SILA (December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003) it was decided that:

- SILA should be concluded as a research centre by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.
- Two senior research positions at the National Museum – one concerning Arctic archaeology and one concerning North Atlantic archaeology – will be announced in 2004 in order to strengthen these areas of research across the units of the museum.
- The centre director should write the annual and final report, complete the balance of 2003, structure the archives and belongings of SILA, and coordinate the international SILA/NABO-conference in Copenhagen (May 2004) before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.
- A strong effort should be made to maintain the Greenland research environment at the National Museum. Thus, the office space and library of SILA should not be split up in the near future.
- New ways of funding and potentials for new collaboration partners should be explored as soon as possible.
- The close collaboration between the two national museums will be continued. A revised contract of collaboration based on the experiences of the SILA-period should be negotiated and signed in the near future.

## 18. Publications

### *Monographs*

Enghoff, Inge Bødker 2003

Hunting, Fishing and Animal Husbandry at The Farm Beneath The Sand, Western Greenland. An archaeozoological analysis of a Norse Farm in the Western Settlement. *Meddelelser om Grønland/Monographs on Greenland, Man & Society*, 28, p. 1-104, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne; Jensen, Jens Fog 2003

The Northernmost Ruins of the Globe. Eigil Knuth's Archaeological Investigations in Peary Land and Adjacent Areas of High Arctic Greenland. *Meddelelser om Grønland/Monographs on Greenland, Man & Society*, 29, 1-403, 2003.

Meldgaard, Morten 2004

Ancient Harp Seal Hunters of Disko Bay. Subsistence and Settlement at the Saqqaq Culture Site Qeqertasussuk (2400 – 1400 BC), West Greenland. *Meddelelser om Grønland/Monographs on Greenland, Man & Society*, 30, 1 – 189, 2004.

Schledermann, Peter; McCullough, Karen 2003

Late Thule Culture Developments on the Central East Coast of Ellesmere Island. *SILVA – The Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark and Danish Polar Center. Publication no. 12*, p. 1 – 203, 2003.

### *Articles, reports*

Appelt, Martin 2003

Arktisk Arkæologi. *Arkæologisk Forum* 8, p.31-34, 2003.

Appelt, Martin 2003

Palaeo-Eskimo gathering site architecture: An example from Godthåb Fjord, Greenland. *Études/Inuit Studies, Vol. 27 (1-2)*, p. 309-328, 2003.



Arneborg, Jette; Falk, Knud 2003

Forskningsstrategi for Nationalparken i Nord- og Østgrønland. *Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland*, p. 1-21, 2003.

Arneborg, Jette 2003

Forord. I: Østergård, Else: *Som syet til jorden*. Aarhus Universitets Forlag, 2003.

Arneborg, Jette 2003

Norse Greenland: Reflections on Settlement and Depopulation. - In: Barret, James H. (ed.). *Contact, Continuity, and Collapse: The Norse Colonisation of the North Atlantic. Studies in the Early Middle Ages*. Brepols, p. 163 – 181, 2003.

Arneborg, Jette 2003

Archaeological background. I: Enghoff, Inge Bødker: Hunting, Fishing and Animal Husbandry at The Farm Beneath The Sand, Western Greenland. *Meddelelser om Grønland/Monographs on Greenland, Man & Society* 28, p. 9 – 17, 2003.

Bjørst, Lill Rastad 2003

Det arktiske dilemma. Rapport over formidlingsstrategier for de grønlandske og arktiske samlinger på Nationalmuseet. *SILA- Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning, December 2003*, p. 1 – 53, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

SILA – The Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark. *Annual Report – 2002. SILA, May 2003*, p. 1 – 45, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Peary Land og den grønlandske forhistorie. I: Martens, Gunnar; Jensen, Jens Fog; Meldgaard, Morten; Meltofte, Hans (eds.): *Peary Land*. Forlaget Atuagkat, Nuuk, p. 143-146, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Eigil Knuth og udforskningen af Peary Lands forhistorie. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*, 5, p. 177 – 202, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Vejen til Peary Land. *Polarfronten*, 2: p.12-13, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Godt begyndt er kun halvt fuldendt – Grønlandsarkæologiens fremtid. *Polarfronten*, 3, p.15, 2003.

Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Knuth – Kalaallit Ninaata itsarnisartaanik nassaartoq (Knuth – opdageren af Grønlands stenalder). *Atuagagdliutit*, 31. juli, 2003, p.13-15, 2003.

Gulløv, Hans Christian 2003

Fra festhus til fælleshus - qassi i Sydgrønland og de første inuit. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*, p.149-160, 2003.

Høeg-Knudsen, Pipaluk; Krause, Cille; Møller, Niels Algreen 2003

Palæoeskimoer i Sydgrønland. Rapport om undersøgelserne på Illussat (60V2-II-26) Nanortalik Kommune, Sommeren 2002. *Feltrapport 10, SILA – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning*, p. 1 – 26, 2003.

Jensen, Einar Lund 2003

Kap Farvel området i 1800tallet - mødested for fire kulturer. *Tidsskriftet Grønland*, p. 301-314, 2003.

Jensen, Einar Lund 2003

Uiarnerit. A historical study of immigration from East to West Greenland in the nineteenth century. *Études/Inuit/Studies*, 2002, 26 (2), p. 23-46, 2003.

Kapel, Hans 2003

Ikigaat / Herjolfsnæs. Rapport over arkæologiske undersøgelser, sommeren 2002. Udført af SILA, Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning i samarbejde med Nanortalik Museum. *SILA Feltrapport nr. 11, Del 1 og Del 2*: 51 pp., 2003.

Krause, C. 2004

Historisk-arkæologisk for-forskerskole i Qassimiut for gymnasieklassen 2P fra Sydgrønlands Gymnasiale Skole. *SILA Feltrapport nr. 15, Del 1 og Del 2*: 33 pp., 2004

LeMoine, Genevieve, Helmer, James & Grønnow, Bjarne 2003

Late Dorset Architecture on Little Cornwallis Island, Nunavut. *Études/Inuit Studies, Vol. 27 (1-2)*, p. 255-282, 2003.

Lynnerup, Niels; Meldgaard, Jørgen; Jacobsen, Jan; Appelt, Martin; Koch, Anders; Frøhlich, Bruno 2003

Human Dorset Remains from Igloolik, Canada. *Arctic*, 56, No. 4 (December 2003), p. 349-358, 2003.

Odgaard, Ulla 2003

Hearth and Home of the Palaeo-Eskimos. *Études/Inuit Studies, Vol. 27 (1-2)*, p. 349 – 374, 2003.

Odgaard, Ulla; Grønnow, Bjarne; Gabriel, Mille; Pasda, Kerstin; Pasda, Clemens; Damm, Charlotte 2003

Bosættelsesmønstre i det centrale Vestgrønland. Rapport om undersøgelserne i Angujaatorfiup Nunaa, Maniitsoq Kommune, sommeren 2002. *Feltrapport 12, SILA – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning*, p. 1 – 95, 2003.

Raahauge, Kristine; Høegh-Knudsen, Pipaluk; Gulløv, Hans Christian; Møhl, Jeppe; Krause, Cille; Møller, Niels Algreen 2003

Tidlig Thulekultur i Sydgrønland. Rapport om undersøgelserne i Nanortalik Kommune, sommeren 2002. *Feltrapport 9, SILA – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning*, p. 1 – 95, 2003.



Sørensen, Mikkel 2003

Sensationelt fund af stenalderboplads. *Museumsavisen, Egnsmuseet på Sønderkov 36*, p.10-13, 2003.

Sørensen, Mikkel 2003

Experiment with the "Tågerup pressure tool". I: Karsten, Per; Knarström, Bo: *The Tågerup Excavations*. National Heritage Board, Lund: p.146-150, 2003.

Sørensen, Mikkel 2003

Om Palæoeskimoerne i Grønland og det arkæologiske kulturbegreb. *Nationalmuseets Forskning 2002*. Nationalmuseets Forsknings og Formidlingsafdeling, p. 23-26, 2003.

Sørensen, Mikkel & Andreasen, Claus 2004

Geo-Ark 2003 – Arkæologisk Rapport. Berejsningen af Wollaston Forland, Nordlige Clavering Ø, Sydspidsen af Kuhn Ø. – Grønlands Nationalmuseum og Arkiv & SILA-Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning: 85 pp., 2004.

# APPENDIX 1 - 5

	Regnskab		Regnskab		Regnskab		Regnskab		Budget	
	1999-2000	2001	2002	2003	2003	2003	2004	Total	2004	Total
Løn, Bjarne Grønnow	526.336,87	489.245,93	504.805,19	580.000,00	512.153,31	2.100.387,99				
Løn, Jette Arneborg	348.057,57	453.123,91	463.674,91	569.309,00	470.962,54	1.834.165,39				
Løn, faglig sekretær NN	149.724,12	47.558,53	21.361,13	20.000,00	16.043,33	234.687,11				
Løn, IT-medhjælp NN	31.300,00					31.300,00				
Etablering af arbejdspladser	218.440,82	195.327,50	1.244,62			415.012,94				
Kontorhold og telefon	21.119,75	40.069,22	81.554,11	80.000,00	60.336,75	203.079,83				
Rejser/symposier	117.882,33	43.265,13	54.449,34	50.000,00	62.435,68	278.032,48				
Gæsteforskere (korte ophold)	12.598,25	56.021,11	39.148,06	50.000,00	30.491,11	138.258,53				
Egne symposier		38.544,11	26.825,81	10.000,00	30.687,88	336.057,80			240.000,00	
Publikationer	525,00	365,25	25.299,13	323.386,10	283.899,41	490.088,79			180.000,00	
IT-virksomhed	81.846,00	138.504,71	58.381,36	50.000,00	54.038,04	332.770,11				
Gæsteforskerprojekter	216.659,00	1.062.670,86	1.133.696,73	684.465,90	675.841,00	3.088.867,59				
Egne projekter (incl. stip. og proj.støtte)	458.325,45	1.739.216,94	2.573.894,58	2.448.498,70	2.328.807,02	7.100.243,99				
Ph.D.-løn (MS), studieafgift m.v. 2004/05						756.282,45			756.282,45	
Diverse	75.398,47	59.075,29	72.036,26	72.191,56	72.672,51	320.785,76			41.603,23	
Samlet forbrug	2.258.213,63	4.362.988,49	5.056.371,23	4.937.851,26	4.598.368,58	17.493.827,61			1.217.885,68	
Overhead til Fælles	466.666,70	433.297,36	476.664,80	383.333,00	366.667,00	1.743.295,86				
Overhead til FOA	466.666,30	433.297,36	476.664,80	383.333,00	366.667,00	1.743.295,46				
Tilbageført overhead	-116.666,30	-93.684,63	-259.997,00	-115.000,00	-109.999,00	-580.346,93				
Udgifter i alt	3.074.880,33	5.135.898,58	5.749.703,83	5.589.517,26	5.221.703,58	20.400.072,00			1.217.885,68	
Bevillingsprofil	5.600.000,00	5.200.000,00	5.200.000,00	4.400.000,00	4.400.072,00	20.400.072,00				
Overførsel fra forrige år		2.525.119,67	2.589.221,09	2.039.517,26	2.039.517,26	1.217.885,68			1.217.885,68	
Til rådighed		7.725.119,67	7.789.221,09	6.439.517,26	6.439.589,26				1.217.885,68	
Til rest/overførsel	2.525.119,67	2.589.221,09	2.039.517,26	850.000,00	1.217.885,68					



## **Report on the Evaluation of SILA – The Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark**

<b>Summary and Recommendations</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Evaluation Procedure</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Creation and Structure of SILA</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assessment of SILA’s Role and Activities</b>	<b>8</b>
The SILA Centre in International Perspective	8
Historical Perspective- Opportunity and Challenge	8
The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century International Research Context	11
SILA ongoing North Atlantic field research programs	12
SILA publications	14
Educational and Outreach Efforts	17
Interviews and Peer Review Comments	18
<b>SILA’s Future</b>	<b>22</b>
Research on Greenlandic Eskimo-Inuit cultures in socio-historical perspective	22
A view from the North Atlantic	24

## **Summary**

The panel's conclusions concerning the quality of the research carried out at the centre are uniformly positive. The publications produced during the three-year period of SILA's existence are consistently on a high level of competence, and they have been well received by the international community of scholars working in this field. The field work activities have been well planned and carried out, and they represent a careful choice of significant, central topics that reflect important research priorities in the fields of Norse and Inuit archaeology. We must therefore conclude that SILA has been able to live up to the demand that it should become a "centre with a high professional standard."

SILA has managed to establish itself within this brief period as an important partner in international interdisciplinary collaboration. Scholars and students from several universities and museums have visited the centre, and some have spent weeks or months there, working on their projects. This includes visits by three members of the staff of Greenland's National Museum and Archives, who have expressed great appreciation of the opportunities offered by SILA and its facilities. The demand that the centre should "strengthen the research milieu within Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology" has therefore been met.

SILA has already become not only a research centre, it has several roles including education and popular promotion, and it forms a necessary and important link between Denmark and Greenland.

## ***Recommendations***

- We recommend that the centre be continued, as a minimum for a further period of 5 years. Clear plans should be drawn up during this period of time for the embedding of SILA in the National Museum in Copenhagen, allowing for the retention of the key senior personnel and for the continuation of the special programs and initiatives that have made the centre effective. It should be kept in mind that a long-term commitment will help ease the problems of the upcoming retirement of the present generation of Danish-Greenlandic archaeological experts, and that it will make planning of fieldwork and international cooperation easier; the complexities involved in carrying out

research and fieldwork in the Arctic are on a completely different scale than those which exist for similar activities in Denmark

- A future SILA should remain a partnership between the Danish National Museum and Greenland's National Museum and Archives (NKA).
- The "faglige råd" that has functioned more or less as a board of trustees for the centre should be enlarged in order to incorporate scholars from outside the two museums.
- In the future more emphasis should be placed on education and outreach in Greenland. SILA staff may for instance conduct intensive courses at Ilisimatusarfik over a few weeks every year, since it is essential for a true partnership with Greenland that more students take up archaeology as a professional interest. Public lectures both in Nuuk and provincial centres could help spread awareness in the population in Greenland of the activities and results of SILA.
- SILA and NKA should actively pursue an exchange of staff in the interest of making more extensive use of the collections in Nuuk, giving scholars based in Greenland better opportunities for research, and of providing more prolonged locally based interaction with NKA and Ilisimatusarfik staff and students.
- In the field of research, especially excavation campaigns and surveys, joint-venture projects between SILA and NKA should be supported, although also projects without the direct participation of NKA should be pursued.
- Multi-disciplinary programs that make use of the large collections from Greenland in such institutions as the Panum Institute, the Zoological Museum, the Geological Museum, the Botanical Museum etc. should be promoted.
- SILA should establish a publication strategy that is directed towards TV, the Internet, making use of home pages, CD-ROMs etc.
- High quality articles for internationally reviewed journals must continue to be produced in order to maintain a strong research reputation.
- Popular publications such as the volume on Greenland's Archaeology should be produced both in Danish, Greenlandic and English.



## Evaluation Procedure

In July 2002 the Ministry for Science, Technology and Development set up a panel to evaluate the Greenland Research Centre at the National Museum of Denmark – SILA. According to the Ministry's letter dated 11 June 2002 the evaluation will be part of the basis for a decision concerning the continuation of the centre.

### *The evaluation panel*

The evaluation was carried out by an international evaluation panel composed of the following three members:

Mogens Trolle Larsen (Chairman), The Carsten Niebuhr Institute,  
Copenhagen University

Yvon Csonka, Ilisimatusarfik (The University of Greenland), Nuuk

Thomas McGovern, North Atlantic Biocultural Organization, Department of  
Anthropology, Hunter College CUNY, New York.

### *Framework for the evaluation*

The evaluation panel did not receive detailed instructions from the Ministry with respect to the terms of reference for the assessment, which has therefore been carried out in consideration of the statements concerning the aims of the Centre contained in the agreement of collaboration between the National Museum of Denmark and the National Museum and Archives of Greenland from January 10, 1999, and in the Research Plan sent by Rigsantikvaren to the Ministry on January 27, 1999.

In the first of these documents the aims of the Centre is described as follows: "on the basis of the museum collections in Denmark and Greenland to carry out research of the highest quality and to strengthen the research milieu within Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology in the broadest terms by way of exchange of researchers within Rigsenheden and with other relevant research institutions."

The research plan developed by the National Museum of Denmark states that the objectives were:

- to create a permanent centre with a high professional standard

- to unite archaeology, history and ethnology in an interdisciplinary collaboration
- to create a centre with an international milieu to the benefit of Greenland and Denmark.

Three main themes were defined for the work at the Centre:

- Culture meetings and communication
- Settlement and economy
- Identity, ethnicity and history.

The third of these themes was later redefined by the staff at the Centre to be instead "Theory and method".

### **Meetings**

The evaluation panel met for two days at Copenhagen in November. During these days the panel met with Søren H. Andersen, the head of the research department at the National Museum, with representatives from the Ministry, and with the staff of the Centre. In January 2003 MTL had a meeting about the evaluation with Carsten Andersen, director of the National Museum of Denmark and a member of the "faglige råd" for SILA.

*U. Larsen*

In December Mogens Trolle Larsen visited Nuuk for three days and together with Yvon Csonka he had talks with the staff of the National Museum and Archives of Greenland with members of the staff of Ilisimatusarfik. In the Department of Education and Research of Greenland Home Rule, MTL and YC interviewed Tom Greiffenberg, coordinator for research in Greenland.

## The Creation and Structure of SILA

When the collection of Greenland artifacts in Copenhagen had been divided between the museums in Copenhagen and Nuuk, the Greenland Secretariat, which had been responsible for the division, was closed down. It was then decided to create a centre for Greenland studies in order to breathe new life into Danish research tradition in this area. The funding for the Centre was secured by a grant from the Ministry of Research covering a four-year period with 5 million Dkr allotted per year. This grant was made available already in February 1999, but the Centre in fact officially started its activities at the beginning of 2000. This then means that the funding from the Ministry now ends in the year 2003 rather than 2002 as originally planned. At the time of the evaluation the Centre has accordingly functioned for nearly three years.

The Centre is located at the National Museum in Copenhagen, under the research department of that institution ; the director of the centre reports directly to the Head of Research and to the director of the National Museum.

SILA is based on a contract set up between the two national museums in Denmark and Greenland, signed by Steen Hvass and Emil Rosing in January 1999.

When SILA was set up a scholarly council ("fagligt råd") was created with four members, two from the National Museum in Copenhagen and two from the National Museum in Nuuk. This body has held four meetings, in June 2000, February and November 2001, and in May 2002.

Bjarne Grønnow was appointed as director of the Centre on 1 November 1999. Jette Arneborg was appointed as Senior Project Researcher in February(?) 2000. H.C. Gulløv is associated with the Centre as a research professor, but funding for this position (which is for eight years) comes from the Ministry of Culture.

The staff furthermore consists of reserach associate Martin Appelt, (Ph.D. student) Dorte Veien Christiansen, research associate Ulla Odgaard, and the two secretaries Jutta Frandsen and Marit Zimmermann. Associated with the centre are : curator Hans Kapel and curator emeritus Jørgen Meldgaard (both from the department of Ethnography at the National Museum), Jens Fog Jensen (from the University of Copenhagen), Einar Lund Jensen (from the



department of research at the museum), and Claus Skriver (from the University of Aarhus).

## **Assessment of SILA's role and activities**

### ***The SILA centre in international perspective***

The SILA center has had the mission of "conducting research within Arctic and North Atlantic archaeology on the highest international level" (SILA annual report 2001, p 2). While the core of SILA's research efforts has been situated in Greenland, the SILA center has a very major responsibility for effective collaborative relations with scholars and institutions active in northern research in Canada, US, Iceland, Faeroes, UK, Norway, and Sweden. This section of the review will concentrate upon these linkages and will provide an assessment of SILA's work in the international context.

### ***Historical Perspective- Opportunity and Challenge***

Like any other institution SILA is affected by its historical context- both inherited past traditions and current trends in international research. SILA inherits an extremely distinguished legacy from pioneering Danish arctic and North Atlantic archaeologists extending into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Daniel Bruun, Poul Nørlund, Aage Roussell, C.L Vebaek, Therkel Mathiassen, Helge Larsen, Jørgen Meldgaard, K.J. Krogh are all names well known internationally, and many authors regard Bruun as the father of modern scientific archaeology in the region. Prior to WWII Danish archaeology dominated the North Atlantic islands and much of the arctic. Therkel Mathiassen was the first to conduct systematic excavations in the North American Arctic, during the famous Fifth Thule Expedition led by Knud Rasmussen, and it is no accident that Helge Larsen spent the war years as a very productive guest of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The SILA center thus provides lineal connection to a proud chapter in the history of Danish archaeology, and one that arguably has provided some of the greatest international visibility for Danish researchers during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several distinguished international scholars consulted for this review commented upon this history as embodied in SILA and expressed their concern lest this strong Danish commitment to archaeological research in the north be endangered. SILA and the Danish state thus have a great opportunity to build upon a well regarded tradition of

cutting edge northern research, alongside the linguistic and social anthropological branches which have been permanently supported since 1920 at the Institute of Eskimology of the University of Copenhagen.

However, any historical heritage brings with it challenges as well as honor. In the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, some research momentum was lost and some points of international scholarly friction developed. Major projects in Alaska and Canada remained unpublished for decades, despite overseas funding support, and major Canadian collections appeared to be gathering dust in Copenhagen. Greenlandic research in both Norse and Inuit archaeology was chronically under-reported, and the high standard set by the classic monographs of *Meddelelser om Grønland* in the 1930's-40's was not matched by the few popularizations that did appear. Greenland was perceived as a "closed shop" shut off from the main currents of northern archaeological research, and Danish archaeology became more famous for its advances in prehistoric archaeology at home than for its work in Inuit or Norse archaeology abroad. In the North Atlantic generally, the 1950's-70's were a low point in research activity and in effective international cooperation so this historical period of decline was in fact part of a broad regional trend. The later 1970's and 1980's saw a new period of active international engagement in the North Atlantic and in Greenland and a new generation of researchers (including the current SILA senior staff) entering northern research with fresh perspectives and research agendas. The last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen an impressive acceleration of the pace of research in the region, and major commitments of financial support to North Atlantic programs and institutions from Canadian, US, Nordic, and UK sources. Danish scholars are again at the cutting edge of these new research initiatives, and the commitment of the first four years of funding to SILA by the Danish State places Danish northern archaeology firmly back upon what has become a very busy and public stage. SILA thus inherits both the positive and negative aspects of the Danish northern archaeological research history, and has been given the opportunity to revitalize a longstanding tradition.

SILA has worked to directly address the negative parts of the history by:

- Actively seeking out **international collaborators** (junior and senior) for research work and publication efforts. Grønnow in particular has



been active in building bridges and activating international contacts, but he clearly has the full support of a senior and junior staff committed to active international collaboration (not simply passive lip service). The strongly positive support expressed by Canadian, UK, US, and Nordic collaborators during this review testifies to the effectiveness of this approach on the vital personal level. SILA has clearly become a major asset in Danish international image building.

- **Providing access and research resources** to visiting international scholars (guest researchers) working with both older and newer museum collections. One of the most effective steps taken by SILA has been to provide places for junior and senior international scholars to come to Copenhagen, have a friendly base of operations, and to have them then actively aid in dealing with older collections and newer backlogs. American and Canadian graduate students interviewed for this review were uniformly strongly positive about their experiences at SILA (most wanted to return soon as are senior scholars (who also wanted to come back)).
- **Producing multiple high quality monograph length publications** that effectively deal with the backlog issue internationally. The Deering report (together with the GUS Interim report published before SILA was started) have attracted considerable favorable comment internationally as examples of a new day dawning in northern archaeology at the National Museum.
- **Producing timely and well distributed interim reports** in English or with major English summaries which document ongoing and current research projects. At the moment, SILA reporting of its ongoing projects presents something of a model to the region, and one could wish all other northern research centers were as up to date and complete in their reporting.

It is entirely fair to say that SILA in its first three years of work has very effectively swept away any remnant negative aspects of the historical Danish northern research tradition and has again raised the profile of Danish northern archaeology internationally- and raised expectations for future progress that need to be fulfilled.

### ***The 21<sup>st</sup> Century International Research Context***

The international context for international, interdisciplinary research and education in the North Atlantic and Arctic has never been so favorable as it is today. On all sides, funding agencies and national initiatives are recognizing the high level of new cutting edge scholarly activity in this economically, environmentally, and politically vital area. In Canada a new top level funded *Professorship in North Atlantic Archaeology* has been established as the cornerstone of a permanent research facility at Memorial University Newfoundland (Priscilla Renouf chair). In the US, National Science Foundation (NSF) support for the multi-national *North Atlantic Biocultural Organization* research and education activities (based at the new permanent Northern Science & Education Center of City Univ. of NY) has topped US \$3 million, the Smithsonian Institution's *Arctic Studies Center* has gained national level attention with its *Viking Voyagers* exhibit and book, and a special US NSF-RANN\_S (Icelandic Science Council) joint panel has been formally created to promote US-Icelandic natural science and social science collaboration in North Atlantic research. In Iceland, a new "Millennium Fund" has committed over US\$ 1 million to Icelandic archaeology over the next five years, while also setting up the first permanent degree program in Icelandic archaeology at the University of Iceland. Also in Iceland, a new permanent *Stefánsson Arctic Center* has been established in Akureyri to coordinate Icelandic northern research and to represent Iceland at international circumpolar meetings. The Nordic Arctic Research Program (NARP) has committed over US \$300,000 to Scandinavian North Atlantic archaeological projects during the past five years, and in the UK the Leverhulme Trust has awarded US \$1.9 million to a five year project *Landscapes Circum Landnám* (based at the Northern Studies Centre of Univ. Aberdeen) promoting international environmental archaeology in the Faeroes, Iceland, and Greenland.

Norse, and a fortiori Eskimo and Inuit, were not constrained by today's national boundaries, and a good deal of research about their history must include trans-national (in today's political landscape) perspectives. From the point of view of Eskimo-Inuit settlement, Greenland is, because of its geographical position, a "fox trap" at the end of the road, affected by cultural



filtration through its single very northerly entry point. Its geographical configuration predisposes it to less complex developments than took place in Canada and especially in Alaska, until Europeans managed to enter the country from the south. Despite this geographic “disadvantage”, Greenlandic archaeology can and does make significant contributions to Eskimo-Inuit prehistory e.g. in the realms of cultural contacts (in particular between European and Inuit, cf. Patricia Sutherland’s comment below), of dating (e.g. the debate over the timing of the birth of the Thule culture and the rapidity of its spread to Greenland), and in terms of theory and method (e.g. SILA’s isotope project which has pan-arctic relevance, and progress of other natural science disciplines connected to archaeology).

Over the past decades, Eskimo-Inuit prehistory has tended to specialize into national traditions, which perhaps do not communicate and do not feel the need to communicate as much as they once did. It fits the Danish arctic archaeological tradition well that SILA revives international contacts, and it is highly praiseworthy that one country and one research center would invest as much in such international collaborations, which are crucially needed to solve some burning scientific questions.

The Danish commitment of funds and resources to the SILA center thus forms part of a larger pattern of increased government level support for North Atlantic research in the region. There can be no question that the bar has been raised in terms of both recognized research quality in the region and in terms of sustained institutional support. The North Atlantic is no longer a research backwater, but is internationally recognized as a “hot” research area despite its prevailing weather.

### ***SILA ongoing North Atlantic field research programs***

The ongoing field projects with most direct relevance to North Atlantic research are the “Inuit and Norse in Southern Greenland” initiative (Gulløv, Arneborg, Christiansen) with field projects “Early Thule Culture and the Supposed Meeting between Inuit and Norse in Southern Greenland” (Gulløv), “Churches, Christianity, and Chieftains”, and “Trade and Communications of the Greenland Norse” (Christiansen). All of these projects are addressing vital questions long asked about the Norse colonies in Greenland, and all very appropriately focus on the Eastern Settlement- certainly the most important



part of Norse Greenland, but far less studied in recent years than the much smaller Western Settlement area. All three projects are in early stages, producing solid results but not involving large scale excavations. All have been well reported by timely and attractively produced preliminary reports, and Christiansen's project will result in a doctoral thesis. Close coordination with local Greenlandic museums is evident and praiseworthy, as was the outreach program involving Greenlandic students in a brief but strongly positive field experience at E34. It is also worth noting that the new fieldwork has not de-railed the important GUS publication project.

The Thule Inuit component of the "Inuit and Norse in Southern Greenland" project accords well with priorities for new research in Greenland. Archaeologically, the south(-west) is one of the least known parts of country. That this sub-project can be coordinated with research on Norse settlements in order to elucidate questions about encounters and cultural contacts, represents a particularly precious aspect of what SILA, as a place where top specialists of different topics interact, can undertake with optimal chances of success. The direct historical approach supported by Gulløv adds the dimension of long term change from Thule to modern times.

Surveys in the inland areas ("Settlement Patterns of West Central Greenland") build on previous research from the early 1980s. Indeed, knowledge about inland land use and economic patterns lags far behind that about coastal areas. Since the inland-coastal parameter is central in the history of most regions of the Arctic, results obtained in West Greenland will contribute important elements not only to the history of Greenland, but also to comparisons and syntheses across the Arctic as well. This project also involves a pertinent ethnohistorical approach.

Shall SILA live on as recommended, it might consider embarking on a project that could federate Greenlandic institutions based in Nuuk as well: the National Museum and Ilisimatusarfik, and thus attack timely and significant scientific questions, while uniting more forces than any of these institutions can muster alone, and satisfying a deeply expressed wish of stakeholders in Greenland.

For the longer term, especially after the major GUS monograph is out and this burden is lifted, it may be useful to think carefully about which field projects to expand, which to contract, and which to maintain at present levels.

One danger is that multiple projects will simultaneously move from survey/small scale excavation phase to large scale excavation phase and place unsupportable burdens on logistic capacities and staff. Another danger is that multiple small projects will have very different objectives and foci, and will prove difficult to synthesize. It may prove to be better to do a few integrated projects really well for a sustained period than many idiosyncratic projects scattered widely. The experience of the Western Settlement (and current Icelandic projects) indicates the value of systematically (or accidentally) investigating multiple nearby sites placed in a cultural and natural landscape by a combined social science/natural science team; the same insight has been reached in other parts of the Arctic. It will be important for SILA field projects to coordinate data management strategies, and current work to ensure direct comparability and increasing digital archiving now underway are definitely worth emphasizing over the next five years. It will be important to work with local museums to further develop a coherent long term research strategy that promotes problem-oriented multi-disciplinary programs while allowing for the needs of rescue and education. This applies to both Norse and Eskimo/Inuit research. Maintaining the international connections already established by the SILA staff will be important in sustaining interdisciplinary collaboration so critical to modern field work, and to developing educational programs more fully.

### ***SILA publications***

SILA publications in archaeology thus far fall into five major categories:

- Data rich monographs and major reports. These are clearly aimed at clearing backlogs and bringing past work out in the context of modern research work (The Deering Report).
- Scholarly articles in multi-authored works on Greenland, North Atlantic, medieval, and thematic issues.
- Semi-popular articles in multi-authored works aimed at the educated public.
- Technical papers aimed at other specialists in archaeology.
- Cross disciplinary papers aimed at specialists in other fields.



Probably the best of the scholarly productions thus far has been the *"Identities and Cultural Contacts in the Arctic"* volume (Appelt, Berglund, & Gulløv ed 2000), which brings together new research findings (some genuinely revolutionary in impact) for intercultural contacts across the region. This volume is already heavily cited and will certainly remain a lasting contribution. The conference on which this book is based was held before SILA came into existence, and the achievement of the Centre is to have organised its rapid publication.

The most important monograph from a North Atlantic perspective is the GUS volume now nearing completion. Arneborg's work in coordinating the complex job of bringing this major multi-investigator project to publication has been central, and there is no question that the research and hosting facilities of the SILA center have been key factors in making the process a success. The GUS investigations are clearly going to be this generation's major Norse Greenlandic farm excavation project, and there is great international interest in the final report. The GUS zooarchaeological report prepared by Inge Enghoff during her affiliation with SILA is of the highest international quality and if the rest of the report measures up to this standard there is no question that this will be very largely the result of Arneborg's sustained work and the SILA center.

The publication of Helge Larsen's monograph on the excavations he conducted in Deering, Alaska, in 1950, represents a great service to northern archaeologists, especially well-appreciated in Alaska. Its appearance is timely, since new excavations have been conducted in Deering in 1997-99 (as of yet unpublished), and the culture investigated, Ipiutak, remains an important focus of research.

The articles on Paleo-Eskimo shamanism by Gulløv and Appelt, and by Odgaard, take this already well-discussed topic one significant step further by integrating new data, new publications, and new ideas. Pan-arctic connections are reaffirmed through ethnographic analogy and recent linguistic studies.

One publication that cuts across several categories is the Smithsonian Press volume *Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga* edited by Fitzhugh and Ward (2000), which has both scholarly and popular articles that present a great deal of new unpublished work as well as long held theories. The volume as a whole has been a commercial and critical success, going through three



printings and winning the *Society for American Archaeology's* "Best Archaeology Book of the Year" award for 2000. It is significant that Arneborg has several articles in this volume ("Greenland and Europe", and "From Vikings to Norsemen") and that Gulløv has another ("Natives and Norse in Greenland").

SILA has taken a valuable initiative by assuming responsibility for a fifth volume in the Gyldendal publication "Danmarks Oldtid", where the first four volumes have been written by Jørgen Jensen. This last volume will be entitled "Grønlands Arkæologi", and it will be the first major presentation of this entire subject. The book is currently in production, and the manuscript has been finished.

Staff and associated staff members of SILA also have made critical contributions to the *Topografisk Atlas Grønland* project, bringing up to date articles to this major publication ; the book was published in 2000, so the articles must have been written before SILA was started. An international-language version would of course broaden the international impact of this major work.

The most cited technical paper in a North Atlantic context is certainly Arneborg et al. 1999 in *Radiocarbon*, presenting the exciting results of the joint cross disciplinary program in dating and dietary reconstruction still underway by Arneborg's team. Additional publications 2000-02 add some details to the 1999 publications but clearly a major summary work now in progress will be the definitive statement. The work done by Arneborg's team has in fact stimulated other North Atlantic projects to apply some of the same approaches.

Thus in the short term there can be no question that the SILA center has been exceptionally productive in terms of both number and quality of articles. The effective mix of outreach articles aimed at the general public, at other northern scholars, and at a cross-disciplinary scientific audience is particularly impressive. In the medium term, a series of data-rich field reports are under development, including documentation of several famous sites, and this seems totally appropriate. It will be important in the long term however, to shift publication focus towards a higher ratio of international reviewed journals of wide circulation. Many of the major publications thus far are in what are effectively in-house journals or series (such as *Meddl. om Grønland*),

and while this is a totally appropriate pattern for a center working to clear backlogs by producing data-rich monographs and timely conference proceedings, it will not be healthy if this pattern persists indefinitely. It will be important to place theoretically and methodologically important pieces in major regional reviewed journals (*Norwegian Arch. Review, Arctic, Arctic Anthropology, Journal of Arctic & Alpine Research*) but also in more general journals (*World Archaeology, Antiquity, American Antiquity, Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, Environmental Archaeology* etc.). As the SILA staff are in fact conducting world class research, this placement of articles should not be a problem, but it should be made a specific goal for the next five years.

### ***Educational and Outreach Efforts***

The SILA center has done very creditable educational outreach both in Denmark and in Greenland, and has sponsored student involvement in fieldwork as well as a successful lecture series by visiting scholars. All staff interviewed however felt that research and publication had inevitably taken priority over educational activities in the first three years of the center. While this is inevitable given the location of the center at the National Museum, and the lack of any formal teaching commitment by the staff, it will be important over the next five years to work with educators to recruit and retain bright younger people from both Denmark and Greenland. Finding effective ways of expanding educational impacts while maintaining a research focus will be an important challenge for the future. Distance learning, international programs (*U Arctic* among them) and collaborative arrangements with other North Atlantic institutions will probably be productive avenues to explore.

Within Greenland, SILA's education and outreach efforts have concentrated on the southern region where most of the fieldwork is conducted. It should also plan to have its staff sojourn in Nuuk, where its main partner, the National museum, as well as the University, are located. Since the SILA staff and some of its current associates conduct a sizeable amount of historical research, the center might consider involving advanced history students from Ilisimatusarfik into its research projects.



### ***Interviews and Peer Review Comments***

In view of the importance attached to the quality of relationships between SILA and Greenland by the Ministry of Research Mogens Trolle Larsen and Yvon Csonka conducted a number of interviews in Nuuk with major stakeholders there. Unfortunately, the visit to Nuuk had to take place shortly after the recent election in Greenland, which meant that some of the persons approached for an interview were too busy dealing with the new political situation to talk with us.

At the National Museum interviews were conducted with Emil Rosing, director and member of SILA's "faglige råd"; Joel Berglund, vice director and member of SILA's "faglige råd", Claus Andreasen and Hans Lange; at the University of Greenland MTL interviewed the rector Ole Marquardt (in Copenhagen) and Daniel Thorleifsen, head of the department of cultural and social history at the university; at the Ministry of Education and Research. In the Department of Education and Research of Greenland Home Rule, MTL and YC interviewed Tom Greiffenberg, coordinator for research in Greenland. YC also had contacts with local museum leaders, with the chair of the Greenlandic section of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and with the chair of the Committee on culture of the new Greenlandic landsting.

The staff of the National Museum have a generally positive opinion of SILA and of their cooperation with SILA. The National Museum is a clearinghouse for SILA to obtain excavation licenses and to establish first contacts with local museums. Conversely, SILA is very positively appreciated by all who sojourned there as a gateway to the wider world of international research and scientific developments, and a place to do research away from daily disturbances.

It appears that the Greenlandic members of the faglige råd have so far exerted little influence on the shaping of SILA's research strategy. SILA and the staff of the National Museum do cooperate on publications projects, but otherwise they have no common research projects. SILA staff members have not visited Nuuk during the period under review (except Gulløv briefly at the occasion of a conference).

A wish for more SILA involvement in Greenland has been expressed. It is perceived that researchers who only spend short seasons on their field locations do not acquire the necessary sensitivity for the local social context. It



is wished that SILA staff members would spend time in Nuuk also, where they could be accommodated while they would do research and communicate their results to the Greenlandic public. Archaeologists based in Greenland would also like to develop common research projects in partnership with SILA—but it is apparent that funding for the Greenlandic part of such projects would not be readily available in Greenland. Ideas for topics and regions to be investigated in common (possibly with the participation of the University of Greenland) have already been identified.

Collaboration with local museums in South Greenland is, as described by SILA, intense, and seems to be very positive. In the other region of Greenland where SILA has been conducting surveys during the past two seasons, the far inland area of the Maniitsoq commune, however, there has been little or no collaboration with local stakeholders. The Maniitsoq museum was not informed of SILA's research.

Contacts between Ilisimatusarfik and SILA have notoriously been inexistent or tense at best (until Csonka's involvement in an application for the funding of a network funding—which did not succeed this time around). Archaeology is a minor part of the University's curriculum, and Ilisimatusarfik wished to be partner in this endeavour in the realm of history which is one of its strong points, and with sufficient latitude for agenda setting. A couple of students from the University, however, took ~~take~~ part in SILA's fieldwork in 2002, and a couple of others (who in the meantime went on to study archaeology outside Greenland) have had good contacts with SILA.

This state of affairs is particularly unfortunate, since the training of Greenlandic students should be a major preoccupation within the realm of SILA's commitments, especially in view of international ethical codes for the conduct of human and social science research in the north. It would be welcome by all stakeholders if SILA staff members would contribute to teaching at Ilisimatusarfik. SILA, although devoted to archaeology, does indeed practice a substantial amount of history as an ancillary discipline, and it would be easy to identify other research projects of utmost scientific interest where Ilisimatusarfik students and staff could be partners for the historical and linguistic aspects.

To cultivate good relations with museums close to field sites is the minimum that must be done in order for a project to be successful, be it only on the level of logistics. To include local people, and especially students, in the fieldwork, is also part of this minimum, which brings as much or more to the project as it might be conceived as putting a burden on it.

During the review process McGovern solicited comments from both junior and senior scholars who had been to the SILA center and worked with SILA staff over the past few years. Dr. Bjornar Olsen (Norway) and Dr. Patricia Sutherland (Canada) kindly gave permission to quote their comments directly. Other senior scholars contacted by phone or email provided closely similar comments.

Dr. Bjornar Olsen (U Tromsø)

“ I have had the opportunity to collaborate with several members of SILA’s staff and to attend seminars and lectures organized by them. I have also chaired a workshop discussing the archaeological projects run by the centre. In my opinion the importance of SILA is manifold: not only does the centre play an important role in continuing and developing the long and well known Danish tradition in Arctic and Greenlandic archaeology. They are also – and increasingly so - facilitating research that is of great relevance to a wider international environment of scholars. I will specially emphasize SILA’s program on cultural contacts in the Arctic which addresses issues crucial for understanding cultural dynamics and change. The centre’s involvement in repatriation issues, both in terms of practical actions and research, shows a timely and much welcomed awareness of the social and ethical dimensions of scientific activity in the north. Furthermore, in terms of Danish archaeology the centre’s seminar on theory and method promise to fulfill an important entrepreneur role in introducing theoretical perspectives so far largely ignored by the established environments at the universities.”

Dr. Patricia Sutherland Canadian Museum of Civilization

“Through its diverse research initiatives, publications and expertise, SILA is making a significant contribution to the historical study of Arctic cultures. Greenlandic history is critical to our understanding of the interaction between aboriginal and European cultures in Arctic North America, and the work that is being done at SILA is vital to an improved understanding of this history. Archaeologists engaged in research in Arctic Canada anticipate a continuation of SILA's productive programmes, and look forward to more fruitful efforts at collaborative work in the future. ”



## SILA's Future

### *Research on Greenlandic Eskimo-Inuit cultures in socio-historical perspective*

The relatively "gentle" colonization of Greenland is a positively acknowledged part of Denmark's past. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Denmark has consistently been at the vanguard of the socio-political trends of decolonization of all parts of the Arctic, and it is highly regarded for it in international circles well beyond the States with arctic backyards. Greenland was the first and remains the only part of the formerly colonized Arctic to have obtained such a degree of autonomy as the Home Rule allows. The trend towards more autonomy remains evident in all regions of the Arctic today (and most recently in Greenland), providing evidence that all treaties, conventions, etc. are open to evolutions under socio-political pressure.

The socio-political aspects of human and social scientific research on Eskimo-Inuit cultures have followed these trends, at their own pace. Archaeological as well as anthropological research on Indigenous cultures, after decades of relative disregard for local feelings and lack of interest of scientists for establishing solid local partnerships, has entered a time of tense relations between academics and Indigenous communities in most parts of the American (and, recently, Russian) Arctic. Repatriation of ethnographic and archaeological museum collections have been the order of the day for more than a decade in North America and in Greenland, and this step has been successfully negotiated between Denmark and Greenland, prior to the establishment of SILA. Current trends, under the pressure of Indigenous organizations and local administrations which gain more and more autonomy, include, among others, the call for equal partnerships in research, and their presuppositions: the setting up in common of research agendas that are considered meaningful by and to northern societies, and the building of scientific competence in the north itself, with the support of the relevant agencies of the States they are associated with.

Ethical codes for the conduct of scientific research in the north have been developed by many national and international professional societies (e.g. ; ; ; ;), Inuit stakeholders (ICI Principes ...Arctic Policy; NRI; Alaska Native

Science Commission??), and North American national funding agencies and Universities have their own ethical codes by which any new research project is also evaluated (e.g. NSF-OPP ...; ; ; ;). The Canadian SSHRC has recently funded a massive effort to establish CURA (Community-University Research Alliances) projects, one of which involves a partnership on historical research between Laval University, the Arctic College in Iqaluit, and a Nunavut elders' society. In this context, it would appear somewhat anachronistic if Denmark and Greenland did not take this latest turn, and if the Danish national funding agency would leave it entirely up to the projects it funds to negotiate the social and ethical aspects of their research relationship with Greenland.

Within Greenland, it has been deemed more urgent—and this can be explained by historical, socio-economic, and political reasons—to repatriate a sizeable proportion of research on renewable resources (the Naturinstitut in Nuuk) before research on prehistory, and this although at least the Eskimo/Inuit part of the archaeology of Greenland is intimately connected with aspects of national identity. Archaeological research based in Greenland remains lilliputian compared to its now comparatively well-endowed Danish counterpart<sup>1</sup>: it is blatantly under-funded (it does not even cover a fraction of the needs for salvage, let alone scientific, excavations), and there are today less than a handful of fully-trained archaeologists active in the country (and no clear idea about their upcoming succession). It will thus be a matter, in the coming years, of establishing a firmer base in Greenland for archaeological research, and to reach a more reasonable balance between research on the (pre-)history of the country carried out on Greenlandic soil and outside Greenland.

Independently of how much SILA upholds current standards of social responsibility relevant in this case, it is a matter for the Danish Ministry to ponder whether, in the context of current international trends of Arctic social science research policy, archaeological research by researchers based in Greenland should be funded through SILA, or if a solution allowing for Greenland-based research institutions to enter on their own terms into relationships with Danish partners, should not be preferred. If the objective is not only to promote scientific excellence, but also to remain abreast of the

---

<sup>1</sup> Fig. 3.5 p. 25 and Fig. 4.7 p. 41 of *Forskningsstatistik for Grønland 1995-2000* (Aarhus, Analyseinstitut for Forskning, 2002) provide a telling graphic illustration of these disparities.



progressive political tradition of Denmark alluded above and of developments in research policy in other parts of the Arctic, and to promote a platform for continued good relations with Greenland, then other arrangements for the distribution of funding should be considered.

### ***A view from the North Atlantic***

While it appears clear that SILA merits another 5 years of support at current levels, the long term future of the work carried out also needs to be addressed. While it is normal for Danish specialized research centers to terminate after two successive five year periods of support, a number of international issues suggest the value of a continuation of SILA in some form.

- **Specialization:** SILA brings together Danish northern archaeology and fosters the circumpolar connection. It thus has a regional rather than a technical / methodological focus (like the successful maritime archaeology center) and it is unlikely that the skills and expertise developed over a decade of SILA collaboration will in fact benefit other scholars in other departments if the SILA team is broken up and redistributed among other offices. There will be little or no ‘leavening effect’ as SILA is the only northern center in Denmark with a primary research mission, and other Danish institutions have other missions not directly compatible with the international circumpolar remit of SILA.
- **International Collaboration:** As noted above, there is a clear international trend towards permanent, centrally funded northern research and education centers around the North Atlantic basin (Canada, US, Iceland, UK). These centers have been extremely effective in both attracting competitive grant funding and in representing national scholarly and educational agendas in major international circumpolar initiatives (such as the *University of the Arctic* program now hosted by Iceland). If SILA is dismantled, Denmark will be inadequately represented in the circumpolar research community. Individual scholars, however distinguished, will not have the same impact or effectiveness in advancing national interests.
- **Continuity :** Denmark needs a stable, high quality northern research center to provide ongoing connection to Greenland and to the rest of



the North Atlantic region. This need will be as pressing five years from now as today, and Greenlandic museums and institutions need continuity in their relations with Denmark. Younger northern researchers must be trained and positioned to provide continuity when the current generation begins to retire in the next 5-10 years, or much of the accomplishments of funding thus far allocated to SILA will be lost.

Accordingly, there are strong arguments for a continuation of SILA, either on the basis of the present arrangement, or by embedding it in the National Museum. If SILA is absorbed back into the National Museum, careful planning must be carried out to retain not only the key senior personnel, but also the special programs and initiatives that have made the center effective. A special arctic and North Atlantic center at the National Museum (however designated) would serve to preserve the gains made by SILA for Danish northern scholarship and deal with the issues of continuity and international representation raised above.

KULTUREQARNERMUT, ILINNIARTITAANERMUT,  
ILISIMATUSARNERMUT, ILAGEEQARNERMULLU PISORTAQARFIK  
Direktoratet for Kultur, Uddannelse, Forskning og Kirke

Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling  
att. Bente Olsen  
Bredgade 43  
DK-1250 København K

Dato: 28.3.2003  
All./Brev nr.: 000591  
Journal nr.: 57.10.00  
TG/

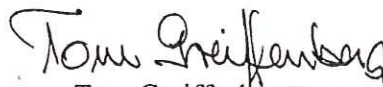
**Vedrørende: Evaluering af SILA, Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning**

KIIP bemærker sig evalueringsudvalgets meget positive vurdering af SILA, herunder at SILA har markeret sig internationalt som arkæologisk forskningscenter. KIIP kan tilslutte sig rapportens anbefaling af, at centret videreføres. SILA må ses som et værdifuldt eksempel på dansk-grønlandsk forskningssamarbejde, og det findes vigtigt, at samarbejdet mellem Nationalmuseet, Grønlands Nationalmuseum og Arkiv (NKA) og de lokale grønlandske museer fortsætter. KIIP kan også anbefale, at et fortsat SILA forbliver i et partnerskab med NKA.

KIIP kan ligeledes tilslutte sig, at der i fremtiden lægges øget vægt på undervisning i et samarbejde mellem SILA, NKA og Ilisimatusarfik, Grønlands Universitet. Formidling af forskningsresultater ses også at være vigtig, og KIIP værdsætter arbejdet med udgivelsen af en populær publikation om Grønlands Forhistorie, ligesom det noteres med tilfredshed, at SILA i samarbejde med NKA har planlagt en offentlig foredragsrække i Grønland.

KIIP tilslutter sig således evalueringsrapportens anbefaling af, at SILA, Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning, videreføres.

Med venlig hilsen

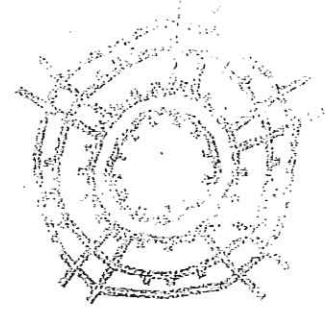
  
Tom Greiffenberg  
Forskningskoordinator

Vedlagt kopi af udtalelse fra Grønlands Nationalmuseum og Arkiv.

Postbox 1029, 3900 Nuuk, Telefon 34 50 00, Telefax 32 20 73 & 32 31 71, Email [kiiip-mail@gh.gl](mailto:kiiip-mail@gh.gl),  
Hjemmeside [www.nanoq.gl/kiiip](http://www.nanoq.gl/kiiip)  
Allakkat tamarmik Pisortaqarfimmut qaatiuguuliormeqartassapput inunnut aalajangersimasunuunngitsoq.  
Al korrespondance bedes adresseret til Direktoratet og ikke til enkeltpersoner.



Direktoratet for Kultur- Undervisning – Forskning og Kirke  
Grønlands Hjemmestyre  
3900 Nuuk



ULLOQ/DATO

19. marts 2003

SAMMISAQ / JOURNAL NR.

10.20.17

ILISSI ALL / DERES REF.

jb/ca

### Vedr.: Høring om Evaluering af SILA.

Grønlands Nationalmuseum & Arkiv (NKA) har nøje gennemlæst evalueringsrapporten om SILA – Nationalmuseets center for grønlandsforskning, og vi kan overordnet sige, at vi er helt enige i rapportens positive resultat og i dens påpegning af vigtigheden af et fortsat samarbejde mellem de to nationalmuseer. SILA har gennem sin korte levetid formået at give den arkæologiske forskning i Grønland et stort løft, der på grund af de aktuelle forskningsprojekters karakter først og fremmest har været til gavn for de direkte involverede lokalmuseer. Endvidere har SILA givet mulighed for frikøb for flere forskere fra de grønlandske museer herunder NKA.

SILA er potentiel samarbejdspartner for alle museer i Grønland og er desuden en forskningsmæssig platform, vi har brug for i Grønland på grund af de meget små forskningsmiljøer. Vi bemærker med tilfredshed den meget positive vurdering af SILAs aktiviteter i Grønland og på centret, samtidig med, at vi deler den opfattelse, at det er beklageligt, at Ilisimatusarfik valgte at stå udenfor samarbejdet. Det bør dog påpeges, at SILA har strakt hånden ud til Ilisimatusarfik med forskellige undervisningstilbud, som ikke blev modtaget.

Evalueringsrapporten har under opsummeringen angivet ti punkter, som er evalueringspanelets anbefalinger til ændringer og vægtninger ved centrets fortsatte beståen.

NKA er helt enig i, at SILA bør fortsætte som anbefalet i en periode på minimum 5 år! Det tager tid at etablere et forskningscenter, og nu har SILA etableret sig med et aktivt internationalt kontaktnet i det forum, der beskæftiger sig med arktisk arkæologisk forskning. Det er derfor nu og i årene fremover, at investeringen skal give udbytte. Ligeledes er vi meget enige i, at SILA bør inkorporeres i Nationalmuseet, hvis det ikke kan lade sig gøre at videreføre centret ved ekstern finansiering.

SILA tiltrækker yngre forskere, hvilket er vigtigt set i forhold til en afløsning af den nuværende ældre generation af arkæologer, der dominerer forskningen i Grønland og Danmark. SILA er endvidere det miljø, hvor kommende grønlandske forskere vil kunne finde et dansk-grønlandsk samt ikke mindst internationalt ståsted og støtte.

NUNATTA KATERSUGAASIYIA ALLAGAATEQARFIALU  
GREENLAND NATIONAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES





NKA er enig i, at SILA forbliver en partner mellem Nationalmuseet og NKA således, at indgangen til forskningsaktiviteter i Grønland fortsat er Grønlands Nationalmuseum & Arkiv.

Ligeledes er vi enige i, at "Det faglige Råd" udvides med minimum 2 medlemmer fra et fagligt miljø udenfor de to nationalmuseer for at give SILA en større faglig professionel vægt og inspiration indadtil og for at kunne videreudvikle den faglige dialog mellem eksterne akademiske miljøer og den daglige ledelse. NKA kan kun være enig i, at SILA går ind i undervisningsmæssige aktiviteter, herunder tiltag der er orienteret mod forskningsuddannelse, hvorfor det er naturligt, at Ilisimatusarfik medtænkes i et sådant arrangement.

I 2001 indgik de to nationalmuseer en aftale om gensidig, udvidet og løbende adgang til samlingerne i Nuuk og i København. Dette skete på baggrund af, at overførslerne af arkæologisk og etnografisk materiale til Grønland afsluttedes og dermed den da bestående samarbejdsaftale. Dette skal ses i sammenhæng med anbefalingen om en større udnyttelse af samlingerne i Nuuk af forskere og studenter baseret i Grønland og i Danmark. Dette kunne også komme studerende ved Ilisimatusarfik til gode og dermed NKA, og det grønlandske museumsvesen i øvrigt, der gerne skulle kunne rekruttere sine nye medarbejdere fra Ilisimatusarfik.

Der anbefales et samarbejde vedr. forskning, udgravninger og andet feltarbejde, hvor NKA er feltaktiv, men også arkæologisk feltarbejde, hvor andre grønlandske museer kan indgå alene. Det er primært sådan, at feltarbejdet de senere år er foregået, hvor SILAs direkte samarbejdspartnere har været museerne i Sydgrønland. Resultatet af dette har været yderst frugtbar, og der er al mulig grund til at opmuntre en fortsættelse heraf.

NKA kan også kun tilslutte sig forslaget om, at de samlinger tilhørende Grønland der kurteres i København på institutioner som Antropologisk Laboratorium på Panum Instiuttet, Zoologisk Museum, Geologisk Museum m.v. sættes i spil i multidisciplinære programmer, hvor SILA og NKA er involveret.

Med hensyn til SILAs forskningsmæssige omdømme er det vigtigt, at forskningen kommer ud på tryk i internationalt anerkendte journaler. NKA er enig heri og vil understrege vigtigheden af, at forskningen kommer ud, hvis SILA skal være med i frontlinien i den arktiske forskning. I de forløbne år har SILA da også selv lagt vægt på at præsentere sine forskningsresultater på internationale konferencer og møder.

Ligeledes kan vi kun hilse en mere offentlig, udadrettet virksomhed velkommen som populærvidenskabelige forelæsninger i forskellige grønlandske sammenhænge. NKA kan helt støtte dette synspunkt, så meget mere som SILA har taget initiativ til i indeværende år at aflevere manuskript til en populær Grønlands Forhistorie, hvori også flere af staben på NKA deltager; bogen udgives i 2004. Ønsket om at disse og andre relevante tekster gøres tilgængelige på grønlandsk, dansk og engelsk kan vi kun gå ind for, men det vil dog afhænge af de ressourcer, der er til rådighed.

*Det er således NKA's anbefaling, at SILA's aktiviteter fortsættes under inddragelse af de konstruktive anbefalinger og forslag til justeringer, der ligger i rapporten, og som de to parter også indbyrdes har drøftet.*

*NKA vil i den sammenhæng gerne tilbyde sin aktive, positive deltagelse i udførelsen af det kommende grundlag for samarbejdet mellem de to nationale museer.*



Verlig hilsen

*Emil Rosing*  
Emil Rosing  
Direktør

## Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland Formanden

---

Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling  
Att.: Bente Olsen  
Bredgade 43  
DK-1260 København K

Nuuk, 2003-03-11

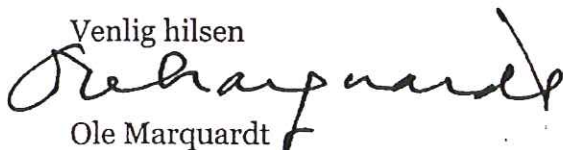
*Vedr: evalueringsrapport for SILA -- Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning.*

Fra ministeriet har jeg modtaget evalueringspanelets rapport, der efterfølgende har været rundsendt til kommissionens medlemmer m.h.p. evt. bemærkninger.

Efterfølgende kan jeg hermed udtale, at

- KVUG noterer sig panelets vurdering af, at SILA har markeret sig internationalt som arkæologisk forskningscenter af en kvalitet, der gør det oplagt at videreføre centeret. KVUG tilslutter sig denne vurdering.
- KVUG noterer sig panelets vurdering af, at et øget samarbejde mellem SILA, NKA og Grønlands Universitet er ønskeligt, og at tema-rammen identitet-etnicitet-historie, der oprindeligt indgik i SILAs arbejdsopgaver, er et hensigtsmæssigt udgangspunkt herfor. KVUG tilslutter sig denne vurdering.
- Panelet har derudover vurderinger og rekommendationer vedr. en række øvrige ting, som KVUG anser for velbegrundede, men i øvrigt ikke har bemærkninger til.

Venlig hilsen



Ole Marquardt



Chefkonsulent  
Bente Olsen  
Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling  
Bredgade 43  
1260 København K



**Forskningsstyrelsen**

Ministeriet for Videnskab  
Teknologi og Udvikling

Danish Research Agency

Ministry of Science  
Technology and Innovation

## **Bemærkninger til evalueringsrapport vedr. Center for Grønlandsforskning, SILA**

Statens Humanistiske Forskningsråd (SHF) blev i brev af 11. februar 2003 bedt om at komme med eventuelle bemærkninger til evalueringsrapporten vedr. Center for Grønlandsforskning, SILA.

SHF har behandlet evalueringsrapporten på sit møde den 21. marts 2003 og har følgende bemærkninger:

Evalueringsrapporten virker yderst gennemarbejdet og er understøttet af saglige argumenter. Af præmisser for vurderingen er hovedsageligt valgt centerets egne målsætninger.

Rapportens konklusion er entydig positiv i sin evaluering af den tre-årige periode, hvor SILA har eksisteret. Centeret har til fulde levet op til sine egne målsætninger om at være et center af høj professionel standard, og om at styrke forskningsmiljøet indenfor den arktiske og nordatlantiske arkæologi.

Publikationerne vurderes til at være af høj international standard. De arkæologiske feltarbejder er godt planlagte og udførte og repræsenterer et nøje udvalg af centrale og vigtige problemstillinger inden for den arkæologiske forskning i det norrøne og Inuit. Centerets mange aktiviteter roses for at række ud over forskningsdelen, idet der er taget en række initiativer til at indgå i uddannelse og populær formidling, ligesom centeret udgør et nødvendigt og vigtigt bindeled mellem museer i Danmark og Grønland.

Evalueringsrapporten kommer med en række anbefalinger: forlængelse af bevilninger for endnu 5 år, oprettelsen af et råd bestående også af medlemmer uden for de to centrale museer, større deltagelse i uddannelsesforløb på især Grønland, flere udvekslinger af ansatte og studenter mellem Grønland og Danmark, flere joint-venture projekter, flere multi-disciplinære programmer, mere offentlig formidling på dansk, grønlandsk og engelsk, vedvarende produktion af høj videnskabelig standard.

SILA har et stærkt arkæologisk fokus og inddrager både etnografisk, etnohistorisk og historisk materiale for at belyse den arkæologiske vinkel. Det stærke arkæologiske fokus kan i nogen grund forklares i mangel på ressourcer og i en funktions- og arbejdsdeling med Universitetet i Nuuk, som til gengæld har prioriteret det etnografiske og historiske.

**Statens Humanistiske  
Forskningsråd**

25. marts 2003

**Forskningsstyrelsen**

Randersgade 60  
2100 København Ø

Telefon 3544 6200  
Telefax 3544 6201  
E-post forsk@forsk.dk  
Netsted www.forsk.dk  
Cvr-nr. 1991 8440

**Sagsnr. 760-02-0011**

Ref. Jacob Kristoffer Hansen  
Telefon 3544 6359  
Telefax 3544 6201  
E-post jkh@forsk.dk

SHF finder det beklageligt, at SILA har måttet opgive et vigtigt tema som "identitet, etnicitet og historie", da netop dette tema kunne have bidraget til i større mål at have opfyldt en af centerets egne målsætninger om at forene arkæologi, historie og etnologi i et tværfaglig samarbejde også med Grønlands Universitet frem for at resultere i en arbejdsdeling.

På baggrund af evalueringsrapporten finder SHF det vigtigt at understrege behovet for, at der bliver fulgt op på de anbefalinger som rapporten kommer med, herunder at bevillingen forlænges. SHF understreger, at et væsentligt fald i bevillingsgrundlaget vil ødelægge frugterne af den foretagne investering gennem de sidste år. Nationalmuseet har gennem mange år været forpligtiget og engageret i at styrke grønlandsforskningen, som museet historisk set har været så betydningsfuld for, og der er i museet lagt et stort arbejde i etableringen af centeret SILA. Grønlandsforskningen er stærkt afhængig af tilførsel af eksterne midler, og værtsinstitutionen kan ikke forventes alene at bære forskningen i fremtiden.

Endvidere vil SHF opfordre til, at man i højere skaber mulighed for, at centret kan spille en rolle på forskeruddannelsesområdet både i Danmark og på Grønland, samt at nye og især yngre forskere i form af ph.d.- og post doc.-projekter får mulighed for at blive indlejret i centret. Dette med baggrund i, at der inden for den cirkumpolare forskning er et stort behov for, at der snarest iværksættes en større forskerrekuttering inden for den humanistiske del af det samlede arktiske miljø. KVUG (Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland) har i nogen grad prioriteret forskerrekutteringen i Grønland, mens der ikke tilsvarende har været virkemidler tilstede i forhold til den danske del af miljøet, hvor der rundt på danske universiteter og fag sidder spredte forskere på en række områder som sprog, litteratur, lingvistik, historie, kultur, samfund m.fl.

Det er SHF's indtryk, at det danske-grønlandske forskningsmiljø er særdeles velintegreret med formelle samarbejdsrelationer i forskerskoler, netværk, censorcorps, sommerskoler, etc., hvoraf flere rækker ud i de internationale arktiske forskningsmiljøer. Det er imidlertid SHF's opfattelse, at en mere overordnet strategisk koordinering af Grønlandsforskningen i Danmark især på forskerrekutteringsområdet vil være med til at styrke forskningsområdets potentiale samt sikre Danmarks position som spydspidsland inden for Grønlandsforskningen. Konkret vil SHF foreslå, at SILA, Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland, Polarcentret, Universitetet i Nuuk og museerne samtænkes på et mere overordnet plan og opmuntres til at koordinere med forskeruddannelsesprogrammerne ved danske universitetsfag og her især eskimologi ved Københavns Universitet. Derved kan man i højere grad dels sikre den bedst mulige udnyttelse af ressourcerne og dels udnytte den synergi, en koordinering af forskningen vil afstedkomme.

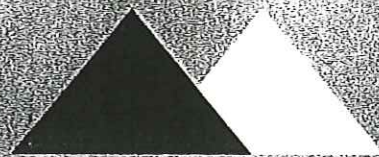
Med venlig hilsen

f/Poul Holm  
Formand for SHF

  
Jacob Kristoffer Hansen  
Fuldmægtig

Forskningsstyrelsen





Til  
Minister for Videnskab. Teknologi og Udvikling  
Helge Sander

Her

3. december 2003

## Kære Helge Sander

Vi skriver til dig, fordi det er kommet til vores opmærksomhed, at der i forbindelse med den nye finanslov ikke – som før - er afsat øremærkede midler til fortsættelse af det projekt, der går under betegnelsen Sila – Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning.

Det er vores forståelse, at Centeret derfor nu vil være henvist til at søge midler via forskningsrådene og eventuelle eksterne bidragsydere, og dermed i forhold til opstartsårene, hvor det var støttet direkte via dit ministerium, blive langt mere sårbart – både administrativt, teknisk og videnskabeligt. Med det kendskab vi alle har til den stadige dalende interesse i Danmark for forskning i Grønland og de deraf følgende stadig lavere bevillinger (og prioriteringer?) fra Forskningsrådene overfor Grønlandsrelateret forskning, synes vi det er en høj risiko, dit ministerium nu åbenbart er rede til at løbe ved at overlade dette meget roste projekt til at forsøge at klare sig på egne vinger, inden det endnu er fuldt flyvefærdigt.

Som du ved, har projektet efter sine første fire år, fået en meget fin uafhængig forskningsmæssig evaluering og samtidig støttes dets videreførelse af en række institutioner både her og i Grønland. Det gør det blandt andet, fordi det på en positiv måde binder noget sammen i en tid, hvor meget andet skilles ad. På kort tid, er dette projekt blevet både en brobygger mellem Nordens og Grønlandfortid og nutid og mellem Danmarks og Grønlands forsknings- og uddannelsesinstitutioner. Samtidig er det et godt eksempel på, hvad frivilligt samarbejde indenfor Riget, faktisk kan medføre af positive resultater – også overfor omverdenen.

Vi skal derfor opfordre dig til at undersøge, om ikke det skulle være muligt, at sikre dette ønskeprojekt mod en alt for hård sø og risiko for kuldsejling ude i den hårde konkurrenceramte forskerverk-lighed og i stedet fortsat sikre projektets videreførelse og fulde udfoldelse under dit ministerium gennem en eller anden form for økonomisk garanti, også for de kommende fire år.

Med venlig hilsen  
Lars-Emil Johansen og Kuupik Kleist



Ministeriet for Videnskab, Teknologi og Udvikling



Ministeriet for Videnskab  
Teknologi og Udvikling

Lars-Emil Johansen  
Den Nordatlantiske Gruppe i Folketinget  
Christiansborg  
1240 København K

Ministry of Science  
Technology and Innovation

18 DEC. 2003

Kære Lars-Emil Johansen og Kuupik Kleist

Tak for jeres brev af 3. december 2003 vedrørende Nationalmuseets Center for Grønlandsforskning (SILA) og jeres overvejelser om SILAs fremtid.

Som I ved, blev der for godt og vel et års tid siden indgået en politisk aftale mellem alle Folketingets partier om en forskningsrådsreform og en ny lov om forskningsrådgivning m.v.

Vi har med denne nye forskningsrådslov fået de nødvendige redskaber til at sikre, at alle forskningsmidler til uddeling via rådssystemet uddeles i åben konkurrence og efter en forskningsfaglig kvalitetsvurdering. Et centralt omdrejningspunkt er, at forskningen bliver bedømt på egne præmisser, dvs. af forskerne selv som faglige ligemænd.

Derudover kan jeg tilføje, at en lovfæstet opgave for det nye Koordinationsudvalg bliver at virke for forskningssamarbejdet med Færøerne og Grønland.

Når dette er sagt, vil jeg gerne nævne, at der findes en række midlertidige programmer og centre, hvis bevillinger løber ud i disse år, deriblandt bevillingen til SILA. For disse programmer og centre gælder det, at de befinder sig i en overgangssituation fra politiske særbevillinger til, at forskningsmidler primært uddeles via forskningsrådene på basis af kvalitet og konkurrence. Disse centre, som i vidt omfang er etableret inden for nye eller særlige forskningsområder, kan have vanskeligt ved i løbet af en 4-årig periode at opbygge et forskningsmiljø og samtidig forberede en indlejring på en eventuel værtsinstitution.

Derfor blev der med den politiske aftale om udmøntning af den resterende del af UMTS-provenuet (3. generations mobilnet) afsat henholdsvis 25 og 35 mio. kr. i 2004 og 2005 til indlejring af forskningsprogrammer og -centre. Indlejringspuljerne udmøntes af forskningsrådene på baggrund af en samlet vurdering og i konkurrence med andre centre/programmer, der udløber.


Ministeriet for Videnskab,  
Teknologi og Udvikling  
Bredgade 43  
1260 København K  
Telefon 3392 9700  
Telefax 3332 3501  
E-post vtu@vtu.dk  
Netsted www.vtu.dk  
CVR-nr. 1680 5408

33473322

2002-m. asslisa

Jeg vil opfordre centret til at ansøge om del i disse midler. Det er så op til forskningsrådene at vurdere, hvordan SILA står i konkurrencen til disse midler. Uanset, hvad rådenes vurdering ender med, er jeg enig med jer i, at SILA har gjort en forskel i det dansk-grønlandske forskningssamarbejde.

Med venlig hilsen



Helge Sandør

Ministeriet for Videnskab,  
Teknologi og Udvikling