

THE LABRADOR INSTITUTE OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

## LABRADOR/ANS ON FILM

### SCREENING #4: ARCHAEOLOGY IN LABRADOR

This month's screening examines some of the archaeological work that has occurred in Labrador. What we are presenting only represents only the smallest cross section of archaeological activity in this region. In spite of a long and sometimes complicated history here, archaeological work is seldom captured by film and video. Understand, however, that this feature is not unique to Labrador: film and video production, just like archaeological work, requires an immense amount of planning and coordination of human resources. More often than not, the amount of planning required to make both activities come together renders their partnership impossible. Moreover, the expense, restrictions and above all, *uniqueness* of travel in Labrador add to this difficulty. This month, we ask you to think on the difficulty of this partnership as you watch the program. Does this difficulty come to bear on the way these pieces are able to tell their stories? Does this difficulty inevitably mean that parts of the story are left out?

1. *The Basque Whalers of Red Bay*. (28min 01sec, Memorial University of Newfoundland Extension Service, ETV Centre, n.d.). We begin this month's screening with an item profiling the best-known archaeological project in Labrador: Red Bay. This undated production is itself the most comprehensive record of archaeological activity in the community that we are aware of. Although it was shot during what we now identify as a later phase of archaeological excavation in the community, the film features all of the key figures in the development of the site: James Tuck, Robert Gernier and, of course, Selma Barkham. More recently, the Labrador Institute has been directly involved in more video work in the community, executing an oral history project on the significance of the archaeological site in June 2010. These short videos will be used as interpretive materials by Parks Canada in the community.

2. *Labradorimiut: Excerpts* (19min 20sec, OKâlaKatiget Society, 1987, 1990). These excerpts from two episodes of *Labradorimiut* provide a brief overview of archaeological activity on Labrador's north coast. Those of you familiar with the range of activity occurring on the north coast will recognize many of the archaeologists here: Susan Kaplan, William Fitzhugh and Stephen Loring. More importantly, though, these excerpts capture the range of attitudes amongst Labrador's Inuit toward archaeological work in the area that is now Nunatsiavut. While watching these, bear the Zoar Repatriation in mind. Have things changed significantly since the 1990s?

3. *Archaeology and Traditional Knowledge in Labrador*. (27min 22sec, Newfoundland Archaeological Heritage Outreach Program & Distance Education and Learning Technologies, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2003). Directed by Rhonda Buckley & Fred Hollingshurst. We close this month's screening with what we believe to be the most recent production about archaeological activity in Labrador. Buckley and Hollingshurst's film provides an historical overview of archaeology in Labrador, placing particular emphasis on its importance

in the formation of identity. The film documents a shift in archaeological practice that sees more direct involvement by community members in the work. Does this shift speak to the concerns raised in the *Labradorimiut* excerpts?

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