

Robert Paine Doctor Honoris Causa

Professor Emeritus Dr. Robert Paine was conferred the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of Tromsø on August 27 of this year.

This award in Tromsø was a recognition of his long lasting and continuing influence on the anthropological study of modern society, and in particular his many contributions to the understanding of Saami reindeer husbandry and the Saami culture in general.

Until he resigned recently, Dr. Paine was Henrietta Harvey Professor of Anthropology at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. Dr. Paine started his professional career with anthropological field studies in the coastal and mountain Saami areas of Finnmark during the 1950s and 1960s. His two-volume work on the coastal Saami community of Revsbotn, *Coast Lapps I and II* (1957, 1965) gave him his D. Phil. from the University of Oxford in 1960. At that time he held a scholarship from the Norwegian Research Council for Sciences and Humanities and between field trips worked at the Tromsø Museum and the University of Bergen. In 1965 he was appointed to a professorship at Memorial University, St. John's. Here he initiated several research programs and convened a number of colloquia which regularly produced influential publications, and significant contributions to anthropology. Many of these were published by ISER Books, Memorial's own publishing company which Dr. Paine headed over a long period.

Among his many publications on Saami reindeer husbandry, *Herds of the Tundra. A Portrait of Saami Reindeer Pastoralism* (1994) ranks highest. Based on field work in the 1950s and 1960s, this outstanding work portrays the pastoralist way of life through detailed accounts of seasonal movements and animal herding and husbandry. He brings his presentation up to date with a critical assessment of governmental efforts to regulate Saami reindeer management in accordance with a model of economic rationalism adopted from modern business and inspired by a misconception of the ecological relationships between animals and pastures. Dr. Paine is presently working on sequel to *Herds of the Tundra*.

Dr. Paine took a strong interest in the Alta (hydro-power) conflict. He illuminated the situation in several articles and gave an expert witness report to the Norwegian Supreme Court. Another event which likewise caught his professional interest was the Chernobyl disaster. The ensuing nuclear pollution which contaminated reindeer pastures and caused fear among pastoralists that their way of life was being undermined by uncontrollable forces.

With his writings Dr. Paine has inspired the international anthropological community. In particular his impact on anthropological research on issues concerning aboriginal minorities has been invaluable. Considering the emphasis given to this field of interest by the University of Tromsø, it is a well deserved honour which has been bestowed upon Robert Paine by this University.



Per Mathiesen and Trond Thuen

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(The selected bibliography which represents about a fourth of Paine's total production includes works on Saami reindeer husbandry and Saami society).

Robert Paine's most important contribution to the study of reindeer husbandry (pastoralism) is his monograph «*Herds of the Tundra*» of which Dag Elgvin gives this report:

Saami Reindeer Husbandry 1960 - 1990

Robert Paine has followed the Saami reindeer-herding society in northern Norway for more than 40 years. His extensive knowledge is concentrated in "*Herds of the Tundra*" where he discusses the relationship between a pastoral group and the government authorities. The first part of the book describes the "traditional" pastoral society, the second part analyses the Norwegian government's policy from 1975. In the post-war period, crucial events for the pastoral Saami occurred both technologically, economically and legally; the snowmobile was introduced (about 1965), the government started giving economic subsidies (from 1975), and the Norwegian Parliament passed a new Act on reindeer husbandry (1978).

Period 1961–62

Paine follows a family through a full cycle of their seasonal and semi-nomadic life and compares and contrasts this with reindeer management practices in other regions of Finnmark. He explains the balance and dependence of herd size to grazing area and size of family and introduces us to the decisions of herd management. In West Finnmark reindeer region most siidas (group of herders) tried to maximise herd size. Increased size symbolised cleverness and secured the future. In other siidas owners decided to slaughter as many animals as was possible to increase their cash income without reducing the stock. At the same time there were still cultural checks on land use. Neighbouring siidas would intervene if herders let their animals stray into others' territories. Inside the reindeer herding societies Paine found strong competition to build up the largest herds, breed the best draft reindeer, or achieve the largest income. Success depended on ability, talent and hard work.

Period 1975–89

The snowmobile made it possible to control larger herds and in fact many Saami increased their herd size. Snowmobiles, however, also demanded a larger income and this could only come from increased meat production and sales from the herds. The statistics do not show any significant increase in number of reindeer until the 1970s when the government began to subsidise the reindeer husbandry. The purpose was to encourage owners to increase production and sales, giving possibilities of raising their material living stan-