Deceived by Erik the Red?

The first Norse settlers in Greenland

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According to the sagas Erik named the new land he had discovered Greenland because it would tempt people to go there if the land had an attractive name. If the name gave reasons to dreams of large wealthy farms with extensive green pastures that could feed large numbers of cattle, sheep and goats the first settlers perhaps were a little disappointed. New isotopic work (δ13C and δ15N) on the skeletons of the landnam people from ruin site Ø64 in the Norse Eastern settlement however shows that the colonists were capable of combining their traditional Nordic life style with new Greenland realities. Sr. analyses show that the immigrants came from Iceland, and mtDNA shows that the people genetically not only originated from Scandinavia.

Ruin site Ø64 was excavated in 2007, 2008 and 2010 as a joint Danish National Museum/ Greenland National Museum/NABO IPY-project.

C and N isotopes were measured at the AMS-lab. at Aarhus University by Jan Heinemeier.

Sr. was done by Doug Price, Laboratory for Archaeological Chemistry. Univ. Of Wisconsin-Madison.

mtDNA by Linnea Melchior, Jørgen Dissing and Niels Lynnerup.Research Laboratory and Antropological Laboratory, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Univ. of Copenhagen.