

OTTORINO TOSTI

ANGMAGSSALIK

where the fishes are (Eastern Greenland)

This is probably the only non-scientific publication in the world that provides information of a geographic, historic and cultural nature on Eastern Greenland and on the Inuit group that populates the region.

Written as a story, it describes the pristine and largely unexplored landscapes, but above all the culture, customs, legends and living conditions that have shaped the Inuit population in this remote part of the planet over the years.

It is now a well-established opinion that countries with a difficult economic development, that are poorly integrated into the global economy, yet rich in natural environments and untouched cultures, can obtain improvements in their living conditions by developing a tourism that respects local traditions. Angmagssalik, with its wild landscapes provided by glaciers from which huge icebergs break off, with its villages of colourful wooden houses, and with its friendly inhabitants, represents one of the last pristine corners of the planet. It seems favourable to a tourism that searches for new worlds: from the remote village of Isertoq one can reach in a few hours the Inland-sis, where endemic or rare plant species can be researched and studied, and from where one can observe the Arctic wildlife.

Trekking, ski mountaineering, kayaking, winter outings with dog sleds, boat rides, summer bird watching, sighting of seals, mountain climbing and glaciospeleology, are all activities that can be enjoyed here. Let us not forget that Greenland is, due to this advanced and extreme manifestation of speleology, a world that is yet to be explored.

The "OltreEdizioni" is part of the number of organisations that promote the project "ItaliAmassalik" in favour of

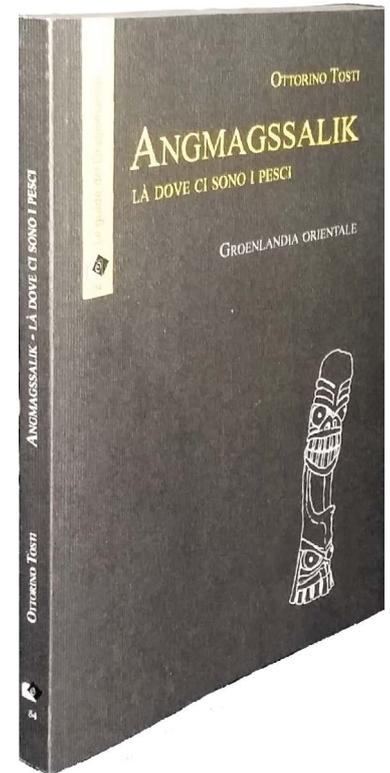
knowledge, promotion and preservation of the traditional cultural heritage of the Inuit villages of the Angmagssalik district – East Greenland, the implementation of measures of image and communication, of knowledge of the area, promoting the development of tourism, are all efforts aimed at ensuring the right of the local population to progress in the modern world with confidence and self-esteem, whilst reinforcing the links with their land, their traditions, customs, and costumes.

The main objectives of the "ItaliAmassalik" project are:

- Promoting awareness of the Inuit of Angmagssalik through the creation of multimedia materials and exhibitions;
- Documentaries, conferences, publications, and missions dealing with ethnography, anthropology and geographical exploration;
- Promoting, providing support and cooperation for the improvement of tourism;
- Helping young Inuits in vocational training as guides and tour leaders.

THE AUTHOR

Ottorino Tosti was born in 1950 in Genoa. In 1973 he began to devote himself to speleology, an activity that he practices to this day by researching and exploring caves in the limestone mountains of the Maritime Alps and the Apuan Alps. In the late 1990s he became interested in caves located in glaciers, an interest that led him to discover the interiors of the biggest known glaciers in the Alps. In 2008 he arrives in Eastern Greenland for the first time, where he provides a platform for speleology research in the glaciers of Angmagssalik, which should be the first of their kind conducted by Italians in this remote area of the planet. In 2009 he travels to the northern Andes in search of the remains of the Inca civilisation, which reached their period of greatest splendour and wealth in this region. Of these two worlds he appreciates



the natural and primitive environments, but particularly the simple and genuine inhabitants. This consequently establishes within him the desire to help populations that live in difficult conditions and that are losing their original culture due to the pressure placed upon them by the Western world. In 2008, upon his return from his first trip to Greenland, he creates the "project ItaliAmassalik", with the intention of promoting knowledge about this forgotten Arctic world and create a bridge between their world and ours. The project becomes an association (www.italiamassalik.it) in 2009 once it reaches a size that can no longer be managed by a single person. Since 2008 he has made three other trips to Angmagssalik and has come to gain a good knowledge of the place, its history, and its traditions. He continues his explorations of the underground worlds. He coordinates the association he initially promoted, as President and, through conferences and exhibitions, he disseminates knowledge of the Inuit of Angmagssalik.