

POLAR BYTES

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From the Chairman, Nick Lambert



Dear Friends,



It's not often that I have the privilege of announcing Breaking News in an edition of PB so it's a particular pleasure to inform the Friends that Captain Scott's 'lost' photographic negatives have been saved for the nation. In short, and thanks to the sterling (no pun intended!) efforts of the SPRI team, the Institute successfully raised £275,000 to purchase this remarkable record

of the Terra Nova expedition. The National Heritage Memorial Fund has just awarded SPRI a £233,450 grant to secure the purchase which, whilst clearly the largest share of the cost, by no means belittles the donations of many other organisations and individuals, including the V&A Purchase Grant Fund. I'm therefore particularly grateful for and proud of the support of the Friends who at very short notice made a significant contribution. This perfectly illustrates the value of our association for the Institute and our *raison d'être*. Details of the purchase and its importance can be seen in the SPRI press release at: <http://www.cam.ac.uk/news/captain-scotts-lost-photographic-negatives-saved-for-the-nation>



Foundering in soft snow. Bowers' sledge team, Wilson pushing, Oates and PO Evans repairing, Beardmore Glacier, 13 December 1911 (Photo: R.F. Scott)

Meanwhile great progress has also been made in shaping the FoSPRI programme for the first year of the Shackleton Centenary. Details of the Ice Tracks-hosted Shackleton Centenary Expedition Cruise onboard the Akademik Vavilov were provided in the last edition of PB and I'm pleased to report that preparations continue apace for what is clearly going to be a memorable few weeks in the Southern Ocean.

More immediately, plans for the FoSPRI gathering at Chatham Historic Dockyard are developing an impetus of their own. We can now confirm that the *Alexandra Shackleton* (the replica of the *James Caird*) will be on display over the weekend of 7 and 8 June, and the leader and mastermind of the re-enacted boat journey expedition, Tim Jarvis AM, will be present to give two lectures to the Friends and the public. We are delighted to invite Friends to an evening drinks reception in the Ropery, followed by a buffet supper in The Gallery, which I'm sure will be a wonderful occasion. I'm assured that the weather will be brilliant! Added to all that is the opportunity to tour the many unique displays in the Historic Dockyard at a specially discounted rate for the Friends. Celene assures me that this is the most ambitious event that our association has tackled in many years so I urge you all to join us and especially to bring friends and family for what promises to be a great weekend. Please see below for details of how to book.

The 2014 lecture series is well under way with speakers on a variety of fascinating subjects receiving rave reviews – I'm particularly grateful for the cheerful and professional manner in which Bryan Lintott has taken on the hosting of these important evening events in Cambridge. Your Committee meets again in May and will be closely engaged in the arrangements for Chatham. I should also report that we have decided to delay the planned exhibition at Bonhams in August this year to a suitable date next year, to coincide with other events in the Shackleton Endurance centenary.

I'll close with a massive BZ (a traditional Navy signal for 'well done') to everyone at SPRI and the Friends for their part securing the Scott negatives. I also wish you all a very peaceful, relaxing Easter holiday period.

Nick

From the Institute

A few words from the Director, Julian Dowdeswell (director@spri.cam.ac.uk)

I have been on a term of sabbatical leave in Chile since January, working with scientists in the Hydrographic Service of the Chilean Navy and with colleagues at several Chilean universities. Discussions have centred on the writing of papers on the marine geology and glacial history of the Patagonia Ice Cap, involving the analysis and interpretation of data from the Chilean fjordlands. I have also been planning future collaborative research relating to these fjords, and have given talks in Valparaíso, Vina del Mar and Valdivia on this work. I also had the chance to visit the fjords of the Cordillera Darwin in southernmost Chile for a few days – an area where we hope to have joint field operations in the coming years.

In late January I returned to Europe for a week, where I was an invited speaker at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, on the subject of 'Ice and Environmental Change'. This was an excellent opportunity to project the changing polar environment

to a very wide and influential international audience, and also to showcase the work of the Institute.

A glacier reaches the sea in the fjords of the Cordillera Darwin in southernmost Chile (Photo: J.A. Dowdeswell).



To sign up to the Museum's monthly e-newsletter - a round up of exhibitions and events - please email museum@spri.cam.ac.uk

News from the Heritage Collections

From the Archives Manager, Naomi Boneham
(archives@spri.cam.ac.uk)

We are pleased to announce the acquisition of a set of letters from the Edgar Speyer papers. Two letters from Clements Markham and telegrams from the American explorer Richard Byrd join other papers we have from Sir Edgar. The telegrams refer to the gift to Byrd of Captain Scott's last letter to Speyer, recovered from the tent in 1913. Speyer (1862-1932) donated £5,000 to Captain Scott's first expedition in 1901 and was honorary treasurer for the Terra expedition in 1910. Finally, there is a last chance to see the Cherry-Garrard letters which are on display in the museum until 17th April.

From Museum Development Manager, Bridget Cusack (museum@spri.cam.ac.uk)

On Friday 28 March, Philippa Davies kindly held a fundraising event at her home in Canterbury in support of the campaign to save Scott's negatives. Over 50 people attended and more than £1,000 was raised for the Scott Negatives Appeal.

This excellent initiative was very good for networking with many new connections being made during the afternoon. Susan Rose, who owns a bespoke English Bone China company and is passionate about all things Polar, was delighted to accept the commission to produce a piece of china



to help raise funds to keep these priceless negatives in this country. A cachepot was made in Stoke-on-Trent and Susan designed and decorated it with the heads of Emperor, King, Gentoo, Adelie, Rockhopper, Macaroni and Chinstrap Penguins. This is a

unique design from Susan's original sketches, inspired by Edward Wilson and polar photographs.

Other News

Help restore the Terra Nova!

The Polar Museum needs your help to restore a remarkable treasure to its original magnificence.

In 1913, Captain Robert Falcon Scott's son, Peter Scott, was presented with a silver model of the Terra Nova. Made to commission by silversmiths Mappin and Webb, it was funded by public subscription as a mark of gratitude for Captain Scott's endeavours and a gesture of goodwill towards his orphaned son.

The model is a beautiful and fascinating piece of craftsmanship in its own right, but also iconic and of historic interest: it represents the national outpouring of feeling after the tragic end of Scott's South Pole journey.

After many years on the dining table of Peter Scott's home, the ship has suffered damage and now needs specialist conservation work. Because of the expertise required, the model will cost £10,000 to restore.

The good news is that £3,000 has already been pledged towards the total cost. However, we need your support! Your donations are vital in returning this unique and intricate model to its former glory. A contribution of any amount would be instrumental in preserving this extraordinary symbol of the Scott saga and returning it to a condition in which it can be displayed, examined and enjoyed. If you are able to assist, please contact Bridget Cusack: museum@spri.cam.ac.uk

Friends of SPRI Weekend Event at Chatham Historic Dockyard

Please join us for a fundraising event at:
The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TE, England
<http://www.thedockyard.co.uk/>

7-8 June 2014

Ticket price : £100

A varied programme has been arranged to include visits to all the sights at this award winning museum, guided tours, an inspirational lecture by Tim Jarvis on the recent highly successful Shackleton re-enactment voyage, evening drinks and a buffet supper with talks. The main events are all on the Saturday, but the ticket entitles you to return on Sunday to look around the whole site and for the tours.

Ticket includes:

- A weekend Dockyard Entry Pass
- Dockyard/Film Set tour (Sat or Sun)
- Ropery tour
- Lecture by Tim Jarvis on his recently completed recreation of Shackleton's historic small boat journey and climb across South Georgia, with an opportunity to view the expedition boat, *Alexandra Shackleton*, a replica of the *James Caird*. *Lectures will take place in the Royal Dockyard Church at 11:30am and 2:30pm on Saturday 7 June. Please specify when booking which time you prefer.*
- Evening drinks reception (Saturday 7 June, 6:30-7:15pm on the Rope Walk)
- Dinner, 7 June (maximum 100 guests) - Summer Buffet supper (drinks included) from 7:30pm in the Steam, Steel and Submarines Gallery
- An after-dinner talk on the conservation of the Historic Dockyard by the Head of Conservation

Discounted accommodation is available at the Ramada Encore Hotel which is on site. (Limited availability - please telephone 01634 891677 to book, quoting 'Friends of SPRI' to ensure the discount).

Friends wishing to attend the Tim Jarvis lecture only should apply online for a Lecture Ticket at £10, but this does not entitle the ticket holder to access to the Dockyard or to the full Friends' programme. Those wishing to do so may purchase separate public entry to the Dockyard.

Apply online at <http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/> for tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

A note from the Executive Secretary, Celene Pickard

Any enquiries about membership (including subscription rates and renewals) should be sent to Celene Pickard (friendsofspri@gmail.com). May we ask you please to keep us informed of any changes to your postal or email addresses? Please note that Polar Museum volunteers are entitled to a discounted rate of £15 for single membership for their first year.

NEW FRIENDS

Membership currently stands at 642. A very warm welcome is extended to all new members.

PASSING FRIENDS

We are sad to note the passing of W. Eric Wilson, CBE.

You may have noted that I have now taken up the reins as membership secretary. Please do get in touch. I really look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Chatham event.

Staff changes at SPRI

We are sorry to say goodbye to Nicola Skipper, our Saturday Assistant, who moves on to an Education role at the Sedgwick Museum, and to Debbie Moore, whose cheerful presence on Reception will be sorely missed. We welcome Sophie Barnett to the General Office team, and Sarah Middle as Acting Senior Library Assistant. In the Museum we are joined by Anders Bache, formerly at the Fram Museum, now our Shackleton Project Assistant, Joseph Minden as Development Assistant, and Bridget Cusack (whom many of you will already know) as full time Museum Development Coordinator.

Dates for your Diary:

SPRI Events	Date:	Time:	Location:
Exhibition: From Sea Monsters to Sonar: Charting the Polar Oceans	5 March-31 May	10am - 4pm (Tues-Sat)	Polar Museum
Exhibition: Charles Royds' Sporting Medal	13 May - 28 June	10am - 4pm (Tues-Sat)	Polar Museum
Friends Weekend at Chatham Historic Dockyard	7 - 8 June	Ticketed event	Chatham, Kent
Exhibition: Polar Philately	17 June - 6 Sept	10am - 4pm (Tues-Sat)	Polar Museum
Reinventing the Wheel: Bicycles in the Polar Regions (to coincide with Tour de France)	1 - 12 July	10am - 4pm (Tues-Sat)	Polar Museum
Putachad's Art Gallery evening	4 September	Details in next issue of PB	London
AGM & Shackleton's Legacy workshop (all day event)	8 November	Details in next Issue of PB	SPRI Lecture Theatre
Other			
University of Cambridge Museums Exhibition: Discoveries: Art, Science & Exploration	27 May - 27 July	10am - 5pm (Tues-Sun)	Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Devon & Cornwall Polar Society Centenary of Departure of Endurance phcoslett@yahoo.co.uk	7-8 Aug 2014	Details from Paul Coslett	Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth

Further information on the Lectures is available at <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/events/lectures/>