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POLAR BYTES

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Loyal readers since 1996



Explorer inside ice cave at Vatnajökull glacier, Iceland

© Shutterstock

Visions of the Great White South

Written by
Charlotte Connelly, curator

This August a landmark exhibition will bring together the beautiful work of Herbert Ponting and Edward Wilson for the first time.



Painted during Terra Nova expedition 2.4.1911.

Both men produced evocative images of the Antarctic during Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition, and they hoped and wrote about a joint

exhibition of that work. As we know, events made that hope an impossible one, but now the Friends of SPRI are very pleased to invite you to Visions of the Great White South, generously hosted by Bonhams in their New Bond Street venue in central London.

The exhibition will also feature Captain Scott's striking fledgling efforts as a photographer, beautifully printed using a platinum palladium process by Salto-Ulbeck publishers in partnership with SPRI. Bringing the exhibition up to date - historic images of Antarctica will be complimented in the exhibition by artwork from several of the Friends of SPRI artists in residence. Stunning interpretations of the landscapes and wildlife bring the Antarctic to life, and confirm it as a dramatic and compelling place.

Visions of the Great White South is open to the public from 10am - 4pm on weekdays from 2-19 August at Bonhams, New Bond Street, London.

Images © Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.



China in Your Hand!

Do you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while reading your edition of Polar Bytes?

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Polar Bytes, we are giving away 6 Shackleton themed, English bone china tankard mugs designed by Susan Rose to commemorate the centenary of the Trans Antarctic Expedition.

Check your copy or email to see if you are a surprise winner! If you are not a winner and would still like a Shackleton china mug, you can order from the SPRI website.

Don't miss out!

For terms & conditions see website.



Susan Rose China
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FINNMARK

Welcome



Welcome to our Summer Polar Bytes newsletter

A century ago as I write, Shackleton had rescued the three remaining crew of the James Caird from King Haakon Bay and was preparing his third attempt to reach the 22 men stranded on Elephant Island.

The enduring attraction of the polar regions and the heroic explorers was emphasised by the recent Arctic expedition cruise onboard the Akademik Vavilov when some 25 Friends experienced the splendour of Svalbard. Thanks to One Ocean and Ice Tracks Expeditions we were regaled with tales of Amundsen and Pearey and had a most memorable visit to Oslo's splendid Fram Museum where we reconfirmed our friendship with our Norwegian counterparts. Thanks to Ice Tracks this very successful Arctic cruise raised in excess of £5000 for the FoSPRI and the Institute.

I'm also delighted to report that, thanks to the initiative of Peter Dolan and many other Friends, our Association is establishing an Annual Tribute Lecture that will reflect on the achievements of more recent polar scientists and explorers. The inaugural event next spring will celebrate the life and exploits of Henry Worsley, who sadly died on the Antarctic ice last February.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in November!

Nick Lambert, Chairman

News & Views

From the Institute



A few words from
Director Julian Dowdeswell
Email: director@spri.cam.ac.uk

The early late spring is a busy period in Cambridge, with examinations and the marking that goes with them being a central activity. I and the other senior staff of the Institute are closely involved in this process both for undergraduates within the Department of Geography and for our own Masters students at the SPRI. The culmination of this for the undergraduates is their graduation, which took place in mid-June – a time for celebration with family and friends.

The Masters programme we have built up at the Institute, our MPhil. in Polar Studies, is an important part of the wider research activity of the SPRI. This is because many of our graduate students produce work, often based on polar datasets that we have collected from field visits to the Arctic and



Icebergs and the ice cap of Austfonna in eastern Svalbard.

Antarctic or acquired from satellites, that is of publishable quality. Over the past few years a number of our Masters cohort have written research papers and seen them published in the international scholarly literature. The writing of such papers, supervised by members of our senior staff, is a key element of Masters student training and provides a significant contribution to the international reputation of the Institute.

Now, fieldwork in Svalbard beckons during the brief Arctic summer.

News from the Heritage Collections



From the Archives Manager, Naomi Boneham
Email: archives@spri.cam.ac.uk



Collections on the Move

We appreciate that not everyone can come to visit us in person here in Cambridge. While a warm welcome in our Polar Museum is always assured, you can also see some of our collections around the country and beyond.



For those in the Manchester area there is a chance to see some of our artwork on display at the Whitworth Gallery, **'In a Dream You Saw a Way to Survive and You Were Full of Joy'** is curated by Turner Prize-winner Elizabeth Price, and includes Arctic and Antarctic sketches from our wonderful collection. The exhibition is open from 10 June to 31 October. For more information please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/hmf9wf>

For those further afield our very own Shackleton exhibition **'By Endurance We Conquer'** incorporating our panels with their collections can also be viewed at the Falkland Islands Museum. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/gpd8n2s>

There is still time to catch it in Cambridge with the exhibition open until Saturday 3 September 2016.

One of the art works on display in Manchester
Edward Wilsons 'berg seen off the Great Barrier,
25 January 1902' SPRI ref N: 1355

A TRULY MAGNIFICENT DAY

Written by Angie Butler

The Centenary Service of Thanksgiving for Sir Ernest Shackleton and his men held at Westminster Abbey on the 20th May will be etched in the memory of all those who were lucky enough to attend.

Some two thousand people filled the 700 year old building to take part in a seamless service led by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr. John Hall, with Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal in attendance. Shackleton's flag was borne through the Abbey by Shackleton's great-grandson to the rousing hymn 'Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring...' there was no doubt that many hearts and minds had seen to every detail of this memorable service.



Tim Jarvis giving speech onboard © Lucy Hacker

From the Bishop of London to the Master of Dulwich College, from the Governor of the Falklands to the leader of the Shackleton Epic Expedition - each was given an opportunity to speak. The magnificence of the choir's soaring Psalm 27 to the haunting simplicity of Michael King's Irish Lament played on his banjo surely spoke of everything of Shackleton.

Leaving the Abbey some 160 Friends went on to enjoy a reception onboard HMS Wellington.

Some of the Shackleton Epic crew, Tim Jarvis and Seb Coulthard gave us further insight into their expedition and Nick Lambert announced the project idea of the Friends of SPRI Tribute Lecture, the first of which will be dedicated to late Henry Worsley. This project was warmly welcomed, particularly by his wife Joanna Worsley and many of the Friends.

We learn that success and failure are both relative terms and that endeavour is to be honoured.



Image top:
The Princess
Royal at the
service

© Photograph
courtesy of the
Dean & Chapter
of Westminster



Above: Friends
onboard
© Lucy Hacker



Above and right:
Friends arriving onboard
the HMS Wellington
© Manfred Gehmeyr



A trip down memory lane

Written by Ian Purkis

As a longstanding Friend, it was always my ambition to visit Antarctica and particularly the places associated with Sir Ernest. The pressures of children, jobs, mortgages and more always meant putting this off but when The Shackleton Centenary Voyage first appeared in Polar Bytes, early in 2013, my immediate thoughts were, "it has to be this one".



The coffee
table

Polar Bytes sat on our coffee table for a week or so but then I found and retrieved it from the magazine pile. While my wife Margaret shares my enthusiasm for remote exposed locations, I wasn't sure just how far this would stretch.

Polar Bytes remained on our coffee table for another week or so before I found it again, 'tidied away'. I rescued it once more, a phenomena repeated several times over almost three months. When asked "Did you notice that article in Polar Bytes about the Shackleton Voyage?", the answer... "of course, you kept putting it back, hoping I'd read it". Booked and the rest is history.

Not quite, at the end of last summer, a boatbuilder's specification sheet mysteriously appeared on the same coffee table and to my utter amazement, we collected our new boat early in March! At least the magic coffee table has some uses, coffee is never drunk in this Yorkshire home!



Fulfilling
my dream

**WE WOULD LOVE
TO HEAR FROM YOU,
OUR READERS.**

Write to us with any fond memories of Polar Bytes over the past 20 years and we will publish some in the next few issues of Polar Bytes.

As a thank you we have a limited number of Shackleton themed books to give away to those who write in.

Letter or emails are all welcome - send to Celene Pickard, Trip Down Memory Lane Feature, The Friends Office (address back page) or email Leona Gaine: gaine@yahoo.co.uk

Terms & Conditions apply. See the Friends website.



FoSPRI dates for the diary

Please visit: www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/events
for further details

General

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
Visions of the Great White South. Bringing Wilsons Paintings and Pontings Prints together with the Artists In Residence works.	2 - 19 August	10am - 4pm	Bonhams Gallery 101 New Bond St London	FREE
Shackleton Voyage. Includes the Traverse of South Georgia led by Seb Coulthard.	30 October - 20 November	TBA	South Georgia	Prices on request
Friends of SPRI AGM. In association with the Antarctic Club.	Saturday 19 November	4pm - 8pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	Lecture & Buffet Price TBC

SPECIAL OFFER

Ice Tracks is offering members one full fare and the second one at half price on selected Antarctic voyages in 2017.
Email: info@ice-tracks.com for more information.

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Museum events

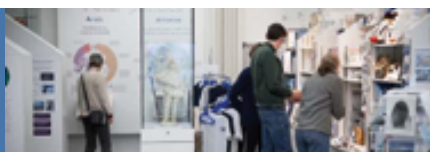
Further information on the Museum events and exhibitions visit www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
By Endurance We Conquer. Our Shackleton exhibition has been extended by popular demand.	Until 3 Sept 2016	10am - 4pm	THE POLAR MUSEUM	FREE For more information visit: http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/endurance/



NEW! MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Friends will now be able to get 10% off all goods in the Polar Museum shop and online.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!

2 - 19 AUGUST 2016 - **Visions of the Great White South**

Can you spare 3 hours? We are looking for volunteers to help assist at our Artist in Residence welcome desk at the Bonhams exhibition in London from 2 - 19 August. Shifts are 10am - 1pm or 1pm - 4pm daily.

Contact Celene, email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk if you can help at Visions of the Great White South.

www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/exhibitions/visions/



A note from the Executive Secretary



News regarding the new membership programme will follow before the autumn, thank you for your patience. Any enquiries should be sent to Celene Pickard, email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk

THANK YOU - Our chairman Nick Lambert wishes to thank all of our Friends for their support during the Shackleton Centenary so far. It was a privilege to see so many of you at the Abbey on May 20 and onboard HQS WELLINGTON, made generously available to us by the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

NEW FRIENDS - A very warm welcome is extended to all new members.

HOW TO CONTACT US?

Friends Secretary -

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