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POLAR BYTES

ISSUE 081 / AUTUMN 2016

Loyal readers since 1996



Arctic fox

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The Antarctic Club

Written by
Bob Headland,
Club President

This November the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute are coming together with the Friends of the Antarctic Club to offer you an exciting lecture, given by Bob Headland, President of the Antarctic Club, after the FoSPRI Annual General Meeting.

The lecture will feature a unique view of the discoveries of the Heroic Age and reveal the history of the Antarctic Club.

The brief but intense epoch of Antarctic exploration, often termed the 'Heroic Age' had practical and theoretical beginnings. The last of the old-style sealers and first of the new whalers were also active at the time. Coincidentally there was a major emphasis on attaining the North Pole and several men served on expeditions to both polar regions. All this was interrupted by the First World War after which resumption

of exploration was in quite different circumstances. In Britain an enthusiasm for reunions of Antarctic expeditions resulted in the foundation of the Antarctic Club. The first reunion dinner, on 18 January 1929, was attended by men from a dozen expeditions. The club continued, despite a lapse during the Second World War, and celebrated the 83rd reunion in April 2016. The lecture includes details of early members and notable events in the history of the club.

We look forward to welcoming you to this compelling lecture and evening with our Friends.



**TICKETS £20 EACH
for Buffet, Drinks and Lecture**

AGENDA

4pm	FoSPRI AGM - FREE
5pm	Antarctic Club and Friends together for buffet and drinks
6.30pm	Lecture



Are you a Christmas winner?

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Polar Bytes we are giving away **20 Christmas card packs** inside copies of the Autumn Issue including the online issue. Check your copy or email to see if you are a surprise winner!

If you are not a winner and would still like to order some cards, please see inside an order form or visit our website. All proceeds go to supporting the fantastic work of the friends.

For terms and conditions visit
www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends

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Welcome to our Autumn Polar Bytes newsletter

In August 1916, Shackleton finally completed his task of rescuing the men left on Elephant Island. Our celebrations of that great leadership achievement this year have been fitting and memorable for the Friends.

That spirit was captured during the SPRI and Bonhams 'Visions of the Great White South' Exhibition in August when so many of our Friends brilliantly supported the three-week event as guides and visitors. Thank you all very much indeed; thank you too to Robert Brooks, CEO Bonhams, and his ever willing team, and of course thank you to Charlotte and everyone involved at SPRI. It was an unmitigated success in every respect, demonstrating that the Friends are keen to be involved in such gatherings and I hope that we'll be able to approach you to support similar activities in the future.

The FoSPRI Committee met recently to decide the programme for the next year or so and to agree final arrangements for the new membership scheme. I'm extremely grateful for their endeavours and, of course, am always on the lookout for new committee members so do consider volunteering... names on a postcard to Celene please! Our next event is the AGM in November in tandem with our colleagues from the Antarctic Club and we very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Nick Lambert, Chairman

From the Institute



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

I have just returned to Longyearbyen in Svalbard after being aboard ship investigating the morphology and stratigraphy of the seafloor and the record of past glaciation east of the archipelago with Norwegian colleagues.

Our research area was close to the marine border between Norway and Russia in the Barents Sea. We were sailing between the islands of Nordaustlandet and Kong Karls Land. This is an isolated part of the world, to which few ships go, and Kong Karls Land is seldom visited. Whales and walrus were sighted along with icebergs calved from an ongoing surge, or rapid advance, of part of the huge Austfonna ice cap on Nordaustlandet – the largest ice cap in the Eurasian Arctic.



An iceberg, but no sea ice, in the summertime Barents Sea

The flight back to continental Norway from Svalbard is tomorrow, with further flights onward to the UK the day after. Then straight to Washington DC, as part of three person UK delegation to the White House Arctic Science ministerial meeting, where the future of the Arctic is being discussed. And next week is the start of the new academic year in Cambridge – a busy time for staff and students alike.

News from the Heritage Collections



From the Antarctic Project Cataloguer, Greta Bertram
email: archives@spri.cam.ac.uk



The Polar Museum's Antarctic Cataloguing Project is now drawing to a close. Over the past two years, nearly every Antarctic-related object in the collection (about 2300 items) has been described, measured, photographed and condition assessed, and is now available on the museum's online catalogue at <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/catalogue>. This includes clothing, sledges, skis, harnesses, navigational instruments, scientific equipment and specimens, foodstuffs, medals and memorabilia etc. from the Heroic Age expeditions of Scott and Shackleton to the present day.



Perhaps the most bizarre item we encountered is the 'IMP' or 'Integrating Motor Pneumotachograph', a piece of equipment designed to measure energy expenditure and used on the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955-58. According to



Antarctic objects from the Polar Museum collection, including a face mask and flowmeter for an Integrating Motor Pneumotachograph.

accounts, it was unpleasant to wear and expedition members had to be press-ganged into wearing it. The components were unreliable and, on his return to Britain, Dr. Allan Rogers, the expedition's medical officer, found that the breath samples that had been collected had been contaminated and the entire experiment rendered completely useless!

Without a doubt, the most challenging aspect of the project was extracting the sledges from the tiny store in which they're kept in order to photograph them – but it was definitely worth it.

THE SHACKLETON CROSSING EXPEDITION 2016

Written by John Shears

RAISING FUNDS FOR SPRI

A team of nine adventurers, six from the UK and three from the USA, will be taking part in the Shackleton Crossing expedition on South Georgia in November 2016, and raising funds for the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute (FoSPRI) with every step they take. The expedition commemorates the centenary of the first crossing of South Georgia by Sir Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean in May 1916.

The expedition is led by Friend of SPRI, Seb Coulthard, through his company Shackleton Legacy Ltd, and another Friend of SPRI, Dr John Shears, is one of the expedition team. They have just completed mountaineering and glacier training on Mt Blanc in the French Alps.

The expedition team will arrive at South Georgia on the 7 November, and will be dropped off at Peggotty Bluff, King Haakon Bay. They will then head inland and follow in the footsteps of Shackleton, Worsley and Crean. The team will finish the crossing at the old whaling station at Stromness Harbour on 10 November.

For more information about the expedition please visit the Shackleton Legacy website <http://www.shackletonlegacy.com/the-shackleton-crossing.html>



HOW TO SPONSOR

You are invited to sponsor the Shackleton Crossing expedition 2016 with all money raised going to support the outstanding and internationally important work of the Polar Museum and wider SPRI. The aim is to raise a minimum of £3000. For each donation made the expedition will be pleased to give in exchange:

£3 and above – Personal thank you email from the expedition team, including a digital photograph of the team crossing South Georgia.

£30 and above – Map of South Georgia showing the crossing route and signed by the expedition team.

£300 and above – Replica of Shackleton's sledging flag signed by the expedition team.

£3000 and above – Scale replica wooden model of the James Caird handmade by Seb Coulthard.

To sponsor the Shackleton Crossing expedition 2016 please send a cheque, made payable to the University of Cambridge, to Celene Pickard, Executive Secretary, Friends of SPRI, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, UK.

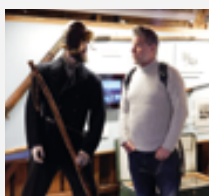


Meet our first Arctic artist in residence – Julian Grater

This June we welcomed our very first Artist in Residence for the Arctic Region on board the Akademik Sergey Vavilov. Julian Grater is an award winning artist and working in his 'garret' on top deck he captured the mysterious beauty of the Norwegian Arctic in charcoal.

We are most grateful to Bonhams and One Ocean Expeditions for making this initiative a reality and we look forward to seeing his work.

See www.juliangrater.com



Julian at the Tromsø Polar Museum

A perfect resting place

Written by Angie Butler



Working closely with Joanna, Max and Alicia of the Worsley Family, we have the honour of taking Henry's ashes to South Georgia to be laid alongside his beloved

Shackleton in the Whaler's cemetery.

We are very grateful to the Falklands and South Georgia government who have made a special case by generously consenting to this venture and agreeing to the setting up of a plaque in the Whaler's church to commemorate a much loved man who strode in the footsteps of Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton.

The 18 day voyage departs on 30 November 2017 on the Akademik Ioffe and will visit the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica.

We hope that many of Henry's family, friends and admirers will join us on this very special commemorative voyage to celebrate Henry and his love of Antarctica.

We were so fortunate to have Henry on the Akademik Vavilov (one of the very best historians we have had) some two years ago. This voyage will celebrate his life and share his love of Antarctica.

For more information contact:
info@ice-tracks.com

Above image: Henry holding his book *In Shackleton's Footsteps* © Ice Tracks Expeditions



FoSPRI dates for the diary

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

General

EVENT:	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
In My Element – The Transglobe Expedition Trust. Amazing stories from land, sea and air. With Nicholas Crane, Stephen Venables, Tracey Curtis-Taylor and the Coxless Crew.	Wednesday 16 November	7pm	Royal Geographical Society	£30 Main hall. £10 Overflow room (audio visual). Booking: http://buytickets.at/transglobeexpeditiontrust
Friends of SPRI AGM	Saturday 19 November	4pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	FREE
Post AGM Antarctic Club and Friends lecture, buffet and drinks	Saturday 19 November	5pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	Lecture & buffet price £20
A perfect resting place. Join us on this very special commemorative voyage to celebrate Henry Worsley and his love of Antarctica.	30 November 2017	TBA	Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica	For more information contact: info@ice-tracks.com

In search of ice!



The Friends of SPRI's recent Spitsbergen Explorer Arctic voyage this June was a huge success, kicking off with a superb reception at the Fram museum in Oslo for the 26 Friends.

The Akademik Sergey Vavilov was our home for the next 10 days. Ice was in short supply, forcing us to speed north above 80° in search of the King of the Arctic. The number of bear sightings swelled throughout the voyage.

Thanks to all our Friends of SPRI participants on the voyage. Ice Tracks Expeditions was thrilled to hand a cheque for £5,245 to Chairman Nick Lambert.

Above image: Ice Tracks handing the cheque to Nick Lambert

Museum events

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

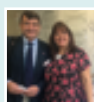
EVENT:	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
Operation Deep Freeze. Explore the race against time to get Antarctica's most ambitious bases for science built.	20 September – 23 December	10am - 4pm	THE POLAR MUSEUM	http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/events
Museum Escape: The Polar Domes Back by popular demand – Your mission should you choose to accept it, is to escape the museum...	Tuesday 25 October	Slots at 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm		For booking enquiries, email: museumevents@spri.cam.ac.uk
	Thursday 17 November	7.30pm & 8.30pm		

A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Visions of the Great White South Exhibition. It was a huge success. During the event we had over 3,000 visitors over all, of those over 150 came on one of our museum tours. To order prints from the exhibition or to purchase a copy of the Ponting Portfolio visit: www.ponting-portfolio.com



A note from the Executive Secretary



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

UPDATE – After 20 successful years as a quarterly publication Polar Bytes will take on a new life in 2017. We will be printing Polar Bytes twice yearly and supplementing it with our NEW and IMPROVED Polar Bytes E-Newsletter. As you can understand postage costs are high and in order to reduce this somewhat we need to modernise and take Polar Bytes more online. In order to make sure you are included in this new format please send us your EMAIL address to where you would like to receive Polar E-Bytes. You will be helping the Institute in a whole new way.

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

HOW TO CONTACT US?

Friends Secretary –

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