



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
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Vol. 92-93

January

No. 4

Dr. William S. Benninghoff, Jr.
23 March 1915 - 8 January 1993

Exploring the Marine Life of the Subantarctic Kerguelen Islands and McMurdo Sound, Antarctica

by

Dr. James McClintock Assistant Professor
of Biology

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

on

Wednesday evening, 17 February 1993

8 PM

National Science Foundation
1800 G Street N.W.

Room 540

Dr. McClintock is a frequent flyer to Antarctica, having been there in four of the past eight austral summers. In 1983 he studied the intertidal and subtidal marine invertebrate ecology, nutrition, and reproduction on Kerguelen Island. In 1985 and 1986 he investigated the reproductive biology of benthic marine invertebrates, as well as the biochemical composition, energy content, spicule armament, and toxicity of antarctic sponges at McMurdo. In 1989 he focused on the chemical ecology of antarctic marine sponges. There will be NO written examination after the lecture. *COME ONE! COME ALL!*

- Light refreshments and hot coffee -

The beautiful Antarctic photographs of one of the real premier Antarctic photographers, Neelon Crawford, are now on display through March 28th at the Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Go and view Neelon's ANTARCTIC POLAR VIEWS -

The past month has seen Antarctica become of age videowise, with the first live television shows being seen on our local screens. After the two David Bresnahan shows, we forgot to tune in again. Then there was Dante! So instant replays from Antarctica are now a reality. Is anything sacred?

Antarctica is an ever-changing kaleidoscope, with pardons to Webster for the proper Antarctic spelling. It is often soul rewarding, and fun, to put things on hold and reflect back on the past. Phil Law did some of that in his lecture before our Society in Washington on 15 October 1992 (see pages 6-7), and we will use that as a springboard to try and stir up some interest in you folks on your thoughts about past explorers, adventurers, and scientists. Our own personal thoughts have been drafted, but we will withhold them until the Voices of the Society can be heard.

Announcement: Loren W. Setlow will become the new Director of the Polar Research Board at the National Academy of Sciences at the end of February. For the past ten years Loren has been with the U.S. General Accounting Office as Senior Geologist, currently working on oil and gas issues in Alaska. His bachelor's degree in geology is from Tulane University, his master's from Florida State.

An exciting upcoming: David Campbell, author of the Houghton-Mifflin award-winning "The Crystal Desert" has indicated a willingness to speak to our Society in Washington.

Addition to Cross-Country Skiers, page 6: British adventurers, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr. Michael Stroud, reached the South Pole on 17 January as part of their attempt to make the first crossing of Antarctica on foot. The pair are 68 days and 800 miles into their bid to make the longest ever, unsupported polar journey.

STILL ANOTHER ANTARCTIC GIANT SUCCUMBS, ANOTHER VICTIM OF CANCER. Bill Benninghoff internationally renowned botanist, died on 8 January of pleural cancer. He was only 74. Among his survivors are his wife, Anne who worked with Bill in the Antarctic in 1977 on airborne particles and electrostatics, at McMurdo, the South Pole and Vanda; and his 103-year old mother, who talked with Bill on her birthday in December Bill entered the hospital the day after Christmas, but it was then too late for an operation or chemotherapy. He spoke of his pending death in telephone calls to some of his closest associates, which must have been heartbreaking for all. Anne hopes she can arrange to have a Memorial Service at Arlington Cemetery the afternoon of our March 24th meeting, or the day before - Bill's birthday.

At the suggestion of Link Washburn, we are asking Tim Hushen, former staff officer of the Academy's Polar Research Board, to write the Society's obituary on Bill. Tim was one of Bill's former students and remained close to him and his wife, Anne. Tim is currently in Europe on business, so we won't have his obituary until next month's Newsletter.

It is always nice to receive recognition in one's living days, and perhaps some of you may recall a piece in our November 1990 Newsletter entitled "Bill Benninghoff Immortalized in His Own Lifetime." The Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy dedicated some terrain and vegetation in T48N, R10W, McMillan Twp., Luce County, in Upper Michigan as the "Benninghoff Tract." That must have pleased Bill.

Bill is the third distinguished IGY Antarctic to die within recent months, joining Jim Zumberge and Dick Goldthwait. And the late Emanuel Rudolph made his mark shortly after the IGY. All four were relatively young, all were really nice guys. For years we zealously pursued Jim Zumberge, Bill Benninghoff, and Colin Bull to present a Paul C. Daniels Memorial Lecture for our Society. Jim agreed, but, of course, was struck down by the Big C. Bill was always putting us off until he had something worthwhile, when anything he said would have been worthwhile. Colin, you had better come up with something FAST!

REORGANIZATION AND RELOCATION FOR NSF. While everyone is waiting with bated breath for the announcement early in February as to who will replace Peter Wilkniss at the helm of the polar ship, several things have actually become fait accompli at the National Science Foundation. While Peter and Edith were having a ball skiing and enjoying Switzerland on a mid-winter vacation, the selection committee at NSF has whittled down scores of candidates for Peter's position to the Final Five. Could they be waiting until the new residents move into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, so he or she could have a Clinton look? With the new administration, the person, above all else, has to look right. Will Antarctic Gore have an input? All we can do is wait and see.

Meanwhile they have gone through a paper exercise at the National Science Foundation, and the Division of Polar Programs has once again become the Office of Polar Programs and now will report to the deputy Director of the Foundation, currently Fred Bernthal And NSF is reactivating the Committee on Polar Programs. A staff memorandum announcing these changes was issued by NSF on 13 January. There are a couple of paragraphs about how great the U.S. Antarctic Program is, and how important Antarctica is going to be in the future, but I think we can spare you all of this, as it sounds like all other government administration and management announcements. Consider yourself informed.

But a political football was finally put into the end zone in early January when NSF officials inked an agreement to relocate to a spanking new 12-story building in Ballston (see our Newsletter for April 1991 for description of all the great amenities in this new building). The Director of the National Science Foundation, Walter E. Massey, was one of those fighting the relocation. It got so bad that Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) wrote an angry letter to President Bush urging Massey be fired if the move did not proceed, accusing Massey of insubordination. But with the signing on 8 January, Wolf withdrew his demand.

It appears that NSF's resistance collapsed when Clinton's transition director, Vernor E. Jordan, Jr., got hold of Massey by telephone and explained the facts of life to him, that the new administration favored the move. Within two hours of the signing, a van pulled up at NSF to begin moving furniture! This was at the request of Senator Charles S. Robb (D-VA) who "wanted a symbolic move, in addition to the signature. I felt it was necessary to give a sense of finality to a project that has been on the books for six years." That finality won't come for another year, because it will take that long to move NSF from downtown to Ballston (in Arlington).

Supposedly this is a victory for taxpayers, as the move will save us \$81 million. I don't exactly understand Washington's arithmetic, but if moving 1200 employees out of Washington saves the government \$81 million, wouldn't our whole deficit be recovered if we moved all of Washington out of Washington? I would think so.

There is a down-side to this move. There used to be sort of a homespun restaurant in the Ballston area called Eskimo Nell. It had a lot of stuff from the Arctic on the walls; it was rather dark inside; the food was just mediocre, even when the chef was having a good day; BUT they had the best Key Lime pie you ever tasted. Supposed]

the key limes were flown up from Florida every day. Anyway, Eskimo Nell fell to the sledge hammers several years ago, and progress is now being served. However, I think it is only fitting that some food dispensing center within this building carry on the tradition of Key Lime pies in Ballston.

XVII ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (ATCM), VENICE, ITALY, 11-20 NOVEMBER 1992
(Ron Naveen, Oceanites). Well, the argula was great, and the Tintoretto cherubs still fly better than penguins.

The big news from the ATCM was the Parties' agreement, for the first time, on the need for a Treaty Secretariat. Terms of reference for such an institution were outlined. However, there was no agreement on where the Secretariat should be sited. Buenos Aires and Washington were offered as potential venues, but the issue of location didn't reach any final consensus. Indeed, subsequent to the meeting, the U.S. informed other governments that it would have no objections to Buenos Aires as a location, perhaps hardening the already stiff, United Kingdom opposition to this site.

The Consultative meeting was preceded by a two-day special meeting on tourism. There was a lot of fire and brimstone, but only a few glimmers of substantive heat and light. Much valuable information on the numbers of tourists and where they were going was submitted to the record. However, the special meeting and the entire discussion of tourism during the Consultative meeting were exacerbated by a draft tourism annex to the new Antarctic Environmental Protocol, circulated by a "Group of Five" countries (France, Germany, Spain, Chile, and Italy). The U.S. and many other countries took the view, strongly, that such new, legal authority wasn't needed, and that the Protocol and its Annexes, afforded sufficient authority to regulate all Antarctic activities, including tourism. The simple point was that the Group of Five proposal only divided the Parties from the key concern of implementing the Protocol with all deliberate speed. The Group of Five was unable to convince the other Parties of the need for their proposed annex, and that's as far as it got. The Report of the ATCM reflects this difference of opinion and, thus, the precise details of regulating tourism and other, non-governmental activities will have to wait until a future Consultative meeting.

Through the profusion of argula salads and red wine, it was rather obvious that, without the new Antarctic Environmental Protocol entering into force, all of its perceived benefits - for example, the requirement of environmental evaluations for all activities and the Committee on Environmental Protection - would be for naught. Until all Parties deposit ratifications, the Protocol and its Annexes do not enter into official, legal force.

Prior to the meeting, Spain was the only country to have deposited a ratification of the Protocol. The U.S. position at the XVII ATCM consistently reflected the view that ratification has to be the Number One priority of every Treaty Party. Although many Parties indicated progress towards ratification, there is considerable uncertainty, indeed, whether the Protocol will enter into force by the time of the next Consultative meeting, scheduled for Japan in the spring of 1994.

On the U.S. side, implementing legislation did not make it through the last session of Congress. There were two competing bills - one from the Bush administration and one developed by the House Merchant Marine Commission, and there was much wrangling over whether any or some of NSF's administrative, non-scientific functions relating to the Antarctic Treaty Conservation Act should be transferred to other federal agencies. All of this will be reprised in the 103rd Congress, just convened, and it is expected that the new Clinton-Gore administration will be rather interested in getting a bill through, so U.S. *jefes*, using their "bully pulpit," may push other Parties to ratify.

THE MISSION IS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, states David Lavery, Director of the Dante project. I only wish that David had been marking my Latin papers when I was trying to pass courses in that subject back in Worcester Classical. Dante had an inauspicious debut in an earlier test in the United States, failing a dry run on a slag heap at a closed steel mill in Pittsburgh, so it seems its track record has been somewhat less than a howling success.

Associated Press quoted our own Phil Kyle with bridled optimism, "This has whetted the appetite of volcanologists everywhere. There is no more nasty volcano. It has been a remarkable achievement." We don't know of any Antarctic exercise which was more ballyhooed in advance than Dante's 21-foot sojourn. It got a lot of us east-eners out of deep sleep at the ungodly hour of 7 AM to see promised live shots from inside the crater of Erebus, and then we didn't know what we were looking at. Must have been the early hour.

Dante was named after an Italian poet by the name of Dante Alighieri, no doubt a frustrated opera singer, who authored the three-part "Divine Comedy." Isn't there a message there? In the "Inferno" segment, Dante descends into Erebus, in Greek mythology the last stop before Hades, the place of the dead.

Dante is an 8.2-foot-tall robot weighing 884 pounds. In other words, he is about the equivalent of a defensive tackle in the National Football League (NFL), except Dante has magenta legs "because that color does not scare penguins." Are there really penguins up on the crater of Erebus? Dante is made of anodized aluminum, and is designed to step over obstacles 4.8 feet high. The laser scanner in Dante's central mast, or torso, provides a 350-degree field of view for distances ranging from 10 feet to 98 feet. Sensors in its feet record and map the ground it walks on, forming a computer multicolored mosaic.

Dante, like its NFL counterpart, has limited onboard intelligence, and computations about the correct path to take are done by computer software back in the human hut. The robot reports back on conditions, and the humans decide where it should go. Identical to pro football, so why don't they just hire Reggie White and send him down into Erebus? The answer is that Dante's mission was only two million, and Reggie doesn't even dress up for that kind of money.

Dante does pay out its own tether as it feels its way along, using laser range finder, 3-D video cameras and "eyes" in each of its feet to help pick its toeholds. There are also force sensors to determine the amount of traction that a given surface require.

So what happened? Carnegie Mellon and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology had a full team - eleven members. Well, it seems that the fiber-optic cable linking the robot with its base broke. It happens in the best of robot families.

Lavery expressed "obvious disappointment over what is a component failure" and the inability to earn, 'out the scientific portion of the project - exploring the physical and chemical features of Erebus. But the objectives of controlling the robot from afar and testing the use of sophisticated hardware in a harsh environment were met. Lavery said, "The aspects of sending autonomous robots on planetary exploration mission has been proven."

SOUTH POLE WAY-STATION FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS. A twenty-nine year old lawyer from Oslo, Norway, Erling Kagge, became the first person to walk alone to the South Pole, arriving there in early January after a 51-day, 814-mile trek from Berkner Island. His only link with the outside was a one-way satellite beacon for sending messages. Erling dragged a heavy sled, which started out weighing 276 pounds. Although we are not certain, we believe he will walk across the whole continent.

In mid-January four women checked in on skis at the South Pole on their transantarctic crossing. Leading the expedition, The American Women's Transantarctica Expedition, is the well-known Ann Bancroft, the first woman to travel by foot to the North Pole (1986 Will Steger International Expedition). Ann, 37, is a former physical education and special education teacher.

Besides Ann are Sue Ciller, 44, a computer programmer from Boulder, Colorado who has scaled Mount Everest and Mount McKinley; Anne Dal Vera, 37, of Fort Collins, Colorado, a ski, kayaking and wilderness instructor who has guided numerous outdoor trips; and Sunniva Sorby, 31, of San Diego, manager of an outdoor and travel outfitter store, and a teacher of navigation, rock climbing, and backpacking.

The group has attracted attention from researchers, including a University of Minnesota psychologist interested in group dynamics. Ann said in the beginning, "It's a main objective of the four of us to travel for such a long time in such difficult conditions and come out at the other end as friends." (Whoops, update. Less than a day after reaching the Pole, they abandoned their attempt. Still behind two weeks.)

ARE YOU AN EXPLORER? When Phil Law, retired chairman of the Australian National Committee for Antarctic Research, 1966-1980, addressed our Society in Washington on 15 October 1992, he made some interesting, if not provocative, statements about explorers. But let's kick it off with excerpts from his text that evening:

According to the Oxford dictionary, exploration (as regards territory) means examining the territory as one moves through it. Common usage has added a further dimension to this definition. The word carries the connotation of a certain element of discovery, of examining something new, something not previously examined.

Scott and Mawson, obviously, were "explorers" and so, to a lesser extent, was Shackleton. Why do I say to a "lesser extent"? Shackleton was a great "adventurer" - one of the greatest. But he wasn't a great "explorer", although he always figures in the lists of the greatest. Actually he discovered very little new territory. Most of what his expedition of 1907-1909 saw in the Ross Sea sector had already been discovered and mapped by Scott. He did discover and map the approach to, and the extent of, the Beardmore Glacier, but that stretch of territory extends for only a comparatively short distance - about 200 miles. Later, during his expedition to the Weddell Sea, where his ship ENDURANCE was crushed, he explored nothing at all.

When one looks at what has been written about the history of Antarctic exploration, one is not very impressed. The trouble is that certain patterns of thought concerning Antarctic events become widely established as a result of the media's portrayal of them and the effect of such portrayal upon the general public. Long before some historian comes along to write up the events, they have become enveloped in shrouds of ignorance, error, emotion, sentimentality, chauvinism and exaggeration. Generally, too, by that time, much valuable material has been dispersed or lost, and knowledgeable participants in the events have died.

As for chauvinism, sentimentality and emotional responses by the public, one has only to quote the British reactions to the tragedy of Scott's last expedition. Would Scott have been as famous if he had not perished? Would Shackleton's fame have been as great if his ship had not been crushed? Would Mawson's name be as well-known if he had not miraculously survived a sledge journey in which his two companions died? I doubt it.

The fervor of British chauvinism arising from Scott's death and the idolatry

of the Scott public image discouraged any real critical evaluation of Scott's expeditions and any fair assessment of Amundsen for fifty years. It was left for Roland Huntford, in his book "Scott and Amundsen" to tackle this task. Unfortunately, his prejudice against Scott tipped the balance to the other extreme and spoiled the result of some very intensive research.

Antarctica today is internationalized to an extent not seen in any other territory. Yet the literature is nationally compartmented. The British tend to sneer at Byrd, largely ignore Mawson, and take no notice at all of the Russians. The Americans accept Shackleton, play down Scott, and completely ignore the Australians and Russians. The Australians rank Scott, Shackleton, and Mawson as roughly equal, but know nothing of the Russians and Norwegians.

How should Australians rate Mawson? Certainly he is far ahead of Shackleton. I think he is marginally ahead of Scott, but to evaluate this would take more time than I have tonight. However, one distinguished British polar expert has said, "The two greatest polar explorers were Nansen in the north and Mawson in the south." Notice that he said "were". There has been no attempt to rate modern Antarctic explorers, either amongst themselves or against those of past eras. History, in fact, has not caught up with Antarctic explorers operating since World War II.

Eighty percent of Antarctic exploration occurred post-1946. The explorers of the "heroic age" merely scratched the surface at a few well-separated points. There are no explorers of earlier times that can match the achievements of these post-war people. There isn't much point in my naming them, for, apart from Byrd and Fuchs, you would not have heard of them.

Well, how about that?? Now we know that the Russians are not recognized by the Aussies, the Brits, or the Americans, and the poor Kiwis don't even get their name in the international listing! Isn't it ironic that the man who did everything right, who had the foresight to use dogs, who executed to perfection a late derived plan, who never lost a man in achieving the South Pole before any other, who discovered new territory enroute to the Pole, doesn't even get honorable mention as a great explorer? Antarctica is really a fraternity, with all of its inherent ills, and poor Amundsen just did not have the right credentials to enter the front door of The Club. He should have known enough to have picked parents from the U.K.

And Shackleton didn't come out very well in the above evaluation. It seems rather harsh to say that Shackleton was a great adventurer, but wasn't a great explorer. It seems like an evaluation which might have come out of the Scott encampment. To say that Shackleton explored nothing at all in his ordeal in the Weddell Sea seems a terrible understatement. He found a way to get his men home safely, and that is a pretty creditable bottom line, particularly when you were one of the parents.

As indicated earlier, I have drafted my thoughts on who I think was the greatest explorer of all time, but, first, we would like to hear from you readers as to who you think it should be. You know, there is a lot of credence for naming Mary Alice McWhinnie as the greatest explorer of all time, as she broke more barriers, entered more domains for the first time, than any other single person. And the odds were stacked against her, because even though she was white, she was sort of the Jackie Robinson of Antarctica. And she was a big leaguer all the way, as her Field of Dreams was krill, one of the driving forces of Antarctica. Let's hear from YOU.

ANTARCTIC HISTORY IN THE U.S. IS NONEXISTENT. The United States of America, which annually spends over a hundred million dollars on Antarctic operations and programs, really has no coordinated program to preserve the history of the Antarctic. The

late Gerald Pagano of the National Archives, although not a professional archivist, probably did more than any other American to pull together papers of prominent Antarcticans. But Gerry died much too young, and when he died, for all practical purposes, his polar collecting efforts died with him.

We can't help wondering how much of Antarctic history has been lost by the recent deaths of people like Albert Armstrong, Mike Benkert, Bill Benninghoff, Dick Black, Dave Canham, Bert Crary, Ambassador Paul C. Daniels, Skip Dawson, Gordon Ebbe, Mark Eichenberger, Edward Fireman, Harry Francis, Dick Goldthwait, Eddie Goodale, Sig Gutenko, Henry Harrison, August Howard, Jim Lassiter, Ralph Lenton, Father Dan Linehan, Mark MacMillan, Malcolm Mellor, John Mirabito, Murray Mitchell, Palle Mogensen, Charlie Murphy, Ike Schlossbach, Dean Smith, Harry Swinburne, and Murray Wiener. All of these men died in the past seven years, and represent an incomplete listing compiled from a poor memory bank. Is there anyone anywhere who is trying to assemble their accomplishments in Antarctica? I seriously doubt it. Many widows contact Ruth asking what they should do with their husband's mementos. I am more concerned with the lost histories which these people take with them to their graves, because, with a few exceptions, oral histories were never done on them. With the relative ease of using camcorders, Antarcticans should video themselves.

Our country is almost void of any legitimate bona fide Antarctic historian. The only one really working in the field was Peter Anderson of The Ohio State University, and now that ill health has fallen on him, there is really no one. The only worthwhile American Antarctic reference book is the one by the late Ken Bertrand, which is a jewel of information, but it only goes up through Operation Highjump and Operation Windmill. There is really no good biography on Admiral Byrd, although some may want to question that statement. Peter Anderson was in the throes of writing a definitive biography on Byrd, but it is doubtful if it will ever be finished, considering Peter's health. Lowell Thomas's biography on Sir Hubert Wilkins only saw him into the 1930's, leaving out his last twenty-five years. But here we all sit, with Antarctic history being made every day, with Antarcticans dying every month, and we are losing much of it, if not most of it.

PERSONALIZING ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY, 1992 (continued). We knew we would take a few hits when we attempted to put you folks into slots in the last issue, and we were not disappointed. Our preamble said "It is not intended to be complete, accurate, or unbiased, but a potpourri of classifications that this very prejudiced person thought up." So we thought we had our 'butt' protected, but the equally scroungy Colin Bull wrote that we "should put a general apology to those omitted," so if you are an omiteer, consider this an apology.

One grizzly early Deep Freezer whom I somehow left off several listings wrote, "After 4 trips to Antarctica, I sure did not think much of Vol. 92-93, Nov., #3." Margaret Sides in Nashville pointed out that she was Buck Boyd's daughter. So we have three relatives of Buck's in our Society. Great! And Roberta Score wrote that she, too, was a meteorite, coming by it naturally, of course, through work with Bill Cassidy. He must have taken, literally, "scores" of people to the Antarctic, as it seems like everyone has gone to Antarctica with Cassidy. He must like variety or be a practicing exponent of equal-opportunity hiring. Mike Metzgar said that Karen Harrower never really worked for the USGS, that she was with Gisela Dreschhoff at the University of Kansas. If that was the case, Mike, then how come oh, forget it.

Billy Ace Baker said that his four winters and five summers were all spent at McMurdo and that "I never set foot on the continent." Billy Ace must hold the record for most months in Antarctica without leaving a footprint on the continent. Greenpeace should give him a plaque. Mike Metzgar also wrote, "Under 'Nice People' you should

have added (the late) Bill and Anne Benninghoff. I fell in love with those two the year I was there." You are so right, Mike, as usual. Thank you. The indefatigable Jerry Brown pointed out that under Alums of the Division of Polar Programs I left him out, as well as footballer Bob Rutherford and Gunter Weller. Merci, monsieur.

Left off the South Pole list - Harry Spohn, meteorological technician in 1962, and Loreen Utz, who was one of the first half-dozen women to winter over at the South Pole, doing her stint in 1983. One Antarctic admiral wrote of a fellow flag-rank Antarctic, "Who the hell is Charles Adams?" Well, Doc, long before there was a Deep Freeze, Finn Ronne wintered over on Stonington Island with his bride Jackie, a couple named Harry and Jennie, Ike Schlossbach, Jim Lassiter, Bob Nichols, Bob Dodson, Nelson McClary, Art Owen and others, and, among the others, Charles Adams, who became a Brigadier General. Whether the military thought he deserved a star for surviving that year or what, we do not know, but he was bona fide.

Charles Swithinbank pointed out that we left off the years of his Maudheim Expedition, 1949-1952. Bill Sladen is campaigning for a list of ex-Brits in our Society. I think our immigration office has been pretty careful about who they let into this country, but occasionally they slip up on someone like Sladen! And heaven only knows how Colin Bull got into this country. Had to be some sort of a nefarious undercover operation! Probably we traded an unwanted spy for him. Gunter Weller was an Aussie, we think, and had no immediate connection with the Mother Land

Scott Sandford also wrote that he was a meteorite with Cassidy and ANSMET (whatever that is) in 1984-85, and again in 1988-89. Scott said he found our listing both impressive and scruffy. Now let's go back to the beginning of this subject. The unimpressed was Dick Conger, who was Mr. Antarctic Photography in the early days of Deep Freeze. He definitely should have been weight listed under photographers, and we believe he is also into polar philately. Although we didn't list bookworms, Dick has one of the largest private Antarctic collections in this country.

He don't feel too badly about omissions, as we did this here on the coast of Maine, and our Society files are in the Nerve Center at 905 North Jacksonville, Arlington, Virginia. We will just usurp the Charlie Bentley Law of Glaciology, "keep on doing it until you get it right," even if it takes over thirty years!

TWO ANTARCTIC VIDEOS AVAILABLE, BUT THEY WILL COST YOU. Milestone Film and Video, 275 West 96th Street, Suite 28C, New York, NY 10025 (Phone - 212-865-7449. Fax - 212-222-8952) have been acquiring and restoring films from the 1910-1933 era when men and women risked their lives to explore unknown lands and cultures. Two of the eight films in "The Age of Exploration" series deal with Antarctica. One is WITH BYRD AT THE SOUTH POLE, an account of the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition, 1928-30. It is an 82-minute film, and is basically the work of Joe Rucker and Willard Van der Veer. It won the 1930 Academy Award for cinematography, and the New York Times selected it as one of the Ten Best Films of the Year. But by today's standards it can only be classed as mediocre. However, it is the very best available on that expedition, so you may want to obtain a copy. A lot of it will seem familiar, as much of it has been shown in recent years on educational TV, particularly on Arts and Entertainment.

They also have another oldie but goodie in 90 DEGREES SOUTH, Herbert Ponting's film originally released in 1913. They certainly take a lot of liberty with their titles, don't they, as Ponting never was at the South Pole, and Byrd was never on the surface at the South Pole! But that's what they call artist's liberty, I guess. Twenty years after Scott perished on the Ross Ice Shelf, Ponting produced and narrated this film, which the National Film Theatre in London called "One of the 'Fifty Most Famous Films' of the first half of the century."

We, the Antarctic Society, have nothing to do with these films; we're only telling you about their availability. The price seems high - each is \$39.94; shipping and handling - \$3.75 for the first tape, and fifty cents for each additional one.

PENGUINMANIA. As long as we're talking about availabilities, there are several places offering creatures of the Southern Ocean. If you have a case of the Karen Ronne Tupek disease, and have to live in a Penguin World, then you should know about Next Stop..South Pole (addresses - P.O. Box 375, New York, NY 10272, or 301 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21202). They sell everything from underwear with penguins to jewelry - some 288 different items. If you buy from them, and say Antarctica Project, 10% of the purchases goes into Jim Barnes' larder.

If you want something in jewelry with real class, Main Gem in Camden, Maine (800-287-5402) is the place. The designer is Elizabeth, a very talented artisan. She designs anything with legs or fins, so you can get penguin, seal, porpoise, and dolphin brooches and necklaces, in sterling silver, 14 karat gold, 18 karat gold. She also has a great moose necklace, which every woman should have, and a sheep brooch, which no woman actually needs. We get no cutback, and only recently became aware of them. Her husband, a retired college professor, is a character, but you want Elizabeth. She has a real talent and does nice work. Ask for her catalog.

There is a third place - Cross Jewelers (570 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 - phone - 800-433-2988) which has something that will really knock your eyes out - a pin with two Emperor penguins, with blue sapphire eyes, and a diamond (.07 ct) between the feet. It is 14 karat yellow gold, about an inch high. What a bargain - two Emperors for your very own for only \$825!

ANTARCTIC MOM. An ex-truck driver in the Australian Army, World War II, who befriended literally thousands of Antarcticans over the past three decades, died peacefully in her sleep on 1 November 1992 from a collage of ailments - long-term diabetes, heart and lung problems, arterial and carteroid blockages, and an aneurysm in her chest. She married an American serviceman, Navy type, whose ship came into her home town. When the Navy hits the beaches, they don't waste time, and shortly thereafter Shirley became Mrs. James Anderson and found herself living in San Diego.

Somewhere in the early 1960's, Shirley began sending letters and Christmas cards to Navy men stationed in Antarctica. An article in the San Diego Chronicle on November 16, 1969 said she was sending out her 2000th Christmas card to Antarctica. Billy Ace Baker, mentioned earlier in this Newsletter and a very close friend of hers, estimates that before she stopped sending cards, probably about five years ago, she must have sent over 5000 cards! Family Circle presented her with their Good News Maker Award in December 1980, for which they gave her a Gold Heart. That heart was superfluous, as she must have been all heart to have sent all those cards and letters and messages to a bunch of Seabees.

Her interest in the Antarcticans also extended to their families back here in the States, as she kept up a lively correspondence with the men and their families after they returned from the ice. She must have been a most unique woman to have kept it up for so many years. And her husband must have had unlimited patience to let his wife spend all his money and all her time on a bunch of sailors who didn't even have ships sitting at the bottom of the world.

ADDITIONAL DEATHS. James W. Lassiter, pilot on the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition died on 16 December 1992 of a heart attack. Lassiter Coast is named after him. More in our next Newsletter Albert Westphal, formerly with the USGS, died on 14 December 1992.