



The Bulletin of

THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

No. 1

April, 1969

A NEW ERA

As President, I feel confident that The Antarctic Society, is entering upon a new era of usefulness to the members and to our general objective of stimulating interest in the Antarctic. This *Bulletin* is tangible evidence of that advance. Its purpose is to provide the members with news of what the Society is doing and, perhaps, most importantly of the activities of the members themselves.

Such a medium for the exchange of information is all the more necessary because of recent expansion of the membership to well-over 400. It is necessary if the Society, is to become something more than a Washington club. If the international character of the organization is to be sustained and, hopefully, enhanced we must have a way of maintaining contact. Presently, we are trying to organize chapters in areas where groups of members live in reasonable proximity to one another. These chapters must be kept informed of what the Society is planning and what other chapters are doing. Many individual members are issuing publications, performing research, going on journeys, or carrying on other activities that are of general interest.

All these things, we hope to record and more beside. The beginning is, of necessity, modest, but the future is unlimited. The success of the *Bulletin* will in large measure depend upon your cooperation. It is your publication, and unless you tell us what you are doing, we can't inform others. We solicit your help.

HENRY M. DATER
President

CANTERBURY MUSEUM

The Canterbury Museum at Christchurch, New Zealand, has plans to build an Antarctic wing. Among exhibits, it hopes to have a series on the development of field clothing. An appeal has been received for samples of United States field gear beginning with the first Byrd expedition. The Navy and National Science Foundation have arranged to transfer sets of clothing currently in use, but are unable to furnish items from the past. Members having gear from expeditions prior to 1954 may wish to consider a donation to the Canterbury Museum. It would be a nice gesture of appreciation for the hospitality consistently shown to Americans by New Zealanders on their way to Antarctica. Anyone interested in making such a donation is urged to communicate with the president of the Society.

WASHINGTON MEETINGS

Up to the time of writing three meetings have been held this season, all at the National Academy of Sciences, and three more are planned. The talks at the last two meetings were taped by the United States Information Agency and relevant excerpts used on its foreign broadcasts. It expects to continue this practice.

The first meeting, held on October 18, 1968, commemorated the fortieth anniversary of the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition. Dr. Laurence M. Gould, the expedition's chief scientist and second in command, reminisced about the events of those early days. Six other veterans of the expedition honored The Society with their presence. A brief summary of this talk was distributed to members at an earlier date, and in slightly different form appeared in the *Antarctic Journal of the United States*, Vol. IV, No. 1, (Jan-Feb 1969). Dr. Gould is an honorary member of the Society.

If the first meeting aroused memories of the past, the second looked toward the future. Dr. Ernest Stuhlinger of NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center gave an illustrated talk entitled "Antarctic Research, A Prelude to Space Research." Dr. Stuhlinger visited Antarctica in January 1967, accompanied by three other prominent members of the Space Agency: Drs. Robert R. Gilruth, Maxine A. Faget, and Werner Von Braun. During the trip, Dr. Stuhlinger said, "When the four of us from NASA looked at the many fascinating activities through the eyes of space-projects developers, we registered in our minds a number of impressions which will certainly find their way into our space program planning." One of these impressions was the size of the logistic effort required to support scientists in a remote location coupled with the division of labor that, by placing logistics responsibility on the Navy, permits the scientists to concentrate upon their research projects. He recognized that in lunar exploration a number of different types of vehicles would be necessary just as they were in the Antarctic. The four were also impressed by the elaborate safety precautions, especially against the danger of fire, and by the great desirability of providing the individual with a private space, no matter how small, in which, at times, he could be alone. They also became convinced that, in the descriptive sciences, such as biology and geology, there was no substitute for the experienced investigator in the field. On the other hand, Dr. Stuhlinger believed that, in certain disciplines, the techniques and equipment of automated observation being developed for space exploration could be adapted to the Antarctic. The complete text of this talk has been published in the *Antarctic Journal of the United States*, Vol. IV, No. 1 (Jan-Feb 1969).

Mr. Amory H. Waite, Jr., spoke to the third meeting on February 6, 1969 on "The History and Development of Radio Ice Depth Measurement," a striking example of the use of electronic techniques in the field of scientific exploration. With a minimum of technical jargon and detail, Mr. Waite explained how, beginning with the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1933-1935), his experiments with radio communications first led to an appreciation of the ease with which radio waves penetrated ice and then to the realization that this phenomenon could be used to measure the thickness of ice shelves and caps. Most interesting was the account of how Mr. Waite, with the support of the Army Signal Corps, worked out the techniques and equipment to make ice depth measurement a reality. When he discovered that investigators in other countries were working on similar devices, he arranged sponsorship for them to get together in Greenland for the purpose of comparing their different systems. This was done in 1963 and again in 1964 with scientists from England, Denmark, Canada and the United States participating. The 1964 summer experiments involved 4 tractors, 7 smaller vehicles, about 12 sledges, and 34 people. From 1964 on, the problems faced were those of improving established equipment and techniques to obtain greater accuracy and reliability. Radio depth measurement has, in recent years, been done successfully both from vehicles and aircraft in the Antarctic. It has the advantages over seismic sounding that the equipment is light, simple, to operate, records automatically, and gives a continuous profile rather than simply a sounding at the point of contact. The improvement is comparable to that, which occurred when echo soundings as a means of gauging ocean depths replaced the use of lead and line. "Bud" Waite is one of the great antarctic pioneers both in geographical exploration and technical development. The Society is proud to have him as a member.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual membership has increased to over 400. A large increment came, when Lindblad Travel enrolled the participants on its cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula. We welcome these and other new members to The Society collectively and wish that we could do so individually. Unfortunately statistics have not been kept on the number of members who journey to the Antarctic each year, but there exists no doubt that the largest single bloc ever to visit the area were those who took this year's cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula.

All new members have been sent membership certificates. The Membership Secretary, Mr. Ralph Lenton, is busy preparing a directory of Members that, we hope, will be distributed soon. This and the *Bulletin* are a start, but the officers and Board of Directors are keenly aware that other steps are needed to maintain the interest of members of the Society. If any of you would be interested in forming local chapters or even contacting on a more informal basis Antarcticans who live in your vicinity, Mr. Lenton will be happy to forward an appropriate list of names and addresses. Other suggestions for improving the services of the Society are invited from all members, old and new.

BOOK NOTES

With each issue of the Bulletin, we hope to bring to the attention of readers books of general interest on the Antarctic with brief notes indicating contents and level of readership.

Captain R. F. Scott, *The Diaries of Captain Robert F. Scott*, 6 vols., University Microfilms Ltd., 1968, \$70.

The originals of the Scott diaries that are now available in a Xerox reproduction will enable scholars to compare them with the various edited versions. Two of the volumes contain Scott's sledging orders and the typescript of the *South Polar Times*. Indispensable for those who wish the complete text.

E. P. Hoyt, *The Last Explorer: The Adventures of Admiral Byrd*, the John Day Company, 1968, \$7.95.

The author makes it very clear that no definitive life of Admiral Byrd can be written until the family papers are made available. In spite of having access to only the public record and relatively few of the individuals who were associated with Admiral Byrd, Hoyt has turned out an unusually well balanced and perceptive account. This fascinating and readable book will be enjoyed by young and old alike.

L. Sebastian, *The South Pole*, Hoyt, Rinehart and Winston, 1968, \$2.95, illustrated.

A volume in a series called "Books to Begin On". Suitable for primary school children. Some errors occur that more careful preparation could have avoided. It can be recommended as a starting place for very young Antarcticans.

John Grierson, *Heroes of the Polar Skies*, Meredith Press, 1967, \$4.95.

Several years ago, Mr. Grierson published *Challenge to the Poles*, a history of aviation in both polar regions up to the opening of scheduled air services over the Arctic in 1954. From the wealth of material he collected at that time, he has written, primarily for teenage boys, short biographies of Andree, Byrd, Wilkins, Ellsworth, Amundsen, and Mobile. Himself a pioneer of polar flying, Grierson succeeds in transmitting to the young reader the romance and excitement of these early ventures. It is recommended.

E. A. Bacon, *Some Songs of The South Pole*, privately printed, 1960.

This book of songs was written after two visits to Antarctica by Mr. Bacon, a charter member of the Society. They capture the mystery, excitement, and even loneliness of the early *Deep Freeze* operations. It is a pleasure to report that copies are available from the Francis Scott Key Book Shop, 28th and O Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20007 at \$3.50 per copy.

A NOTE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The Annual Business Meeting will be at 8 p.m., Monday, 12th May 1969 at the National Academy of Sciences. Items on the agenda will be the election of Officers for 1970 and the Presidential Report by Dr. Henry M. Dater.

IN MEMORIAM

It is our sad duty to record the recent passing of three charter members of the Society. The Honorable Edward A. Bacon died on October 5, 1968. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Ted Bacon visited Antarctica in 1958 and again in 1959. Struck, as are many, by the strange beauty of the area and caught up by the skill, enthusiasm, and gaiety of the young Navy men and scientists who were carrying out the program, he had the talent, which most of us lack, to turn his impressions into verse. Other members will remember his book, *Some Songs of the South Pole*, privately printed in 1960, which remains one of the few examples of authentic poetry to emerge from the Antarctic. (See book notes.)

An historical summary in Ted Bacon's book was contributed by Dr. James E. Mooney, who died on October 27, 1968. A friend and associate of Admiral Byrd for over 20 years proceeding the Admiral's death, Jim Mooney served during the IGY as a consultant to Admiral Byrd when the latter was Officer in Charge, U.S. Antarctic Programs, and to Admiral George J. Dufek, who in 1951, succeeded the Admiral Byrd's position with the alternate title of U.S. Antarctic Projects Officer. In 1959, he was named Deputy United States Antarctic Projects Officer, a post he held until the abolition of the Projects Office on April 24, 1965. He then assumed the position of Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Antarctic Matters until he retired from Government service at the end of that same year.

In 1956, when the thought of wintering over on the high plateau terrified many, the spirits of those who were to take part in the risky venture were heartened by the designation of Dr. Paul A. Siple, as South Pole Station Scientific Leader. America's most experienced Antarctic explorer, he brought with him the knowledge and wisdom gained on four previous expeditions, beginning in 1920 when, as a Boy Scout, he accompanied Admiral Byrd to Little America I. Somehow, between participation in the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1933-1935) and the United States Antarctic Service Expedition (1939-1941), he managed to complete his education culminating with a doctor's degree in geography from Clark University in 1939. During World War II, Paul Siple served in the Army and after the conflict was associated with Army research and development programs.

His association with Admiral Byrd ripened into a deep friendship as they worked together over the years, and he accompanied the Admiral on his two postwar visits to Antarctica, Operation Highjump (1946-1947) and Deep Freeze I (1955-1956). The success of the year at the South Pole on Deep Freeze II, is set forth in the last of his four books, *90° South*.

The esteem, in which he was held by his fellows both in science and exploration, are indicated by the many honors he received. Notably, he was the first president of The American Polar Society and was later President of The Association of American Geographers as well as The Antarctican Society. The last he served well and remained, until his death on November 25, 1968, a devoted member. At its meeting of December 20, 1968, the Board of Directors adopted the following resolution:

The Antarctican Society notes with profound regret the death of its distinguished former President, Paul Allman Siple, Scientist, Explorer, Public Servant. Participant in six Antarctic Expeditions, he remained, throughout a lifetime of service to his country and his world, an inspiration to younger men, an example to contemporaries, and a strong staff upon which his elders leaned. His passing takes from us a wise counsellor and valued friend.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

It is the belief of the editors that many periodicals, such as newsletters, bulletins, and journals, containing material of interest to members, are being issued by various organizations. Two are noted below. The editors will appreciate similar publications being brought to their attention.

Antarctic Journal of the United States

Many members of The Society are already acquainted with the Antarctic Journal of the United States. Prepared jointly by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, it deals with a wide range of subjects including scientific activities and accomplishments, logistic support operations, history of exploration, international cooperative programs, and other matters of current interest. Published six times a year, it may now be obtained from the Government Printing Office for \$2.50 a year; \$0.75 additional for foreign mailing. Orders should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Newsletter, Institute of Polar Studies

The Institute of Polar Studies of The Ohio State University initiated a newsletter in January. To be issued twice a year, the newsletter is intended to inform organizations engaged in polar and alpine research, and other interested parties, of the Institute's activities and of research possibilities at the Institute. Since the newsletter is also expected to reach individuals not conducting polar research, it will occasionally include general information on polar research and news of significant discoveries in that field. Requests for the newsletter should be addressed to the Institute at 125 South Oval Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Antarctica!! Society is pleased to announce that the following corporations have indicated their desire to support the work and objectives by accepting corporate memberships:

POLAR EXPEDITIONS, INC.
ATCO INDUSTRIES, LTD.

It is to be hoped that other companies will, likewise, find it advantageous to assist the Society in carrying on its objectives.

1969 TOURIST CRUISE TO THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

by

Captain Edwin A. MacDonald USN (ret.), Director Ship & Polar
Operations, Lindblad Travel, Inc.

This year's January cruise was as usual exciting and especially rewarding for the 112 passengers embarked on board the Chilean Naval ship *Aquiles*. However, this time the number of men exactly equaled the number of women whereas before, the fair sex always outnumbered the men. This upsurge of interest on the part of men appears to be slowly gaining from cruise to cruise.

Probably one of the high points of the 1969 cruise was the warm hospitality shown by the Russians at their new Bellingshausen Station on Fildes Peninsula, King George Island, South Shetlands. Another was the overnight stay aboard the icebreaker USCG EDISTO in Arthur Harbor and at the American Palmer Station on Anvers Island. Sudden rising winds of approximately 60 knots prevented normal boating back to the cruise ship until the following morning. Although facilities were somewhat strained on the icebreaker and even more so at the station (with the research trawler *Hero* alongside), the hospitality and courtesies shown by the men were thoroughly appreciated by the unexpected guests.

At Deception, tourists saw a new island which had mushroomed up from the bottom of the bay, near the former Chilean Station, by the recent eruption of December 1968. Every inch of land was covered with several feet of brownish-black volcanic ash. Jets of steam rise along the shorelines and the smell of sulphur permeates the cold air. At that time the Argentinians and British had returned to their stations at Deception, but the Chileans had not because of extensive damage to their buildings.

A newer, more recent eruption that occurred after the visit, has caused even greater damage. Reports indicate that Mount

Pond erupted, and sent down vast lahars (mud flows containing volcanic debris). One wiped out most of the British Base, the Norwegian cemetery and part of the former whaling station. The other apparently obliterated the Chilean Station. There is a gully through the runway at the British Station about 25 feet wide and 10 feet deep; Kroner Lake has vanished into the harbor.

As usual, the passage, through the LeMaire Channel was an awe-inspiring one. Here, 'towering cliffs rise vertically, their peaks crowned with ice cream-like glaciers. When it's calm, one is hard put to tell the real from the image in the cobalt blue waters.

Next year, three such cruises, with visits to the Soviet Bellingshausen Station, Chilean Bernardo O'Higgins Station, Chilean Gonzales Videla Station, Argentine Almirante Brown Station, United States Palmer Station, British Stations at the Argentine Islands and Adelaide Island, Deception Island, and selected nature sites are planned. Two cruises will include visits to the Falkland Islands; all cruises will attempt crossing the Antarctic Circle and entry into Marguerite Bay. These cruises will be aboard the new ice-working, 250 foot long, 3800 H.P., 16-knot, fully air-conditioned, stabilized ship *Lindblad Explorer* which is now building in Finland, with delivery scheduled for December 10, 1969. A fourth cruise will include; Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Cough and Tristan de Cunha Islands.

Membership in the Antarctic Society is open to
all persons interested in Antarctica.

HOW TO JOIN:

Forward a letter to the Membership Secretary, 1619 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. State that you would like to become a member of the Society which has as one of its purposes, the friendly and informed exchange of information and views on Antarctica. An additional statement about any Antarctic duty or experiences you may have had would also be appreciated.

THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

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