



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

Vol. 93-94

November

No. 3

*Joint Meeting with The Explorer's Club – Washington Group
and The Society of Women Geographers*

**The First American Antarctic Historic Site: 50 Years of
American Presence at East Base.**

by

Edith "Jackie" Ronne Antarctic Writer and Lecturer

and

Cultural Resource Management in Antarctica: The "Clean Up"
of East Base - 1992

by

Dr. Noel Broadbent

Archaeologist Arctic Social Sciences Program Director, OPP, NSF

on

Saturday evening, 4 December 1993

at

Americus Restaurant in Sheraton-Washington Hotel
2660 Woodley Road at Connecticut Avenue N.W.

Social Hour (cash bar) 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM, Lectures 8 PM

Dress will be black tie, or dark suit, if you prefer

*Cost of dinner – Filet Mignon or Roast Duck – is \$37.50 per person
Mail your reservation, with choice of entree, and check (payable to Explorers
Club - Wash. Group) to Ms. Marcia Halliday, P.O. Box 2321, Reston, VA 22090, by
27 November. (Daytime phone: 703-818-4667)*

*Underground parking will be free. Remember to take your ticket
with you so it can be validated when you check in!*

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FIRST MEETING IN 1994!!!

Thursday evening, 6 January

THE AIR GATEWAY IN THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA
by

Lt. Gen. Jorge Iturriaga

Defense and Air Attache, Embassy of Chile

at 8 PM

*National Science Foundation's New Facility in Ballston
4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 330, Arlington*

(one block from Metro)

- see page 8 -

JUST IN!!! You folks with personal computers can follow Norman Vaughan
on Prodigy - Jump Mountain Challenge.

Presidents:

- Dr. Carl R. Eklund, 1959-61
- Dr. Paul A. Siple, 1961-62
- Mr. Gordon D. Cartwright, 1962-63
- RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1963-64
- Mr. George R. Toney, 1964-65
- Mr. Morton J. Rubin, 1965-66
- Dr. Albert P. Crary, 1966-68
- Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1968-70
- Mr. George A. Doumani, 1970-71
- Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1971-73
- Mr. Peter F. Bermel, 1973-75
- Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1975-77
- Mrs. Paul A. Siple, 1977-78
- Dr. Paul C. Dalrymple, 1978-80
- Dr. Meredith F. Burrill, 1980-82
- Dr. Mort D. Turner, 1982-84
- Dr. Edward P. Todd, 1984-86
- Mr. Robert H. T. Dodson, 1986-88
- Dr. Robert H. Rufford, 1988-90
- Mr. Guy G. Guthridge, 1990-92
- Dr. Polly A. Penhale, 1992-94

Honorary Members:

- Ambassador Paul C. Daniels
- Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould
- Count Emilio Pucci
- Sir Charles S. Wright
- Mr. Hugh Blackwell Evans
- Dr. Henry M. Dater
- Mr. August Howard
- Mr. Amory H. "Bud" Wane, Jr.

Paul C. Daniels

Memorial Lecturers:

- Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1964
- RADM David M. Tyree (Ret.), 1965
- Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, 1966
- Dr. J. Campbell Craddock, 1967
- Mr. James Pranke, 1968
- Dr. Henry M. Dater, 1970
- Sir Peter M. Scott, 1971
- Dr. Frank Davies, 1972
- Mr. Scott McVay, 1973
- Mr. Joseph O. Fletcher, 1974
- Mr. Herman R. Friis, 1975
- Dr. Kenneth J. Bertrand, 1976
- Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1977
- Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., 1978
- Dr. Laurence McKinley Gould, 1979
- Dr. Charles R. Bentley, 1980
- Dr. Robert L. Nichols, 1981
- Dr. Robert H. Rufford, 1982
- Mr. R. Tucker Scully, 1983
- Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait, 1984
- Dr. Mark F. Meier, 1985
- Dr. Claude Lorius, 1986
- Dr. Louis J. Lanzerotti, 1987
- Mr. Peter J. Anderson, 1988
- Dr. Ted E. DeLaca, 1989
- Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed, 1990
- Dr. Charles W. Swithinbank, 1991
- Dr. Susan Solomon, 1992

BRASH ICE

We sometimes wonder if anyone reads these things, and we got proof positive from our Last Newsletter that some in the Office of Polar Programs at NSF do read them, as one was quick to respond with her resignation, plus "Since when is OPP/NSF an enemy?" In the same mail came a letter from a professional journalist with TIME magazine saying, "Thanks for the great Newsletter which I enjoy reading every time I receive one."

This writer has no personal axes to grind with anyone, but does confess to one sacred cow, the Byrd family. For the past fifteen years this Newsletter has reflected the viewpoint of only myself, not of the Society or its Board of Directors. We feel, rightly or wrongly, that people are the news, that readers can get science elsewhere. And if there's a good story out there, play it to the hilt, embellish it if need be.

If there is any one person in our Society who is a character and good copy, it is Norman Vaughan. Who else among us has been invited to two Olympics? Who else among us has met the Pope? Who else among us has raced thirteen times in the Iditarod? Who else among us would want to match our World War II, Korean, or Vietnam record against his? And who among us has a happy satisfied wife or husband at home who is thirty-seven years our junior? If any of you are doing exciting things like Norman, let us know, and we'll write you up, too.

EXCERPTS FROM NEAL SULLIVAN'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS, "ANTARCTIC TRANSITIONS," TO THE 1993 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S ANTARCTIC ORIENTATION, 7 SEPTEMBER (conclusion). As we complete our transition to these remarkable new facilities and research opportunities, we bring with us an accompanying transition toward the entirely reasonable and necessary view that we are no longer conquerors of the earth, but rather stewards of it. Antarctica has achieved enormous symbolic importance in this transition. While NSF believes it has made good progress toward wise stewardship of the nation's activities in Antarctica, there are others who are not convinced.

The issue of man's impact on the antarctic environment has not yet been resolved satisfactorily in the public eye. The two guidelines we must not waver from are perspective and understanding. Let me give you an example. Despite all our concerns about ecological impacts due to local activities in Antarctica, the greatest antarctic environmental impact in history has come not from local activities at all, but from the increased levels of ultraviolet radiation reaching antarctic marine areas as a result of the ozone hole. Professor Ray Smith and others, in a 1992 SCIENCE magazine paper, estimate that productivity loss in the marginal ice zone due to the ozone hole is 7 million tons of carbon per year, or about 2 percent of the zone's estimated yearly production. To give perspective to this figure, consider the peak years of whaling in the Antarctic, in the 1930s. An entire industry was devoted to the removal of antarctic biomass, and the taking was so rewarding that virtually all the whales taken in the world were caught in antarctic waters. The catch during that period averaged 2 million tons a year—an amount less than one third of the current inadvertent removal of biomass that is caused by man's actions entirely outside of Antarctica. We are still struggling in our transition toward understanding and perspective regarding the protection of Antarctica. In 1993 the Marine Pollution Bulletin devoted an issue to discussions of "Environmental Awareness in Antarctica: History, Problems,

and Future Solutions. On one page an author argues that the National Science Foundation fails to protect Antarctica. On another page another author claims —quote— that "some of the current enthusiasm for environmental protection produces an over-kill that contributes little to the cause but entails a considerable cost and a long-term loss of credibility."

Who is right is not a concern of my talk this evening. But how to get to the right answer is very much a concern. Science — the scientific method — is an effective means to address complex issues. Peer-reviewed research results, published in scientific journals, are a credible means of furthering understanding of the world around us. By making the results of our investigations available in this way, we provide the data and the foundation that will guide others as they decide how best to preserve the global environment.

Three decades ago, the Antarctic Treaty entered into force with the straightforward but ambitious goals of peace and science. The Treaty was ahead of its time, but the world has indeed achieved peace — at least between superpowers — and in the process we in Antarctica have demonstrated the efficacy of science both as a means of understanding the world and as a means of brokering understanding among nations. Now the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty renews and strengthens the Treaty's original intent for wise use and stewardship of Antarctica.

Tonight, I have tried to highlight issues that affect all of us going to Antarctica. I also wanted to emphasize to you that travel to Antarctica can be a transition of great personal significance, and to remind you that you are going to Antarctica during an extraordinary period in its history. Science has never been more relevant to the concerns of mankind. The availability of new tools for science—satellite imagery, improved communications, highly capable computers—has never been greater. The government's commitment to science has never been more clearly stated than now. Prospects for the conclusion of the international regime to direct, control, and settle environmental protection procedures for Antarctica have never been brighter. Commitment to the principles of the Antarctic Treaty—for peace, cooperative science, environmental preservation—is shared by more nations, representing more people on this planet, than ever before.

But with this extraordinary experience comes a special challenge. All of us, no matter what role we have in USAP, must endeavor to continue our nation's record of excellence in science, in educating people about science and technology, in preserving the unique antarctic environment, and building partnerships between science and society. I ask each of you to join me in this great work of scientific research for the betterment of mankind.

A LOW-LATITUDE ANTARCTIC GAZETTEER (Robert B. Stephenson, P.O. Box 435, Jaffrey, NH, 03452-0435). [The first of three installments by Rob Stephenson on the location of Antarctic attractions around the world. He will welcome comments and corrections from readers, especially about new places and points of interest.] Because of my interest in Scott, Shackleton and those associated with the Heroic Age of Antarctic exploration, I started recording sites while visiting England. The list just started to grow. With respect to Scott, there's his house at 56 Oakley Street, London SW3. He couldn't have been there long, but there's one of those ubiquitous blue plaques commemorating his brief stay. Scott statuary abounds: The major one is in Waterloo Place near Pall Mall, sculpted by his wife, Kathleen. The explorer is depicted dressed in sledging gear, journal case strapped to his waist, grasping a ski pole. It's cast in bronze, and is duplicated in stone (because of war-time metal shortages) in the New Zealand version at Christchurch. There's a bust of Scott on the Exhibition Road facade of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington. Also one at Scoll Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, which, not surprisingly, is filled with

Scott-associated items, along with so much more that it would be hard to know where to begin. (Well, I will mention that the flag left by Amundsen at the South Pole is on display. The Canterbury Museum has one as well—fragments of the true cross?). Scott's ship on his first expedition, HMS Discovery, has moved around a bit in recent years. After being alongside the Embankment (where I first visited it), then in St. Katherine's Docks, it now resides permanently where it started out, in Dundee, Scotland. (Ann Saviour's recent book recounts this ship's extraordinary history.) Sledge flags were a colorful aspect of both of Scott's expeditions. I remember seeing an example at SPRI, also one hanging in Exeter Cathedral which now is in fragile condition and destined for a display case, according to a friend of mine who saw it not long ago "in the back room." It was Scott's flag from the Discovery expedition, and was presented to the Cathedral by his mother. I've been told that Wilson's flag is at his Cambridge college, Caius.

Edward A. Wilson, the zoologist, physician and skillful artist and everyone's favorite on both Scott expeditions, is well represented in his home town of Cheltenham. On the stone facade of 91 Montpellier Terrace is the carved inscription "Edward Adrian Wilson, Antarctic Explorer. Born here 1872, Died with Scott 1912." And in the center of things, on The Promenade, is a large statue, again the work of Lady Scott. It was unveiled on July 9, 1914 by Sir Clements Markham, Scott's mentor. A short distance away is the Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum which has some interesting displays on Wilson and the Antarctic. To top it off, on Princess Elizabeth Way, there's a modern block of flats named after Wilson!

The heroic L.E.G. "Titus" Oates, who sacrificed himself on the return from the Pole so as not to slow down his companions, is suitably memorialized at the Gates Memorial Library & Museum, housed in "The Wakes," Gilbert White's parsonage in the delightful Hampshire village of Selborne. (White was the father of natural history literature; his book on the natural history and antiquities of Selborne (1789) is said to be the fourth most published book in the English language!) Although White is the main focus of the Museum, there is a good deal pertaining to Oates and his brother Frank, a naturalist and African explorer. The often-reproduced painting by J.G. Dolman of Oates staggering out of the tent and into the unrelenting blizzard to his death tiangs in The Cavalry Club, 127 Piccadilly, London.

Another of Scott's men, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, author of what's long been considered the classic Antarctic book—The Worst Journey in the World (never out of print since its publication in 1922)—is memorialized by a small statuette in a niche in St. Helen's & St. Peter's Church, his burial place in Wheathampstead, not far from St. Albans. I saw mention of it in an English magazine years back and eventually paid a visit. Cherry-Garrard lived not far away in the tiny and lovely village of Ayot St. Lawrence, where his neighbor was George Bernard Shaw. It was Shaw who suggested the title for Cherry-Garrard's book. A public footpath runs through the woods and close to what was the Garrard family home, Lamer House.

The James Caird, the whaleboat that got Shackleton, Worsley, et al, from Elephant Island to South Georgia, is on display at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. When I paid my visit, on a weekend, the classroom where it's set up was locked. Fortunately, a kindly guard let me into the room to have a look. It was formerly at the Dulwich Art Gallery. (I've since learned that it's once again back at Dulwich, Shackleton's school.) The Museum's collection includes a number of paintings of Antarctic interest: John Wilson Carmichael's large canvas of Sir James Clark Ross's ships, HMS Erebus and Terror; the often-reproduced portraits of Ross by Stephen Pearce and John Wildman; and Richard Granville Eves' 1921 portrait of Ernest Shackleton.

In a recent issue of Geographical Magazine I learned that Shackleton's "helmet"—a cloth balaclava affair—with a signed inscription to an old friend, Frank Thornton, is in the collection of the Royal Geographical Society, certainly not the only

interesting Antarctic artifact at the RGS.

Penguin fanciers may wish to journey to Edinburgh to see the famous daily parade of King penguins at the zoo. Since 1961 the regimental sergeant major of the King's Guard is a King penguin—only in England! Of course, in San Diego there's Sea World and Frank Todd's Penguin Encounter, probably the ultimate penguin display.

Norway naturally has much of Arctic interest but the Antarctic is well represented too, mainly Amundsen-related sites. His home, "Uranienborg," is south of Oslo on the eastern shore of Oslo Fjord. There's lots of gingerbread on this house, plus portholes in Amundsen's bedroom. The big attraction is at Bygdøy in Oslo harbor: the Fram Museum. In a modern (actually 1936) A-frame building sits Amundsen's ship, The Fram, high and dry. On the north side of town, at the famous Holmenkollen ski jump, is the Skimuseet or ski museum. Among Amundsen's Antarctic artifacts on display are a tent, sledge, skis, clothing, provision boxes and a stuffed husky. Far to the north, in Spitsbergen, is a full-sized statue of Amundsen. Also a bust with a plaque commemorating the Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth Norge airship flight over the North Pole in 1926. I expect there are other Amundsen memorials and public art in Norway of which I'm unaware but would be glad to know about. Even Scott has a site of interest in Norway: at Finse, on the Bergen-Oslo rail line, is a rough-hewn granite obelisk near the railroad station that marks Scott's time there training his men and testing equipment prior to his last expedition.

Among the more obscure Antarctic sites is the house on the Baltic island of Saaremaa in Estonia where the great Russian explorer Bellingshausen was born. A large carved stone marker commemorates the site. (To be continued)

SILAS: THE ANTARCTIC DIARIES AND MEMOIR OF CHARLES S. WRIGHT. (Edited by Colin Bull and Pat F. Wright, illustrated by Pat F. Wright. Ohio State University Press, Columbus, Ohio, 1993. \$59.50). This is a handsome book, profusely illustrated with fine works of art (approximately 250) by the subject's daughter, intelligently edited by an erudite, rascally Antartican, and priced out of the layman's market by an optimistic business office. The book contains everything that one needs to know about a distinguished Antarctic scientist, gleaned from the contents of several diaries, journals with field observations and comments, plus a late-in-life memoir. To put these all together so they sound somewhat coherent must have been a herculean task, but Colin Bull and Pat Wright were most successful.

Any biography on any member of the Scott 1910-1913 Expedition is going to either glorify or denigrate Scott, as he was such a worldwide figure that images created of him were more important than the life of the person being portrayed. And in many ways, this is true of SILAS, as you sort of hang on every word that Wright wrote about the person whom he affectionately referred to as "the Owner." Scott has been in a slump in recent years, hastened somewhat by Roland Huntford, but he makes a strong comeback in SILAS, who was a strong supporter of Scott. Amundsen may have won the race to the South Pole, but from all accounts in SILAS, Scott himself may have been much more concerned with besting his tormentor Shackleton's accomplishments. Besides, in Scott's mind, Amundsen really wasn't playing by the Rules of the Game, and was a fraud, not a true rival. However, one has to remember that Silas only went as far as the Upper Glacier Depot with Scott, so he wasn't privy to witnessing Scott's behavior or hear his thoughts on the polar plateau. Silas, himself, realized much sooner than most that Amundsen was definitely going to be first at the Pole. The editors have interjected into the text a play-by-play description of Amundsen's progress, although history has leaked the information that Amundsen beat Scott to the South Pole, so there wasn't much suspense!

Silas was the very first person to see the tip of Scott's tent protruding several

inches above the snow surface, and his detailed account of what happened thereafter is most interesting. One of his conclusions was that Bowers may have been the last to succumb. Actually Scott never died; he just perished in the tent, and lives on eternally. On the other hand, Amundsen won "the race," but lost the battle. In the non-Scandinavian world, Amundsen was not a giant figure, and died somewhat unheralded somewhere in the Arctic. Silas does not say this, but did the man who lost the race actually die with a fortuitous smile on his face?

Silas was not a true diarist, so his accounts may have missing days, may have long catch-ups, but on the whole are well worth reading. The man was truly an outstanding scientist, but he more or less got shackled with being the expedition's glaciologist, for which he had to take on-the-job training to be proficient. He was sort of a sacrificial lamb for the good of the overall expedition, and he ended up doing a great job

How many immortals were there on that expedition? Certainly Captain Scott and Dr. Wilson, and is there a soul among us who would not include Birdie Bowers and Titus Dates? And perhaps a book elevated Apsley Cherry-Garrard to that status. So you have five household names, and it is a well-known fact that a team can only have so many superstars. So perhaps Silas suffered on the publicity end, and is not so well-known as some of his colleagues. But as a pure scientist and as a team player, Silas was truly one of the giants, and this biography is a most worthwhile contribution to Antarctic history.

A diary has pluses and minuses, but certainly reading the news in real time before time sanitizes it makes it more appealing and interesting to the readers. There are also benefits in seeing events and people described in the best of Anglo-Saxon terminology. Silas does not really crucify his fellow men, but it doesn't take too much reading between the lines to ascertain who his good guys are and who he wished might have stayed at home.

I have agonized over whether SILAS is a good title, because, if you weren't a worshipper of Scott, wouldst thou knoweth that this was the nickname of Sir Charles Seymour Wright? To me the bare name of Silas conjures up a retired plow horse living out his life on a farm in northern Vermont. I think if Ohio State had plagiarized on the diary of Tryggve Gran and called this book "The Canadian with Scott," it might arouse more interest in the Antarctic community.

The price of \$59.50 may make some people think twice about buying this book, even though it is handsome and loaded. This is about twice the going price for such great biographies as Scott and Amundsen and Shackleton, and such great books as Reader's Digest's Antarctica and Smithsonian's Wild Ice. If you are one of the big spenders, you can always buy the limited Collector's Edition of SILAS which comes with the real live signatures of both Colin Bull and Pat Wright. Just send a check for \$108 to Colin Bull, Polar Books, P.O. Box 4675, Rolling Bay, WA 98061, and he will send it directly to you, non-stop.

THE DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF ANTARCTIC AND SUBANTARCTIC PENGUINS. (Book review by John Splettstoesser). If you ever wanted to know how many penguins there are in Antarctica, and where they are, you will need this book. It is a successor to a version published in 1983, also by SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research), Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, U.K., but about twice as large. Does that mean the number of penguins has doubled in 10 years? Probably not, but it does mean that updated information, mainly in censusing and in discoveries of new colonies, has improved on the knowledge of the subject immensely. SCAR has been instrumental for many years in promoting and co-ordinating scientific research in Antarctica, sponsoring symposia, and publishing very useful documents for the scientific community. This book is another excellent example. The title page of the book (of 76 pages,

stiff paper covers; gives credit for compilation to the SCAR Bird Biology Subcommittee, and Eric J. Woehler, of the Australian Antarctic Division, for putting the book together, and at the bottom of the title page, assistance is credited to S. Poncet. Those of you who have traveled to the Antarctic Peninsula or the Falkland Islands might know of Sally Poncet and her husband, Jerome, who operate the yacht, DAMIEN II, on cruises in those areas. They also contribute greatly to the censusing of bird populations as they travel, and have published articles in the scientific literature.

This book includes tabulations and maps of eight species of penguins in all of Antarctica and sub-Antarctic islands (can you name all 8 species?). It is an outgrowth of a SCAR recommendation that penguins are likely to be important top consumers in the Antarctic food web, particularly of krill, *Euphausia superba*, and that accurate data on their population sizes were crucial to quantifying their role (from the Introduction). The latest Antarctic field season for which unpublished data are incorporated is 1989-90. A typical tabulation of data for each species consists of a map that shows locations of each known colony, a brief description of background information, and localities by geographic name, latitude, longitude, and populations. The date of bird counts is given, as is the type of count—whether it reflects nests, number of breeding pairs, chicks, total birds, etc. Accuracy of counts is also included. Emperor penguins, for example, now total 195,400 breeding pairs in 42 colonies, including those in six new colonies discovered between 1979 and 1990. It is not difficult to understand how new colonies continue to be discovered, particularly of Emperors, because of their breeding characteristics and habitats—eggs are laid in early winter, and chicks fledge in December. By the time people generally appear for an Antarctic summer, the birds are gone.

Summaries of populations for the eight species are tabulated in the Conclusions of the book, and include Emperors with the lowest total of 195,400 breeding pairs, and macaroni penguins with the highest, at 11,841,600. Sub-Antarctic islands inflate the numbers for some species considerably, but the Adelies, a true Antarctic species, round out at 2,465,800 breeding pairs. Some of you readers have been to Torgersen Island, next to Palmer Station on Anvers Island, and might be aware that the Adelie population there is 8,732 (nest count, in 1983), and as I recall from the 1991-92 season, is slightly less now. Paulet Island, another favorite tourist stop, has 60,000 breeding pairs of Adelie penguins in 13 individual colonies (in 1984), just to whet your appetites. And how about that impressive chinstrap penguin colony at Baily Head on Deception Island, with the beautiful volcanic tuff cliffs on one side and a glacier ice cliff on the other? According to the Poncets, there are 100,000 nests there (rough count) in 1989. To find out the other numbers for all eight species at all localities, order the book, from The Distribution Centre, Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, Herts SG6 1BN, U.K. for just \$16 U.S., which includes airmail postage (or 10 U.K. pounds). I have used the 1983 edition for my trips to the Antarctic Peninsula and elsewhere on tourist ships, and this 1993 version is a real bargain for a lot of useful information. And in case you might have forgotten what some of the penguins look like, there are black-and-white photos of them, something the 1983 edition did not have, as well as a beautiful cover photograph in color of the Emperor penguin colony at the Brunt Ice Shelf. Every tourist ship, and anyone who contemplates seeing penguins in the Antarctic, should order this book before the coming season begins.

If you want help in identifying penguins and other birds in Antarctica, travel with Peter Harrison's wonderful book on "Seabirds: An Identification Guide" (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1983), as well as George Watson's "Birds of the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic." The latter normally sells for \$18, but is now available for \$14.40 from American Geophysical Union, 2000 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009 (or telephone 1-800-966-2481, mention code "AR24", for credit card orders). If it

sounds like I am trying to sell books, I am, because if a geologist like me can get enthusiastic about birds, so can you.

MORE ON MAWSON. (Elizabeth Chipman, author, critic, friend). "The June 1993 issue of Aurora carried an account of the uncertain situation of Sir Douglas Mawson's collection of papers and artefacts. The position then was that the University of Adelaide, where the collection is at present located, was not interested in, or capable of, preserving it. Also the Mitchell Library of NSW had advanced a claim for some of the material. From a follow-up story in the Adelaide Advertiser [daily newspaper] of 17 July 1993 it appears that the Waite Institute of the University of Adelaide is interested in taking over the collection. They propose to house it in restored historic buildings on the Waite campus, for which \$500,000 will be raised. An additional \$250,000 will be raised each year for salaries and cost of exhibitions. There are about 100,000 items in the collection including 20,000 photographs, many by Frank Hurley.

"There are historic associations here as some of the soil and rock samples that Sir Douglas brought back from Antarctica were analyzed at the then Waite Institute of Agricultural Research more than 60 years ago. The Mitchell Library has indicated that it would not pursue its claim on part of the collection if the Waite plan goes ahead."

IN THE WAKE OF SHACKLETON EXPEDITION, 1993-94. (Charles Swithinbank). In January 1994, a small crew will set sail in a modern replica of the James Caird, from Elephant Island in Antarctica, on a re-enactment of Shackleton's 1916 historic boat journey. The replica, named Sir Ernest Shackleton has the same overall dimensions and sailing rig as the James Caird, but there the similarity ends. The replica has been very carefully designed with safety in mind, incorporating watertight bulkheads. This should ensure that in the event of a rollover she will not easily flood. The replica has been built by McNulty Traditional Boatbuilders, of South Shields on the river Tyne.

The aim of the 1994 "In the Wake of Shackleton Expedition" is to follow the same route as Shackleton's original rescue mission from Elephant Island to South Georgia. The expedition will be entirely self-sufficient and unsupported.

The sea crossing of over eight hundred miles will not only be a feat of endurance, but will require exceptional nautical ability to complete successfully. Navigation will be by sextant, using, as closely as possible, the methods of seamanship employed during the original voyage. A Global Positioning System will be carried for extra safety as will an Inmarsat Communications System for daily media updates.

Once on land, the crew will attempt to traverse the glaciers of South Georgia, following Shackleton's route of almost eighty years ago. Previous attempts at this route have often failed due to blizzards and hurricane-force winds that can be encountered.

A HOT SEAT, LIVING INSIDE A VOLCANO, FOR A YEAR. Be sure to mark your calendar NOW for the January 6th meeting with Lt. Gen. Jorge Iturriaga, as there will NOT be a Newsletter in December (Nerve Center on Christmas holiday). The General had a most distinguished Antarctic career, highlighted by being Head of the Presidente Aguirre Cordo on Deception Island, 1967. He lived INSIDE of a volcano until the day it erupted and destroyed the station. Undoubtedly, the General holds the Antarctic record for the 10,000 meter run. He has been active in Antarctica since 1965, and will soon be leaving Washington for another assignment, so we are extremely lucky to have him aboard in early January. Don't miss him!!