

## Scott Polar Research Institute

### M.PHIL. (one-year course) IN POLAR STUDIES

A series of seminars on a wide range of polar topics (environment, history, peoples, development, resources, administration), and addressed by many outside specialists, are held at the Scott Polar Research Institute in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms for those taking the M.Phil. in Polar Studies. Other graduate students who wish to attend any of these seminars should get in touch with the Course Director at the Institute, who will provide full details.

### ANTHROPOLOGY AND RUSSIAN NORTHERN STUDIES GROUP

The Group's regular graduate seminar covers a wide range of topics, often with visiting speakers from Russia and elsewhere. The Group also runs specialist seminars covering the following topics: Reindeer herding; Oil, gas and society; Shamanism, spirits and environment; Therapy and the family in Russia; Governance and indigenous rights in the North. For details please contact Dr Piers Vitebsky on pv100@cam.ac.uk

### PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Michaelmas Term 2005

*Saturday 15 October 2005 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)*

#### **Nobu Shirase's Antarctic Expedition, 1910–12**

Hilary Shibata

This lecture corresponds with the launch of a new book, the English version of the first Japanese Antarctic expedition (translation coordinated by the speaker). Lieutenant Nobu Shirase reached Antarctica during the 1910–11 and the 1911–12 summers aboard *Kainan-maru* with a complement of 27. Shirase and Roald Amundsen's expeditions met in the Bay of Whales in January 1912, to mutual astonishment. Still photographs and ciné film were taken which will be shown during the lecture. Previously only two brief accounts of the Expedition were available in English. The book, originally published in Tokyo in 1913, is another in the series of translations of voyages of the Heroic Era of Antarctic exploration.

*Saturday 29 October 2005 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)*

#### **Herbert Ponting, Antarctic Camera Artist**

Bob Headland

Herbert Ponting was a still and ciné photographer for the first year of Captain Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition (1910–13). Ponting preferred the term 'camera artist'. Early in 2005 his glass negatives from the expedition were acquired by the Scott Polar Research Institute with most of the purchase price being provided by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The lecture will describe Ponting's photographic techniques as applied in the Antarctic, and demonstrate the results achieved. Lucy Martin, who manages the picture collection, will be present to answer questions on this part of the Institute's activities. At the conclusion of the lecture a Special Exhibition of Ponting's photographs will be open in the Institute's museum.

*Saturday 12 November 2005 at 17:00 (doors open at 16:30)*

#### **Antarctic Sites *Outside* the Antarctic: Memorials, Statues, Houses, Graves and the Occasional Pub**

Robert Stephenson

The lecturer has spent much time searching for, assiduously investigating, and recording the vast, and diverse, amount of memorials and other sites associated with those who have worked in the south polar regions. This has taken him to all continents and occupied many years of careful investigation (including a large amount of 'detective work'). Some of the sites, of almost 1000 he has listed, are well known, while others may be obscure, bizarre, or whimsical. Some are worth seeing and many worth going to see (he feels Tom Crean's pub, *The South Pole Inn*, is worth repeated visits), and many intriguing mysteries remain to be solved.

*The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute, for members only, will follow the lecture (applications to join will be accepted until the meeting begins). All are welcome to purchase tickets in advance to attend a reception after the meeting (price £12.50).*

*Saturday 26 November 2005 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)*

#### **The Forbidden Plateau, British Army Expedition, 2004**

Richard Pattison

The lecturer led a British Army expedition across the long narrow snow-covered plateau extending from Charlotte Bay to Flanders Bay, about 64.5°S on the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula during the 2004–05 austral summer. The region was identified by the Falkland Islands Aerial Survey Expedition of 1956–57 but has had few subsequent visits (hence the distinctive name). Richard Pattison has previously spoken at the Institute when he described the British Army mountaineering and surveying expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula in 2003.

As well as the public lecture series the Friends of the Institute will present a Special Performance by Aidan Dooley of *Tom Crean Antarctic Explorer* on 1 October 2005 at 19:30. This one-man representation of Tom Crean's participation in expeditions led by Scott and Shackleton, has received very favourable reviews at presentations in Britain and Ireland. Tickets are £17.50, which include refreshments during the interval.

**PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES (continued)**

Lent Term 2006 (preliminary list)

*Saturday 11 February 2006 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)***The Crossing of Antarctica**

Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1955–58)

This film, made in technicolour, shows the first crossing of the Antarctic continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. Led by Dr Vivian Fuchs, with members from Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa, the expedition established bases at the southern extents of the Weddell Sea ('Shackleton') in February 1956, and the Ross Sea ('Scott Base') in January 1957. From 24 November 1957 to 2 March 1958 the crossing was made reaching the South Pole on 20 January 1958. Peter Fuchs, son of Sir Vivian Fuchs, will introduce the film.

*Saturday 25 February 2006 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)***Shackleton and Elephant Island**

Jan Piggott

The lecturer is the Keeper of Archives of Dulwich College, London (Sir Ernest Shackleton's school) The narrative of the *Endurance*, beset and sunk, of the ordeals of the men on the ice and in the boats to Elephant Island is now well known, as is Shackleton's journey in *James Caird* to South Georgia to save his men, but how did the 22 men cope meanwhile, marooned on Elephant Island from 15 April to 30 August 1916 Frank Wild remained in charge saving them from starvation and despair. Their morale, in the face of extreme exposure to the elements, the ingenuity of their devices for survival, their diet, conversation and entertainments all reveal heroic qualities of Shackletonian endurance.

*Saturday 11 March 2006 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)***Sir James Wordie: Polar Crusader**

Michael Smith

Sir James Wordie, as a geologist, was a member of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton, whose early Antarctic experiences included being marooned on Elephant Island. Thus began a distinguished polar career. Wordie achieved prominence in the *Discovery* Committee, Royal Geographical Society, Scott Polar Research Institute, British Mountaineering Council, Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, St John's College, British National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, and several other organizations. Thus Sir James became a link between the 'Heroic Age' of exploration and recent times. The lecturer wrote the first biography of Sir James Wordie, with the endorsement of his family.

*Saturday 25 March 2006 at 20:00 (doors open 19:30)***The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research**

Peter Clarkson

The lecturer is the recently retired Executive Secretary of the senior non-governmental organization involved with all branches of Antarctic scientific research. He began his career as a geologist with the British Antarctic Survey where a vast practical experience of, and enthusiasm for, Antarctic regions developed. From 1989, when he was appointed to SCAR, he has been involved in its deliberations and the many scientific programmes. As well as the science, many of the legal and diplomatic aspects, which are the provenance of the Antarctic Treaty, are also concerned because SCAR advises the Treaty. With over 15 years of experience in international meetings the lecturer will deliver a selection of anecdotes, confessions, and observations.

*Saturday 29 April 2006 at 19:00 (doors open 18:30)***To the Ends of the Earth**

Sir Ran Fiennes

The Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute was founded on 27 April 1946. Sir Ranulph will speak on his Antarctic and Antarctic exploration and adventures to commemorate this event. He has travelled by surface to both poles, made several other polar traverses encountering, and surviving, perilous situations, which he will describe. His recent biography of Captain Scott is a profound contribution to the understanding of the explorer, in particular exploration in general. Following the lecture there will be an opportunity to meet the speaker at a reception. Tickets (including the reception) are £12.50 each and should be purchased in advance from the *The Friends Secretary* addressed at the Institute.

The lectures are in the Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, CB2 1ER (telephone 01223 336540). They are open to all who are interested and are free except for the special one on 29 April. Seats may be reserved, on request, for Friends of the Institute. The Institute opens half an hour before lectures begin. Please arrive in time because lectures may involve use of projectors, which require theatre lights to be dimmed. For safety reasons (as well as for the benefit of the lecturer and audience) anyone arriving after the theatre is darkened may not be admitted. The Friends serve light refreshments after the lectures. The next Public Lectures are expected to be on 14 and 28 October, 11 and 25 November 2006.

Car parking in the Institute's grounds is sometimes inadequate for the number of cars used by those attending lectures. Owing to fire brigade regulations (our neighbour, the Department of Chemistry, is regarded as particularly hazardous) visitors are requested not to park other than in the designated spaces. The entrances and escapes, and access for the fire brigade, must not be obstructed. There is a multi-storey car park about 400 m west of the Institute and local street parking is usually easy on Saturday evenings.