

OBITUARY

WILLIAM L. BAKEWELL, one of the few remaining survivors of Sir Ernest Shackleton's British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914-16, died in Marquette, Michigan, on 21 May 1969 at the age of 80.

He was born in Illinois, on 26 November 1888, and ran away from home at the age of twelve, working as a lumberjack, then as a sailor, until he found himself shipwrecked in Montevideo when Shackleton's *Endurance* put in on her way to the Weddell Sea in 1914. He was engaged to help loading the ship while in harbour, but was considered too young to join the expedition. However, he stowed away and remained hidden for some days at sea before being discovered and finally allowed to join the crew.

In later years he was a sheep farmer in Dukes, Michigan.

BERNHARD BROCKAMP died on 20 December 1968 after a long illness. He was born in Osnabrück on 18 October 1902 and graduated from the "Carolinum" there. After studying geophysics, geology, physics and mathematics at the universities of Münster and Göttingen, he became, in 1926, assistant to Professor E. Wiechert at the Geophysical Institute in Göttingen. While a student he had done seismic work on Pasterzegletscher in Austria and he received his doctoral degree in 1930 for a thesis on seismic problems of quarry shots. His experience with Wegener's Greenland Expedition, 1930-31, stimulated his interest in the exploration of ice sheets. From that time, he worked towards another scientific expedition to explore the Greenland ice sheet. Because Greenland is a part of Denmark, it seems to have been more than mere chance that led him to work for several years in København with Professor Nørlund of the Geodetisk Institut on seismic and gravimetric problems.

Later, he served as Vice-President of the newly founded Reichsamts für Bodenforschung and worked on many problems of applied geophysics. Several publications show his success in analysing the structure of the earth's crust in northern Germany. His attempts to apply geophysics in solving problems of the earth's crust helped to establish Gesellschaft für Praktische Lagerstättenforschung (PRAKLA) of which he was scientific director for several years.

After the Second World War, Brockamp was Professor of Geophysics and Director of the Institut für Reine und Angewandte Geophysik of the University of Münster, a position that enabled him to accomplish his great ambition by inspiring his friends to re-establish active German polar research work. He was co-founder of the International Glaciological Greenland Expedition (EGIG), and in 1959 himself directed geophysical work on the Greenland ice sheet. His health prevented his active participation in the 1967-68 expedition, but he accompanied his friends to Greenland and reluctantly returned home after a short stay there.

In 1967 he accepted an invitation from the United States National Science Foundation to observe scientific work in the Antarctic. He hoped to organize a German expedition to Antarctica, but he was unable to realize that plan.

Looking back on Professor Brockamp's life, we feel that his first researches never lost their influence on his thinking, for he continued to attack problems related to the properties of inland ice sheets, and other problems of the structure of the earth's crust, by means of modern seismic exploration. He advanced knowledge by the use of new techniques and discovered new connections among the many fields of geophysics.

We have lost a teacher and a friend.

F. Thyssen.

GEORGIY FRANTSEVICH DEBETS, the Soviet physical anthropologist and archaeologist, died on 19 January 1969. He was born at Tomsk on 5 December 1905. At the university at Irkutsk, he became a pupil of B. E. Petri. He worked much in southern Siberia, but in 1939 and 1941 he worked on the middle Ob' with Khanty, Sel'kup and Ket materials; and in 1945-47 he was a leading member of the north-eastern expedition organized by the Institute of Ethnography of the Academy of Sciences [Institut Etnografii AN SSSR], and studied the history of the Chukchi, Eskimo, Koryak, Lamut, Tungus, and other peoples.

His major work on northern materials, "Anthropological studies in Kamchatskaya Oblast", was published as Tom 17 of *Trudy Instituta Etnografii* in 1951.

DON CHARLES FOOTE died at Fairbanks, Alaska, on 1 March 1969, after an automobile accident. He was born in New York on 13 April 1931, but grew up in rural New Hampshire. At Dartmouth College, his interest in the Arctic was strengthened by friendship with the late Vilhjalmur Stefansson. After service in the United States Army, he studied in Norway and, in 1957, he became a graduate student in geography at McGill University, Montreal. In 1959, he interrupted his graduate course to undertake a three-year programme of human ecological studies, based at Point Hope, Alaska, for the United States Atomic Energy Commission. He spent a fourth year at Point Hope on his own account to continue his study of Eskimo history and ecology, the subject of his doctoral thesis in 1965. He joined the teaching staff of McGill University in 1963 and was soon promoted Associate Professor. He was an inspiring teacher and his courses were popular. At the time of his accident, he was on sabbatical leave to continue his Arctic researches at the University of Alaska.

Through personal experience, he had gained a thorough understanding of Eskimo techniques of living and travel. The data he collected in field research were extensive and his approach to their organization original. He had become increasingly interested in analysing by computer the variables of Eskimo subsistence economy and related problems. His books, field notes, and personal papers have been given to the University of Alaska. He left a wife, the Norwegian artist, Berit Arnistad Foote, and a son, Paul, both of whom had shared his Arctic life.

Don Foote's lively interests and his sympathetic understanding of others made everyone who knew him value his acquaintance. His warm smile and the laughter that came to him so easily gave him a kind of radiance, and his friends find the world a darker place without him. Alan Cooke.

E. J. SLIJPER, well known for his comprehensive studies of the Cetacea, died at the age of 61 on 16 December 1968. He was born at Bolsward, The Netherlands, on 7 November 1907, and studied at the State University of Utrecht, where he later held appointments in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. From 1949 to 1951 he was in Java, where he held the chair of anatomy, histology and embryology in the veterinary faculty of the University of Indonesia. From 1951 onwards, he was Professor of General Zoology in the University of Amsterdam.

Slijper was a man of great learning in the field of mammalian anatomy and physiology and had a special interest in reproduction. He made a particular study of the Cetacea. His *Die Cetaceen, vergleichend anatomisch und systematisch*, published in 1936, was a substantial item among his many publications. In 1946-47, he sailed in the Dutch whaler, *Willem Barendsz*, to study the whales taken, and from 1952 onwards he regularly attended meetings of the International Whaling Commission.

He was an able linguist and an unusually gifted speaker and writer. To hear him address a meeting was always instructive and entertaining. He could speak in fluent English at high speed and without notes, but his audience would not miss a word and his explanations were always crystal-clear. His book *Walviszen*, published in 1958 in Dutch and as *Whales* in 1962 in English, was the culmination of much of his work. It is the most comprehensive text available on the general biology of all the Cetacea. The chapters on physiology, anatomy and behaviour are especially valuable to the professional biologist, yet they are written with such clarity that the general reader can follow them easily. Slijper's engaging style of writing makes exceptionally good reading, but it must be said that his exuberance sometimes led him to doubtful assumptions and to questionable attributions of original sources. Those of us working in his field have much reason to be grateful for this book. Whenever it is necessary to find out what is known of the biology of any cetacean, the words, "Let's see what Slijper has to say about it" are usually heard, and we are seldom unrewarded.

He came to be well known at meetings of the International Whaling Commission's scientific committees, and his contributions were always informative and sometimes healthily provocative. He relished a stimulating argument and would occasionally hold firmly to his own view against a majority. The phrase "Dr Slijper dissenting" appeared more than once in reports of the committees and gave rise to a little banter, to which he was well able to respond. He always made his colleagues think and he was a good friend to all of them. His mere presence created an atmosphere of good humour. N. A. Mackintosh