

was rejected by the school on grounds of propriety and later donated by Lady Kennett to the Scott Polar Research Institute, on the opening of the Lensfield Road building. Lawrence became Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University 1944–51 and a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. (Sources: Dr. Colin Bertram, SPRI archives.)

**ENDERBY ISLAND CATTLE.** Shorthorn cattle released during the 1890s on Enderby Island, in the Auckland Islands, south of New Zealand, are scheduled for extermination so that the island can be managed for its native flora and fauna. Having remained virtually untouched since their introduction during an attempt to farm the islands (which have for long been uninhabited), the cattle have not been subject to modern management techniques or calving care, and represent a stock dating from before the era of intensive artificial selection. The Rare Breeds Conservation Society of New Zealand has despatched three observers (an expert in embryo transfer, a taxidermist and a farmer)

to collect reproductive material and other information needed to reconstruct a picture of how the cattle have survived so long on their own. (Source: Kim King, *Mammals Society Newsletter* 85, Spring 1991.)

**CANADIAN CIRCUMPOLAR INSTITUTE.** The Boreal Institute of the University of Alberta has been closed for financial reasons. In its place the University has set up a new unit, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute. The Director will be Prof Clifford Hickley, an anthropologist, who will also have the position of Northern Research Coordinator. There will be a Development Officer to raise outside funds, and a Research Secretary. The excellent library of the Boreal Institute, now called the Canadian Circumpolar Library, will be incorporated as a separate collection in the University Library. The new institute will have no premises of its own, but offices will be made available to the Coordinator, Development Officer and Research Secretary. (Sources: Vice-President Research, University of Alberta; Terence Armstrong.)

---

## Obituary

**Charles Sutherland Elton** FRS, ecologist, died on 1 May 1991, aged 91. Elton read zoology at New College, Oxford, graduating with first class honours in 1922. His interest in natural history had already been stimulated by participation as ecologist in F. C. R. Jourdain's 1921 Oxford University expedition to West Spitsbergen. On that expedition Elton clearly impressed George Binney, who in planning his own parties was interested, not in narrow specialists, but in scientists with broad interests whose contribution to expeditions would be '... a network of common interests and a constant interchange of ideas and theories'. Binney appointed Elton chief scientist on the Merton College (Oxford) Expedition to North East Land in 1923 and the larger and more ambitious Oxford University Arctic Expedition to North East Land of 1924. His early exposure to the relatively simple ecosystems of the Arctic stimulated in Elton a life-long interest in plant and animal relationships, reflected initially in his early research papers and his first book *Animal ecology* (1927). Elton returned to the Arctic with a scientific expedition to Lapland in 1930, involving himself in breeding cycles of small tundra mammals and their inter-relationships with food and predators. These questions intrigued him for the rest of his life.

In 1932 Elton founded both the Oxford University Bureau of Animal Population (of which he remained director until retirement in 1967) and the *Journal of Ecology*, which he edited until 1951. Throughout the 1930s he studied population cycling in rodents and other small mammals, work that acquired national importance in World War II when pest control measures were

urgently needed. *Voles, mice and lemmings*, a second ecological 'classic', was published in 1942. In the post-war years Elton developed coordinated ecological studies in Wytham Wood, close to Oxford, writing papers and books which firmly established his reputation as a leading ecologist of world stature. He travelled widely, but was also involved in nature conservation in Britain, helping to form the Nature Conservancy in 1948 and remaining on its scientific policy committee until 1956. A shy man, he will be remembered particularly by graduate students and colleagues in the Bureau of Animal Population and Edward Grey Institute, Oxford, for whom he was always a source of clear thinking, out-of-the-way information and wry humour.

Bernard Stonehouse

**Richard Alexander Hamilton**, a distinguished Arctic physicist and meteorologist, died on 17 March 1991. Born in 1912 and educated at Clifton College, Hamilton gained first class honours in mathematics and physics at New College, Oxford. His first Arctic experience was gained in Nordaustlandet, Svalbard, as physicist to the 1935–36 Oxford Expedition to North East Land. In this he took charge of meteorological observations and investigated the ionosphere, using high-frequency radio soundings. His work was to prove seminal to later studies which led to the development of war-time radar, and provided data of great importance in planning radio transmissions over the poles. He also investigated the ozone layer, providing some of the earliest Arctic records, and assisted in topographical surveys. Hamilton spent the following year as

a surveyor with the British Arctic Expedition to North-west Greenland and Ellesmere Island. A thoughtful and considerate expedition colleague, Hamilton was the perfect sledging partner. In Thule, Greenland, he endeared himself to the Danes, in particular to 'Musse' Rasmussen, governess to the Governor's children, who later became his wife.

From 1939 onward he was a professional meteorologist, serving for three years (1939–42) with the West African Meteorological Service and thereafter with the British Meteorological Office. In 1952 he took leave to become chief scientist and deputy leader of the British North Greenland Expedition, working in the mountains of Dronning Louiseland on meteorological and ice-cap studies. For this work he was appointed OBE and received a bar to his Polar Medal. In his final years with the Meteorological Office he was Assistant Director in charge of the High Atmosphere Research Group. Retiring in 1972, Hamilton worked for four years with British Antarctic Survey, recalibrating ozone measurements and laying the foundations for Dr Joe Farman's discovery of the ozone hole. He also analyzed geomagnetic records of the Geological Survey.

John Wright

Sir Alexander Glen writes:

It seems unbelievable that nearly 60 years has passed since I first met Richard before our North East Land Expedition 1935–36. I remember so well his family house at Jordans, quiet, welcoming, reassuring. His quality as a scientist was evident enough to convince the future Sir Edward Appleton and Sir Robert Watson Watt of his ability to take charge, with 'Brownie' Whatman, of the important ionosphere programme, the first major chapter in his distinguished scientific career in the Arctic and elsewhere.

But there is much more. Already evident was a highly unusual human being, quiet but perceptive, of true goodness, kind to animals and men and if necessary decisive with an influence and command that none would question. Others have likened him to Edward Wilson and I agree; but Wilson was the product of a God-fearing time, whereas Richard lived in a more complex age which makes him all the more outstanding.

Cdr J. Simpson writes:

Richard's death is greatly regretted by all the members of the British North Greenland Expedition. Twenty of us and our wives recently reunited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the launching of the expedition. All were loud in their affectionate praise of Richard's sterling Scottish qualities, and of regret that he and 'Musse' could not attend. Richard was a polar scientist of wide experience and ability whose great integrity and never-failing helpfulness and common sense were readily available to all. He was one of the few members with previous experience of driving the sledge dogs on which we depended so much,

and his advice when others were learning how to persuade those infuriating, lovable creatures to go in the right direction was invaluable. Whether locked in the cramped interior of a sledging tent during a blizzard, or in the close atmosphere of the base hut during the two-months-long polar night, Richard's company was always welcomed by us all, and particularly by me to whom, as expedition leader, he gave such loyal and invaluable support.

**Professor Rudolf Ferdinandovich Its**, Director of the Leningrad Institute of Ethnography, died in July 1990. He was a kind man who found it hard to say no, and against the advice of friends had made the exhausting journey from Leningrad to Vladivostok to examine a thesis, where he died of a heart attack. Rudolf Ferdinandovich began his career studying the peoples of southern China, and later became a leading godfather to generations of specialists in Soviet northern peoples, leading many student expeditions there himself. Widely known as 'Uncle Its', he also befriended northern students who came to study in the big city of Leningrad, and will be greatly missed by them. He also helped those very few British and American scholars who over the past 30 years have braved the administrative and personal obstacles to working in Siberia. He will be remembered in Britain for his colourful visit to the Scott Polar Research Institute in the summer of 1989, though his health was then already failing.

Piers Vitebsky

**Richard (Dick) Jordan** died in January 1991 at the age of 44, while shovelling an exceptionally heavy fall of snow at his Alaskan home. Recently moved from Bryn Mawr to Fairbanks, he was widely respected for his archaeological studies on Kodiak Island, where he worked on the Koniag culture of the period immediately before and during Russian contact. Dick worked tirelessly towards the exchange of exhibitions between the USA and USSR. His work for native causes is exemplified by his testimony to the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He was well liked by colleagues and will be sorely missed in many circles.

Piers Vitebsky

**Cdr David Penfold DSC RN (Ret.)**, who died on 20 April 1991, commanded the first naval hydrography unit to work in Antarctica after World War II. Born in 1913, he qualified as a Royal Naval hydrographic surveyor in 1938. He served in survey ships throughout the war, receiving the DSC in 1945 for planning and survey work during the Burma/Malaya campaign. In 1948–49 he led a small party which surveyed Deception Island, South Shetland Islands, and in 1952 made a similar survey of Port Lockroy, Wiencke Island, off the Graham Land coast. In 1967 he retired from active service and for nine years served as Superintendent of Notices to Mariners at the Hydrographic Office, Ministry of Defence. His Antarctic work is commemorated in Penfold Point, Deception Island.