

## MICK BURKE AWARD FOR AMATEUR EXPEDITION FILMS

The BBC and Royal Geographical Society are inviting applications from expeditions for their bi-annual award of the Mick Burke Trophy; named after the BBC cameraman who lost his life while filming on Mount Everest, the award encourages 'exciting expedition films to be made in remote parts of the world'. Up to six expeditions are selected. Each team is equipped with cameras, film, cassette recorders and microphones, and instructed in their use. The resulting films are edited, judged, and ultimately shown on BBC-2. Rules, application forms and background notes are available from the Documentary Features Department of the BBC.

## NORWEGIAN-SOVIET BORDER RENEGOTIATION

The slow southward shifting of the Jacob river, on the border between Norway and the USSR, has necessitated the formation of a border commission to realign the frontier. The river, up to 700 m across close to its estuary on the Barents Sea, has formed the international border since 1826. The commission, which is expected to negotiate for two years, may transfer sovereignty of some of the small islands in the channel from Norway to the USSR, in compensation for land lost by erosion from the Soviet bank.

## CCAMLR

The permanent secretariat of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (*Polar Record* 20 (127): 353–62 and 383–95 (1981)) has now been established in Hobart, Tasmania. Its purpose will be to organize the annual meetings of the CCAMLR commission (which is chaired by Australia for the next three years) and of the commission's Scientific Committee; the secretariat will also form a data centre for research and fishing information from the 15 nations making up the commission. Dr Derry Powell is the newly-appointed executive secretary.

## Obituary

Academician **ALEKSEY PAVLOVICH OKLADNIKOV**, the archaeologist, died on 18 November 1981, aged 73. He was born the son of a village teacher on the upper Lena, and he devoted his life to the study of early man in Siberia. He worked first in institutes in Irkutsk and Leningrad, and in 1961 joined the newly formed Siberian Division of the Academy of Sciences at Novosibirsk. Here he was head of the humanities section of the Institute of Economics [Institut Ekonomiki] until that section became the independent Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy [Institut Istorii, Filologii i Filosofii], when he became its director and remained so until his death.

His field work was very extensive, and covered many widely separated localities. Much of it was in southern Siberia, the Soviet Far East, Outer Mongolia, and Soviet Central Asia. But in the north he made a special study of Yakutia. Among his many publications on this part of the country were the three volumes of *Lenskiye drevnosti* [*Lena antiquities*] (Yakutsk 1945; Yakutsk 1946; Moscow and Leningrad 1950). He concerned himself particularly with the origin of the Yakut people, and published this research in *Istoriya Yakutii, Tom 1* [*History of Yakutia, Vol 1*] (Yakutsk 1949). A second edition was entitled *Yakutiya do prisoyedineniya k russkomu gosudarstvu* [*Yakutia before its incorporation into the Russian state*] (Moscow, Leningrad 1955), of which an English edition was published under the editorship of H. N. Michael (Montreal 1970). He was active in securing the preservation of the 17th century wooden church at Zashiversk on the upper Indigirka. A particular interest of his was the study of rock inscriptions, and among several volumes he published on this subject were *Lenskiye pisanitsy*

[*Lena rock drawings*] (Moscow, Leningrad 1959), *Petroglify sredney Leny* [*Petroglyphs of the middle Lena*] (Leningrad 1972), and *Pisanitsy basseyna reki Aldana* [*Rock drawings of the Aldan river basin*] (Novosibirsk 1979)—the last two as joint author.

Another northern venture was his collaboration from 1974 for several seasons with an American team headed by W. S. Laughlin. This led to his *Po Alyaske i Aleuskim ostrovam* [*In Alaska and the Aleutian Islands*] (Novosibirsk 1976).

His published output was vast, numbering over a thousand items. This includes a substantial amount of popular writing in newspapers and magazines, but mention should be made of two general works which he edited: the five-volume *Istoriya Sibiri* [*History of Siberia*] (Leningrad 1968–69), and *Akademiya Nauk i Sibir' 1917–1957* [*The Academy of Sciences and Siberia, 1917–57*] (Novosibirsk 1977).

He received many awards, including three Orders of Lenin and the appellation Hero of the Soviet Union. He was indeed a towering figure in Soviet scholarship.

Terence Armstrong

**MARY C. LOBBAN**, who was Professor of Environmental Physiology, Memorial University of Newfoundland since 1978, died there on 14 June 1982 after a long illness. Dr Lobban was earlier associated with the National Institute for Medical Research (Hampstead Laboratories) and earlier still with the Physiological Laboratory, University of Cambridge. With Dr Peter Lewis she was responsible for setting up experiments to obtain data on diurnal rhythms, by collecting urine samples at Brucebyen, Spitsbergen from a number of subjects placed on either 21 or 27 hour diurnal regimes. These Cambridge Physiological Expeditions of the 1950s, partly financed by the Medical Research Council, were reported in this journal. The results appeared in papers by Lewis and Lobban in the *Journal of Physiology* (1956) and the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Physiology* (1957). Dr Lobban reported subsequent research on daily rhythms of renal excretion in Arctic peoples in the latter journal (1967) and on diurnal rhythms at the Equator in the former (1969). A review by Dr Lobban of work on circadian rhythms of renal excretion in human subjects at different latitudes appeared in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Research* (1971). As one of the 'guinea-pigs' during Mary Lobban's 1955 Spitsbergen expedition, I was impressed by the vision and determination which brought some dozen subjects to live under a strict regime in the isolation of Bruce's old huts, in sight of the magnificence of the Nordenskiöldbreen and its surrounding hills. Mary Lobban was very conscious that she was leading an expedition in the tradition of Scott and Shackleton, not merely organizing an experiment. One can picture a short stocky figure in windproofs crowned by a bright blue woolly hat, on board ship or resolutely man-hauling supplies over the bay ice towards Brucebyen. There was a dogged, indomitable quality about her; it is sad to see that spirit quenched so soon after the start of her work in the new world.

Ann Savours

*Dr Gordon J. Johnson writes:*

At Memorial University Mary was teaching human physiology for science students and nephrology to the medical students. At the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax she investigated the effect on the renal circadian rhythms of nurses changing over from eight hour to 12 hour shifts. For five months in early 1980 Mary returned to Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen to compare the adjustment to the shift working schedule under new and altered conditions with those in effect during her previous visit there in 1961–63. She had also begun a three year project funded by the Department of Health and Welfare to investigate the renal circadian rhythms of Inuit, Indians and white settlers in Labrador. Were the settlers as well adapted to the conditions as the native people? This is an Arctic environment in terms of temperature, but not in terms of seasonal light–dark alternations.

In May 1981 she sustained a cerebro-vascular accident and had been in poor health since then. Nevertheless, she was determined to attend the Fifth International Symposium on Circumpolar Health in August that year. She continued to be concerned to arouse people's interest in northern medicine. Her ashes were taken to the Canadian high Arctic by the Canadian Coastguard, where together with Spitsbergen the happiest times of her life had been spent.

**LINSLEY GRESSITT**, the distinguished American entomologist with polar interests, died in an aircraft crash in southern China on 26 April 1982; his wife Margaret was also killed. Joining the staff of Bishop Museum, Honolulu in 1953, Dr Gressitt travelled widely throughout the Pacific area in quest of insects; his journeys took him to both polar regions and inspired a remarkable series of research papers on insect biogeography, covering localities as far apart as Alaska and Ross Island, Antarctica. Polar biologists will remember him especially for his studies of Antarctic and southern island insect faunas.

**IVAN ALEKSANDROVICH MAN**, one of the best-known ice navigators in the Soviet merchant marine, died in June 1982, aged 78. His first voyage to the Arctic was in 1932, as a member of the Special North-eastern Polar Expedition which sailed to the mouth of the Kolyma. Best known as captain of the ice-strengthened freighter *Ob'*, he commanded her on her first voyage to the Antarctic in 1955, when she formed part of the First Soviet Antarctic Expedition, and on many of her later voyages there.

Terence Armstrong