



Polar Libraries Bulletin

ISSN 1049-7765

Issue No. 50-51

Fall 2001--Spring 2002

A PASSION FOR THE ANTARCTIC

by Robert B. Stephenson

[Eds. note: Subscribers to POLLIB-L will remember Rob's contributions from his "Low-Latitude" sites collection. His ANTARCTIC CIRCLE web site is a major source of humanities information of Antarctica.]

Rob Stephenson, designer and producer of THE ANTARCTIC CIRCLE web site, was a city planner in his "other" life. When asked by the BULLETIN editors if he still did this work, he replied: "I'm not retired, although I'm not doing anything much, with planning or preservation these days and not a lot else that pays money but I do odds and ends so retired is not how I see things." Rob's contributions to the Polar world are so substantial, we hope he never retires!

Sometimes I'm asked how I got interested in the Antarctic. The Worst Journey in the World is the short answer. This classic, never-out-of-print Antarctic book by Apsley Cherry-Garrard has probably led more than one person to a state of Antarctic obsession. I encountered it while a student at Dartmouth College in the early 1960s.

Later, while working for Columbia University, I would haunt the old Fourth Avenue second-hand book district, picking up the occasional Antarctic book. Over the years the collection has grown and expanded to include art, sculpture, music, stamps, medals, artifacts and other odds and ends. All told, there are 1588 items crammed into my house in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

Being a city planner I saw little chance of getting to Antarctica other than by going as a tourist, so I began collecting sites of Antarctic interest outside of the Antarctic, a form of affordable vicarious polar exploration. While travelling I found I was coming upon, often by accident, a plaque

or statue or house that had some Antarctic connection, my first being 56 Oakley Street in London where Captain Scott lived following his return from the Discovery expedition.

I started jotting notes, clipping articles and taking photographs, all thrown into a carton. Eventually, the situation cried out for organization and with the advent of the home computer I developed a data-

base which I call "A Low-Latitude Antarctic Gazetteer." The individual listed sites now number 630. Some of these appeared in 1993-94 in three issues of the newsletter of 'The Antarctic Society' (Vol. 93-94, Nos 3-5) and later in pamphlet form. Many were posted as short 'episodes' to the Pollib-I, the Polar Libraries Colloquy listserv, between March 1996 and February 1999. These episodes-71 in all-were later included in my personal webpage beginning in October 1996.

The Gazetteer is now one ingredient



Continued on page 8

PLC STEERING COMMITTEE

Julia Finn
Chair
Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
finnj@inac.gc.ca

David Walton
Chair Elect
British Antarctic Survey
d.walton@bas.ac.uk

William Mills
Secretary-Treasurer
Scott Polar Research Institute
wjm13@cam.ac.uk

Maija Koponen
Rovaniemi Polytechnic Library
maija.koponen@ramk.fi

Phil Cronenwett
Dartmouth College Library
PNC@dartmouth.edu

Berit Jakobsen
Librarian
Univ. Courses on Svalbaard (UNIS)
berit@unis.no

Dennis Stephens
Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks
dennis.stephens@uaf.edu

Cathie Innes-Taylor
Univ. of Alaska Anchorage
Ex officio member
(Newsletter Editor)
ancei@uaa.alaska.edu

Nancy Lesh
Univ. of Alaska Anchorage
Ex officio Member
(Newsletter Editor)
afnl@uaa.alaska.edu

Vibeke Sloth Jacobsen
Danish Polar Center
Ex officio Member
Coordinator of 19th Polar
Colloquy in 2002
vsj@dpc.dk

FROM THE CHAIR...

by Julia Finn
Chair, PLC
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Preparations are well under way for the 19th Polar Libraries Colloquy, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 17th to 21st, 2002. The theme of the Conference will be **POLES APART - POLES ONLINE**. Vibeke Sloth Jacobsen, of the Danish Polar Center, and her committee are busy initializing plans. The conference information was mailed in January and is also available on the Web at <http://www.dpc.dk/plc>

Look also in this issue for advance information on the invitations(s) being prepared for hosting the 20th Polar Libraries Colloquy in 2004. Invitations will be presented at our business meeting in Copenhagen, and the final selection will be put to a vote at the meeting.

Congratulations to the new editors of the **POLAR LIBRARIES BULLETIN**, Cathie Innes-Taylor and Nancy Lesh, who put out their first issue the summer of 2001. ▲

FROM THE EDITORS

We are excited to have in this issue an article by Rob Stephenson on his Antarctic interests, and Garth Graham's thoughtful article on his career commitment to international information science. We hope you will enjoy both of these, as well as the other columns.

Colloquy in Copenhagen will be here before we know it, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. As editors we are seeking your suggestions and ideas for future issues—either in person or at Colloquy or via mail or e-mail. We also hope that a number of you will volunteer to be "reporters" from your area to keep us alert to news and potential articles from all over the Polar world.

Polar Libraries Bulletin

Issue 50-52, Winter 2002--Spring 2002

Formerly entitled *Northern Libraries Bulletin*, this *Bulletin* reflects the name change of the Northern Libraries Colloquy to Polar Libraries Colloquy which was approved at the June 1988 biennial meeting.

Editors: Nancy Lesh and Cathie Innes-Taylor
Production Editor: Loretta Andress

Published at least twice yearly in the Fall and Spring. Members of Polar Libraries Colloquy receive the *Bulletin* as part of their membership. Personal dues are 5.00 pounds sterling or US \$8.50 per year. Institutional dues are the same. Please send dues to William Mills, Sec./Treasurer PLC, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Rd., Cambridge CB2 1ER, United Kingdom.

Please send news items to either Nancy Lesh or Cathie Innes-Taylor, c/o UAA Consortium Library, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508.
Telephone: Lesh: (907) 786-1877; Innes-Taylor: (907) 786-1875
Email: Lesh: afnl@uaa.alaska.edu
Innes-Taylor: ancei@uaa.alaska.edu
PLC Listserve: POLLIB-L

TRAVELING TOWARD SYSTEMS THAT INFORM

Recently I was asked what motivated me to be an international information science professional. When I got to thinking about an answer, I discovered that being "international" is somehow not that important to my motivation. I would however be happy with the label "traveler." To give me more scope to define what I mean by travel, consider not just work, but all of life, as the journey. I once saw, descending toward me as I ascended a shopping mall escalator, a teenager's shirt logo that then seemed to capture the essence of the traveler's life exactly. "If you are not on the edge, you are taking up too much space." Now, I'm not so sure. The problem with the death of distance in this digital world is - where's the edge? I have come to believe that, whether we realize it or not, we are now all travelers of the mind.

Sometimes we circumscribe our possible journeys by our own fears. Sometimes our possibilities are circumscribed by the arbitrary imposition of authority. Sometimes we ascribe the limits we have set for ourselves onto others and thus avoid responsibility. In transcending those three limits, it is better to know, to think, and to dream, rather than not know and to be ruled by fear. I have never cared about information systems. I see them as the tail of technology wagging the epistemological dog. But I do care deeply about systems that inform. Creating situations where people can define their own choices about what they want to be

or do motivates me.

At the beginning of my career, this led me to found Yukon's Department of Heritage and Cultural Resources. We used the arts, local history, and access to ideas via libraries and the public record to make it easier for individuals to think about a new and perhaps a more functional and cross-cultural "Yukon" identity. The Department was dismantled into its component parts by a newly elected government. From this, I learned that assisting people to think for themselves is not always viewed as a politically desirable objective.

And so I found myself traveling to East Africa with the International Development Research Centre's Information Science Program. I worked in 16 countries on systems that inform national capacities to use scientific and technical information in the service of development. This work ended with an answer to a process question that maybe we shouldn't have asked - should the factors balancing information science programming in Africa emerge more directly out of the experience of grant recipients themselves, or out of development priorities and political realities defined in Ottawa?

At that time, IDRC opted for centralized control of program definition. From this, I learned that those who seek to maximize local learning are going to learn a great deal about how to accommodate those who seek to minimize risk. Now I am less inter-

CATCHING UP WITH GARTH GRAHAM

Garth Graham was Director of the Library Services Branch, Yukon Territory, in 1970, when he and Nora T. Corley Murchison came up with the idea for a Northern Libraries Colloquy. In 1978 he established and directed the



Continued on page 11

ested than I was then in the content of process questions. I am more interested in the consequences of asking them.

In 1989, I turned toward a broader question that has turned out to be richly rewarding - how much we didn't (and still don't) understand about the interaction of change in technology, society, economics and politics. I returned to Canada, now very much a foreign land to me, convinced that I'd find institutions active in researching technology's socioeconomic impact. Having learned where to look for knowledge systems

Continued on page 7

Heading for Copenhagen in June????

The 19th Polar Libraries Colloquy June 17-21, 2002

Conference packets were mailed in mid-January. Look on the web
for the latest updates! <http://dpc.dk/plc>

AUCTION AT COLLOQUY



Following the fine tradition begun by Ron Inouye at the 15th Colloquy, there will be an auction (partly silent, partly "aloud") at our Copenhagen meeting. Proceeds fund the Hubert Wenger Award.

SO HAVE FUN thinking of what YOU would like to contribute! Books, Beanie Babies, t-shirts, arts and crafts from your community or institution. A pink flamingo shower curtain was a high point of the auction in Iceland. Who knows what will appear this year?

COLLOQUY 2004: Two Invitations to Consider

Ottawa

*by Julia Finn
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*

Julia Finn of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will be bringing an invitation to our Copenhagen Colloquy in June 2002, to hold the 2004 Colloquy in Ottawa, Canada.

Ottawa is the national capital of Canada. It is a small city, with one million people. It is very pretty and green, with many parks and bicycle paths. The Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, and the Rideau Canal, run past or through it. It is a bilingual city, with English and French signs and services. Ottawa has an international airport that is 20 minutes from downtown and a variety of hotels and restaurants offering a good price range. The

Continued on page 10

Hobart

*by Dr. Andie Smithies
Librarian, Australian Antarctic Division*

As PLC members may know, IAMSILIC is planning to hold its 2004 conference in Hobart, Tasmania and is eager either to include a PLC day or activity in its program or to invite PLC to jointly host the conference, as was successfully done in Iceland in 1998.

So where is Hobart and what is its claim to fame? Hobart is the capital city of Tasmania, Australia's island state, and it boasts spectacular scenery, pristine wilderness areas and a growing reputation for gourmet produce and fine wines. For more detail on the place, have a look at Tasmania Online at www.tas.gov.au/tasonline/

Hobart has had a long association with Antarctica and

Continued on page 10

WRITING ON ICE

by Philip N. Cronenwett
Special Collections Librarian
Rauner Special Collections Library
Dartmouth College Library

Gisli Palsson's *Writing On Ice: The Ethnographic Notebooks of Vilhjalmur Stefansson* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 2001) is the result of collaboration of three institutions in Iceland and the United States. Professor Palsson, director of the Institute of Anthropology at the University of Iceland, decided more than a decade ago that Stefansson's field notebooks were worthy of editing and publication. The Stefansson Arctic Institute in Akureyri, Iceland, a unit of the Icelandic Department of the Environment, provided much of the funding that supported the massive effort to decipher and key in the diaries. The Stefansson Library, a part of the Dartmouth College Library's Special Collections, provided information, images, and documentation for Professor Palsson. And, for three years, students in the Institute of Anthropology at the university in Reykjavik read, studied, and keyed in the diaries.

The edition of the diaries consists of lengthy and carefully selected sections from two of Stefansson's three polar expeditions: The Anglo-American Polar Expedition (1906-1907) and the Stefansson-

Anderson Expedition (1908-1912). The edition is very carefully done; I have yet to find an error in transcription. In addition to the editing of the diaries for the two expeditions, Palsson has included a judicious selection of images, some in color, from the expeditions that help to clarify and illuminate points made.

The meticulous editing of the diaries is complemented by a series of introductory essays. The first gives a brief but thorough account of the two expeditions, giving enough context to make the diaries compre-

hensible to researchers not familiar with the expeditions. The second reflects on fieldwork at the turn of the twentieth century while the third describes in detail the methodology used in editing the texts. Two essays on the Inuit peoples, on Stefansson's understanding of native ways and on his Inuit family, are followed by essays

on the anthropologist in the field. The final essay, "Arcticity," sums up Palsson's critical understanding of the anthropological methods used by Stefansson and help the reader to understand the context of the diaries.

Palsson's work in setting the stage for the edition of the diaries make this one of the more valuable studies of the polar regions and the work of anthropologists in the polar regions that has been published in many years. We in the Stefansson Collection at Dartmouth were delighted that

we could be of some assistance in Palsson's project. It was, to be sure, a daunting idea, to scan and edit thousands of pages of diaries and journals, written under the worst of field conditions, and then to place them in context for the educated reader as well as the interested scholar.

Palsson's next project will, I understand, focus on Stefansson and Iceland and the many intersections between the explorer and his forebears. ▲



SOME BOOKS ABOUT ALASKA 2000

Since 1994, the Alaska State Library has produced the annual publication *SOME BOOKS ABOUT ALASKA*, an annotated list of new titles published in that year. It includes children's literature and adult fiction and non-fiction. The new edition features books published in 2000. This, as well as the 1994-1999 lists, are available at <http://www.library.state.ak.us/hist/hist.html>

While at that site, check out the other good things from the Alaska State Library.

People

"With the retirement of **Inger Ahlström Bergström** as librarian at the Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) in Kiruna, **Rick McGregor** has added the library to his responsibilities as Information Officer. Rick is originally from New Zealand, where he trained as a librarian at Victoria University of Wellington before working in public and university libraries in Palmerston North and Dunedin. He has also had a stint at Carolina Rediviva, the Uppsala University Library, in Sweden. Having earlier done undergraduate studies in languages and literature (including Scandinavian), Rick completed a PhD in modern Swedish and old Icelandic literature at Otago University in Dunedin in 1993 and then taught English and Swedish in New Zealand for a number of years. His first visit to Sweden was in 1979, and after commuting back and forth for nearly twenty years, he finally settled in Kiruna (140 km north of the Arctic Circle) in 1997. He has been Information Officer at IRF since 1998, and when asked how a PhD in literature has ended up at a space research institute, he quips: "It's obviously never too late to become a rocket scientist!"



[Harry King (left) is a founding member of the Colloquy, attending the first one in Edmonton in 1971 and many afterwards as the Scott Polar Research Institute Librarian. He is an honorary member of the PLC.]

Diane Brenner, Colloquy participant and librarian at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art retired in September 2001. She writes: "Fellow travelers: Well, it's time to retire and head for the hills of Oregon. What fun it's been to explore libraries, Alaska, computers, historical photography, and the intricacies of statewide organizations with you all. It has been my pleasure to work with a wonderfully dedicated group of folks who care passionately about their subjects and are happy to share their knowledge. Every day there is something interesting — bomb shelters in Spenard, Road Commission cabins at Becharof Lake, a zany English artist who ran the Rat and Porcupine and stopped to paint a watercolor at Nenana in 1928. How can retirement provide such variety? My new address is 1250 East Pine Street, Stayton, Oregon 97383 (15 miles east of Salem, Oregon.) Best regards to all.

Having checked diaries, I am startled to discover that 17 years have rolled by since a rather memorable dinner marked by retirement from the Scott Polar Research Institute. First hired as librarian/information officer way back in 1955, I have lived to see what was then an understaffed, precariously funded research establishment, clinging to the skirts of the university, transformed over the years into a full-blown department. Two major extensions have insured the continuing growth of its library and collections enabling the staff to provide a service which for efficiency could never have been matched in my day. Meanwhile the umbilical cord which bound me to the place has never been fully severed. My wife Barbara and I live within walking distance of the Institute so that contact is maintained with friends old and new. I can also claim to be of some value to the library as a source of information on times past—very flattering to the ego. During the years of my retirement I have been able to carry on with some research including an analytical bibliography of the papers of Henry Robertson Bowers, the edited journal of Victor Campbell of Scott's Northern Party, three bibliographies in the Clio Press World Series (*The Atlantic*, *The Arctic* and the *Antarctic*, the last with William Mills and Janice Meadows), plus various book reviews for Polar Record. My one real regret is my inability to play a further part in the work of the Polar Libraries Colloquy. I look forward to keeping in touch with you all through the pages of the 'new-look' Bulletin.

Traveling--Continued from page 3

in 16 countries, it was easy to discover Canada had no such institutions. I also discovered that many communities weren't waiting for "Canada" to act. They were moving ahead into community development online.

So I traveled into "cyberspace," a good Canadian word, and a new zone of interaction for defining the public interest. I encountered grassroots community networks that were synthesizing and sharing the experience of creating community online.

There are now several national associations, including the one I helped start--Telecommunities Canada--that focus the experience of advocating and practicing community development online. They demonstrate how electronic networks assist and sustain the emergence of communities as self-organizing systems. Community Nets supply some of the social zones in which that happens, but they do not own what happens in those zones. They assist individuals who are willing to risk creating new social zones in which community may emerge. They are definitely systems that inform the choices of individuals about what they want to be or do.

In helping create Telecommunities Canada, I had a front-row seat on what happens as ordinary citizens plug the Internet into dynamic social processes at the grassroots level. I learned how governments had come to believe that citizens were consumers of services, and that governments could abandon almost all of the defense of the public interest, if only they

could price those services correctly. It has always struck me that, in a democracy, the separation of the body politic into governors who supply services and their clients who receive them is the most dangerous of false assumptions. In a digital world, where the edges disappear, the assumption of such a separation becomes intensely difficult to sustain.

The long-term role of associations like Telecommunities Canada should be to insure that revisionists cannot re-write the history of "connecting" nations so that governments become the heroes of the story. When you globalize, you also localize. When the middle disappears, communities stay. Governments, as we know them now, go. We need to design this as part of the default settings. In this case, the "experience of grant recipients themselves" can still drive the definition of the program. But only if they never let down their guard.

Now I have just returned from living in Hanoi, Vietnam. I worked on a CIDA funded project to support government agencies that use "information technology policies to positively impact the process of socio-economic reform by strengthening the capacity to implement the national program for information technology." I learned that the use of information technology policy for development is so close to the heart of governance that you should not "outsource" it. The short story is that it was wonderfully easy to live in Hanoi, and it was very hard to work there. The long story is too long to tell.

A Vietnamese colleague told me that

I can be a "headache" because I make people think. Since Vietnamese are indirect but very polite, I'm almost sure he meant that as a compliment. Everywhere, government as we know it is a closed system. Having a capacity to think about the uses of information technology for development is going to force attention onto issues of transparency and accountability. At the very least, it will point out the impact of information technology on closed and technocratic systems. The idea of open systems and open governments is definitely a headache.

What it comes down to is this. When authority treats learning as a pain to be avoided, you just plain have to speak out against its intentions. Autonomous connected communities of interest or location are quite happy to do that.

I've sort of stuck with helping governments learn that ordinary citizens usually figure out what's going on long before governments do, that fully informing the system is usually beneficial to the choices the system can make. Before you conclude I might better have delegated this responsibility upward to politicians, let me repeat one last time -- in an interdependent world, where's the edge? But I'd have to agree that, from a survival point of view, convincing governments to become learning organizations is not the safest idea I've ever had. So I'm going to let Annie Dillard have the last word. In "For the time being," she cobbles together Martin Buber and Rabbi Tarbon to say, "The work of redemption of the world is not yours to finish, but neither are you free to take no part in it." ▲

A Passion--Continued from page 1

of many on the site I maintain called 'The Antarctic Circle' <http://www.antarctic-circle.org>. [Some of these sites are included in the newest edition of Jeff Rubin's *Lonely Planet guide to Antarctica* and in the recent, massive *Antarctica: The Complete Story* by David McGonigal and Lynn Woodworth, published in Australia.] Copies of many of the photographs I've taken over the years of low-latitude sites reside at Polar Research Institute.

The quest for new sites has been an interesting one and often serves as a theme around which I plan a trip. Last May I drove from Dundee to London, my route largely determined by sites I knew about but had never seen. I've found that traveling this way, you meet some wonderful people and experience some serendipitous adventures.

Often one visit will lead to another unexpected one. When I tracked down Birdie Bowers' birthplace in Greenock, Scotland, a person at the nearby local museum said there were some Bowers artifacts in the museum in Paisley, unknown to me, and so I headed there next. It's a bit like genealogy: the pursuit of a new site is like seeking a new ancestor and all the more pleasurable when everything clicks and falls into place.

What are my favorite sites? For history and setting and the added plus of enjoyable hospitality it's hard to beat 'The South Pole Inn' in Anascaul on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, the pub the great Antarctic traveller Tom Crean opened when his sledging days

were over. In May 2000, Jonathan Shackleton and I organized a long weekend that was spent visiting Irish Antarctic sites with a small group of Antarcticans. One of the highlights was lunch at the pub with Tom Crean's daughter and grandson, followed by a visit to his grave nearby. My next hunting excursion is likely to be Norway next year, again a long weekend with a few other Antarcticans.

Now more about 'The Antarctic Circle.' As I say on the homepage, it's "a non-commercial forum and resource on historical, literary, bibliographical, artistic and cultural aspects of Antarctica and the South Polar regions. The Antarctic Circle itself, as distinct from this website, is an informal international group of scholars and knowledgeable amateurs interested or involved in non-scientific Antarctic studies." There are now 75 "members" though few are aware of being members as there are no by-laws, no newsletter, no dues and no gatherings--though this may change someday. I'm the self-appointed Coordinator and although the salary is deficient, there is no board so I have life tenure.

Those 75 I consider members are mostly writers, researchers, artists, collectors and such who have provided information to me or through me to others working on projects or trying to hunt down information. The Antarctic Circle, through its webpage and via e-mail, is a clearinghouse resource of sorts. I've tried to keep the site simple and easy to navigate, in part because I do all the coding myself and don't want to learn yet another computer application in order

to add some of the more usual bells and whistles. I keep adding to the site and expanding its breadth.

Although I welcome contributions of appropriate material from anyone, at the moment the only major section that isn't mine is Fauno Cordes' marvelous "[Tekeli-li](#)" or [Hollow Earth Lives: A Bibliography of Antarctic Fiction](#). Fauno's been working on this for years and keeps adding to it. I included it in 1999 after Fauno recounted to me at a meeting at the Byrd Polar Research Center, that she got regular requests for copies which meant she had to take the typed original off to the copy shop, paying the costs and postage. I suggested she put it on the site where now it has more exposure and can be referred to or printed out with no trouble or expense.

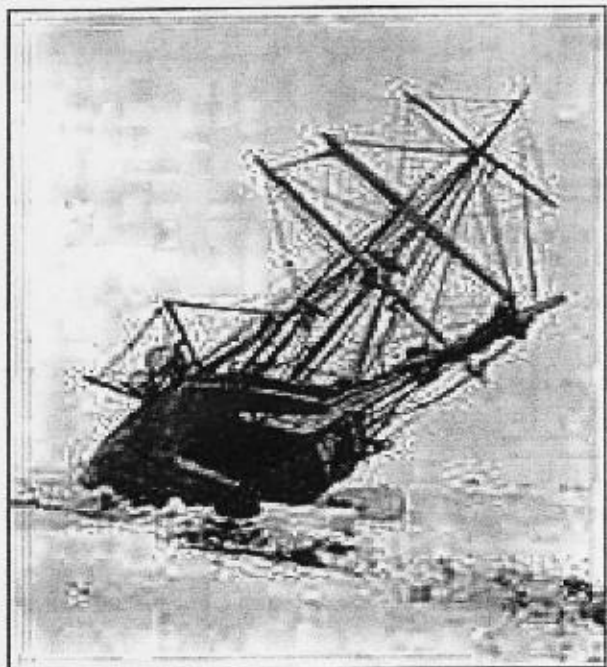
Book collecting as I said was the start of my Antarctic obsession and remains at the core. I was fortunate to buy most of the highpoints when prices were a fraction of what they are today. A pristine first edition of the book that started it for me, [The Worst Journey in the World](#), I bought at Sotherans in London in 1971 for £45. A friend of mine bought a somewhat grubby copy at the Boston Book Fair a few weeks ago for \$2200!

I remember when I nervously considered the purchase of an "[Aurora Australis](#)," generally considered the cornerstone of any Antarctic collection--written, illustrated, printed, bound and issued during Shackleton's Nimrod expedition. The London bookseller, Francis Edwards, offered a copy at £1,000. That was more

than I had spent for my car. But I did buy it and have never regretted it. At the September 1999 High Latitude auction outside Seattle a copy fetched \$50,000!

More recently, I've obtained some artifacts, many as gifts but some at auction. The sledge harness used by Charry-Garrard on *The Worst Journey* is in my collection, also Scott's

Nancy Liston at CRREL in Hanover, New Hampshire, suggested I might want to exhibit some of my collection in the library. This finally happened last year. I concentrated on everything but books. I enjoyed the final effect because for the first time I could see most of my collection all at once. One can still see the show at <http://www.antarctic-circle.org/exhibit.htm>.



Robert Falcon Scott's ship
Discovery, frozen in Antarctic ice

Royal Geographic Society

pipe that was retrieved from the tent at the final camp by the search party. Possibly the rarest item is a Norwegian flag given by Amundsen to Lincoln Ellsworth with a notation in Ellsworth's hand that the flag had flown over the North Pole and had been to the South Pole. As with books, the artifacts that come up at auction these days are bringing prices unimaginable only a few years ago.

Having a growing collection that 1) is outstripping the space available and 2) is not housed in ideal conditions raises issues that more than one collector has been forced to ponder. Do I end up dispersing the collection either before or after I shuffle off this mortal coil? Or do I try to develop it into something that will live on? I'm now tending to the latter and am investigating the idea of building a library with a small resi-

dence nearby that would be made available to researchers and writers who are pursuing Antarctic-related projects. A non-profit organization might be created to oversee things and possibly an association might be developed with a nearby university or institution to insure some continuity and legitimacy.

Another Antarctic activity I might

mention is the Erebus & Terror Press, the imprint I've used for some ephemeral Antarctic publishing efforts, all for private distribution.

Among the titles: *Worsley Enchanted*, a lengthy poem by Australian poet Douglas Stewart that first appeared in 1952; *Your Hero, My Hero*, contrasting Scott and Shackleton done in a dos-à-dos format; and two keepsakes which were great fun to produce. The first was done for a dinner at the Explorers Club that preceded the opening of the Shackleton show at the American Museum of Natural History. A hundred copies were printed and in the center spread rock fragments from both Elephant Island and South Georgia were glued to a nautical chart showing the track of the open boat voyage between the two islands. The latest was a somewhat similar production I did for a marvelous dinner



Ernest Shackleton's ship,
Endurance

Royal Geographic Society

Ottawa--Continued from page 4

Canadian dollar, currently worth just over \$0.60 US makes visiting Ottawa a great bargain for many US and international visitors.

Ottawa is home to Canada's national institutions and federal government departments, including the National Archives, the National Library, the National Research Council, the national science library called CISTI, the Museums of Civilization and Nature, and the National Gallery. Many of these institutions would be happy to host Colloquy events and to share their important Arctic collections with PLC members.

The end of June would be a perfect time to visit Ottawa. The days are long and the weather usually quite nice. Events are held to begin celebrations of Canada's national holiday on July 1. One popular event is a supper picnic at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police College to watch the Musical Ride, with officers on horseback presenting a wonderful synchronized show.

Ottawa has much to offer as host to the 20th Polar Library Colloquy in 2004.

For more information on Ottawa, check out http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/index_e.html ▲

Eds. note: See FROM THE CHAIR column on page 2 for information on when and where the decision will be made as to which invitation will be accepted.

Hobart--Continued from page 4

the Southern Ocean dating back to the sealing and whaling voyages of the early 1800's. Most of the early voyages of exploration left from, or passed through, Hobart; and it was from Hobart in March 1912 that Amundsen transmitted the news of his success in reaching the South Pole.

In more recent times Hobart has become the home port for ANARE (Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions) voyages and other activities of the Australian Antarctic Division, which was transferred to Kingston (near Hobart) in 1981. The Antarctic research and re-supply vessels of a number of other countries also make regular use of Hobart's port facilities and on one occasion recently the vessels of five separate nations were in port at the same time.

Antarctic research is conducted at both the Australian Antarctic Division and the University of Tasmania's Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies and the two organisations work very closely together. In addition, Hobart is home to CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) and the Australian Antarctic Foundation, which has the objective of promoting debate on Antarctic issues.

A more detailed description of Hobart's Antarctic connections can be found in the article by Kriwoken and Williamson published in POLAR RECORD v. 29 (169), 1993, p.93-102, but best of all, why not come and see Hobart for yourselves in 2004! ▲

that was held in the wardroom of Scott's 'Discovery' in Dundee and attended by several descendants of the expedition. Each of the 20 copies printed had a wood fragment from the deck of Scott's ship glued on a reproduction of the construction blueprints. (Trust me, the wood was provided by the Dundee Heritage Trust and not chiseled out by me.)

Since starting to collect books and 'low-latitude' sites as substitutes for travel to Antarctica, I've managed to get to the Peninsula and the Ross Sea six times, most recently as a lecturer on history. Who would have thought one book would have led to this. ▲

Catching Up--Continued from page 3

Yukon Dept. of Heritage and Cultural Resources and served as Deputy Minister until 1982. In 1983 he and his family (wife Annie and son Thomas) moved to Nairobi where for five years he was with the International Development Research Centre, working with 16 countries in East and Southern Africa defining a program to support systems using science and technology for development.

From 1989 to 1998 he was an electronic community networking consultant in Canada. During this time he coordinated the first two national community networking conferences and successfully advocated for the establishment of Telecommunities Canada, then went on to serve on the Board of Directors. 1998 saw Annie and Garth in Hanoi where he was project director for the Vietnam-Canada Information Technology Project. In 2001 the Grahams returned to Ottawa to consider their next adventure. Garth says: "In fact, it does depend on 'ideas' not on the place. I want to keep moving forward with the themes addressed in the article; it's the research/learning potential of projects that matter."

Many e-mails winged their way between Garth and BULLETIN co-editor Nancy Lesh in catching up. BULLETIN readers will be interested in some of Garth's comments.

"That PLC ref threw me for a bit. What a pleasant surprise to discover so many familiar names still beavering away (if you'll pardon a HBCo pun). I didn't know that the Northern Libraries Colloquy had

continued all these years and had become the Polar Libraries Colloquy. That's exciting. It was my role in helping establish the NLC that brought me to the attention of IDRC's Information Sciences Division and led us to East Africa."

"I have never become untangled from what Robert Service meant by 'There's the land.' We still have very close friends in Whitehorse, people we are in almost daily email and phone contact with...and who usually show up on our doorstep for several months when we move around the world. I've gone back many times for canoe trips."

"Thomas had his entire high school education at the International School of Kenya, a wonderful and formative experience. Now he's a senior artist with Electronic Arts in Vancouver, the world's largest producer of computer games."

"More than anyone, I founded Telecommunities Canada. I personally put together the programs for the first two national meetings and I raised all of the funding for the second and founding meeting. I came out of IDRC fascinated by the lack of international capacity to research the relationship between information and communications technology use and socio-economic development. Consulting without an institutional safety net put me into the heart of the public policy debate on that question. It was that experience that got Annie and me to Vietnam. The implementors of the Vietnam-Canada Information Technology Project thought I might know something about national capacity to engage in IT policy. As I

now say to my colleagues, 'Now I've done public policy on the knowledge society without money and with money, and I have to say that with money is better!'

"I am lucky in carrying 'community' with me. In both Nairobi and Hanoi Annie has shown very special skills at engaging with the community at hand. In Kenya she was co-founder of a Canadian Women's Association, and in Hanoi she was co-chair of the social committee that organized events for the 'Canadians in development' group. For example, the cover design for the current edition of the International Women's Association guide to Hanoi is hers. In both settings, the Canadian Ambassadors were probably indifferent to my charms but they rapidly realized they needed Annie on the job to give the Canadian development presence a human face. When I stepped out to the work at hand, I stepped out from solid ground."

"Annie and I both hated to leave Hanoi. It's a wonderful time to be there...as the culture opens out to the world but hasn't yet been battered by that experience into compromising its integrity. Even within the Project, the confidence of the Vietnamese that they could contemplate the abyss of the 'knowledge' society and still remain Vietnamese was both attractive and, in fact, entirely believable."

[Eds. note: Garth, PLC members are delighted to hear of your activities and share your thoughts, and thank you for that! We look forward to keeping in touch. And best of luck and enjoyment as you consider your next project!] ▲

THE STATUS OF THE POLAR WEB

Arto Vitikka avitikka@urova.fi
 Liisa Kurppa liisa.kurppa@urova.fi
 Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

The PolarWeb is still running on our server at this address: www.urova.fi/home/arktinen/polarweb. It gets approximately 2000 visitors per month. We are updating the pages in addition to our own work, which doesn't give us much time for the development work for the pages. The most important source for new links or updating broken links comes from the users; we get almost weekly mail about new links or corrections from libraries in the *Polar and Cold Regions Libraries Directory*. We have used temporary trainees from local schools to find www-addresses for libraries listed in the library directory and they have also added some new libraries. At the beginning of 2002 we tried to update library information, e.g. direct www-addresses to library catalogues and many new www-addresses to Russian libraries.

We would appreciate it a lot if you could check the information on your institute or library in the *Libraries Directory* and send us any changes. All hints about new interesting sites on the web that don't exist in the PolarWeb are warmly welcome. In order to keep our present visitors we do need your help!

The problem that we have now with the links that are arranged both by Special Subjects and Geographical Regions is that individual links can

exist in two places and maintaining these is more complicated. There could be two links, one working and one not, for the same site. One solution for this would be to put all the links into a database with subject and geographical keywords and create the web pages each time a user requests the information from the database. How do you see this? PolarWeb-process is still going on! ▲

ALASKA DIGITAL ARCHIVES

by Susan Grigg
 Rasmuson Library

The 2002 appropriation for the U.S. Department of Education includes \$500,000 to begin development of the Alaska Digital Archives and Alaska's Virtual Library. The Alaska Digital Archives will provide search capability at a single site to selected historical and cultural resources statewide. Alaska's Virtual Library, successor to the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway at <http://sled.alaska.edu>, will be a portal to electronic resources of special interest to Alaskans, including licensed databases, the Digital Archives, and many Alaska and circumpolar Web sites. Both projects are a joint venture of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and the Alaska State Library in cooperation with libraries, museums, and archives statewide. ▲

DOCUMENTING ALASKA

by Susan Grigg
 Rasmuson Library

More than two dozen representatives of Alaska institutions met at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art on April 19-20, 2001, to set priorities for collaboration on documenting Alaska history and culture. The four substantive projects and their lead workers are:

- 1) Digitization and Web delivery of Alaska source materials – Susan Grigg, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- 2) Survey of film, video, and broadcasting materials throughout Alaska - Francine Lastufka-Taylor, Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association.
- 3) Workshop training on preservation for curatorial staff throughout Alaska - Jo Antonson, Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.
- 4) Inclusion of curatorial coursework in graduate programs in rural development - William Schneider, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Mark Hamilton, president of the University of Alaska, proposed this initiative and provided the principal support for the meeting. Additional funds came from Wells Fargo Bank Alaska. ▲