

## WHALEBONE CARVING

Not all native industries are causing as much satisfaction among the authorities as the Musk-ox project: whalebone carving, a recent addition to the well established stone and ivory carving industry of the Canadian Eskimos, has met with quite a different response from the Archaeological Survey of Canada.

The trouble is that the bones used in these carvings are collected from the ruins of ancient Thule culture settlements and the disturbance of these sites destroys much of their value to archaeologists, especially as the Thule Eskimos made extensive use of whalebone in the construction of their houses. Now, though, in an attempt to limit further damage to the sites, the Archaeological Survey and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs have jointly launched the Thule Archaeology Conservation Project with the aim of examining and reporting on the sites, exhibiting excavated material and, not least, providing the Eskimo carvers with a controlled supply of whalebones that are no longer needed after examination.

The project, which is to last until 1979, includes further provision for the needs of the carvers. Knowing that the supply of ancient whalebone is finite and cannot sustain the industry for ever, participants in the project will be looking out for alternative supplies, such as whalebone from 19th century whaling settlements, and alternative materials. In this way, the project should protect both the Eskimos' history and their present economic well-being.

## OBITUARY

**ZAKHAR VASIL'YEVICH GOGOLEV**, the Yakut historian, died on 24 December 1974. He was born in the Aldan region of what is now Yakutskaya ASSR, and graduated from the teacher training college at Yakutsk in 1931. He worked in the Komsomol (Young Communist League) and became a Party member in 1932. He received further training in Moscow, at the N. G. Chernyshevskiy Institute of History, Philosophy and Literature. His career was interrupted by the war, during which he served in the army. He obtained his *kandidat* degree at Kiev university in 1948, with a dissertation on Soviet relations with Turkey.

From 1949 to 1963 he worked in the Institute of Language, Literature and History at Yakutsk, latterly as Director. His researches included topics in social and economic history, archaeology, ethnography and contemporary literature. He was closely concerned with the publication of *Istoriya Yakutskoy ASSR* [*History of Yakutskaya ASSR*] in three volumes (Moscow, Leningrad, 1955–63), both as editor and contributor.

In 1963 he was transferred to the Institute of History, Philology and Philosophy at Novosibirsk, and played an active part, as deputy chairman of the editorial committee, in preparing the five-volume *Istoriya Sibiri* [*History of Siberia*] (Leningrad, 1968–69). During this period he published two major works of his own: *Yakutiya na rubezhe XIX i XX vv* [*Yakutia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries*] (Novosibirsk, 1969), and *Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoye razvitiye Yakutii (1917–1941 gg.)* [*The social and economic development of Yakutia (1917–41)*] (Novosibirsk, 1972). In 1973 he obtained his doctorate. He was, at the time of his death, engaged in a number of further scholarly studies of the history of his native land and its peoples.

Terence Armstrong

**Sir PHILIP BROCKLEHURST** died at his family seat, Swythamley Park in Staffordshire, on 28 January 1975 at the age of 87. He was the last surviving member of Shackleton's first expedition to the Antarctic in 1907–09.

It was in 1906, while an undergraduate at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, that Brocklehurst first encountered Ernest Shackleton, then a comparatively unknown figure. They shared a common interest in lightweight boxing and Shackleton saw in the young athlete a likely candidate for an expedition he was then planning to reach the South Pole. He promised to include him in the party of six that was to launch the final attack and the Brocklehurst family provided additional financial

backing for the venture. When the expedition eventually left England in 1907 Brocklehurst was 20 years old and the youngest member of the party. He was a romantic rather than a scientific explorer but his hopes of achieving the pole were soon dashed. Badly frostbitten feet prevented him from making the first ascent of the volcano Mount Erebus with his five companions in March 1908, and the subsequent amputation of a gangrenous toe put paid to his accompanying the pole party. His bitter disappointment did not prevent him from taking a full part in the expedition's other activities, however. He was a member of the western geological party which explored the Taylor Valley and ascended the Ferrar Glacier, and he took part in a geological reconnaissance towards the northern slopes of Mount Erebus. Mount Brocklehurst, in Victoria Land, is a permanent tribute to this member of the expedition, and in 1909 he was awarded the Polar Medal for his services.

In 1914 Brocklehurst, together with his brother Courtney, volunteered to join Shackleton's trans-Antarctic expedition, but the outbreak of war with Germany diverted his energies into other channels. The long and distinguished military career that he subsequently pursued took him to many distant parts of the world, but he was never again to visit the polar regions.

**BORIS ALEKSANDROVICH KREMER**, whose life's work was concerned with the organization of polar weather stations in the Soviet Arctic, died suddenly on 13 January 1976 in Moscow, aged 67. His first wintering in the Arctic was at Mys Olovyanny in Severnaya Zemlya in 1935–37, when he faced extremely hard conditions caused by the inability of the relief ship to reach the station in the summer of 1936. Soon afterwards he was in charge of the station at Bukhra Tikhaya in Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, and of the most northerly station of all, Mys Arkticheskiy (then Mys Molotova) in Severnaya Zemlya in 1940–41. From there he moved directly to another station in Severnaya Zemlya, Ostrov Domashniy, where he spent the two years 1941–43. He worked at other stations also, including one in Chukotka, and then he came to the headquarters of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route [Glavsevmorput'] in Moscow as head of the polar stations section. The work, and he with it, was later transferred to the Hydrometeorological Service of the USSR [Gidrometeorologicheskaya Sluzhba SSSR]. He retired in 1968.

Besides this practical and administrative work, he interested himself greatly in the history of exploration, notably that of Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, and published several papers on the subject. He also followed with keen attention the progress of polar expeditions whose character was adventurous rather than scientific, maintaining that there was a place for each kind—an attitude that has never been widespread in the Soviet polar community. An outstandingly open and outgoing person, he made a deep impression not only on those he worked with, but on a much wider circle.

He was awarded four medals and the honorific title Honoured Polar Worker [*Pochetnyy polyarnik*].

Terence Armstrong

**THOMAS WYATT BAGSHAWE**, FSA, died at Worthing on 28 January 1976 at the age of 74. His death was sudden, but followed several years of affliction by arthritis.

He was born on 18 April 1901 and brought up in the atmosphere of a thriving family engineering business in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. At the age of 19 he joined the British Imperial Antarctic Expedition 1920–22, under the leadership of J. L. Cope, leaving incomplete his formal education as a geologist begun at Rugby and continued at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Bagshawe and his companion, M. C. Lester, travelled south with two whaling ships ahead of Cope, G. H. Wilkins, second-in-command, the cameraman, and the dogs. He seems to have taken a lively interest in life on board ship, although he was clearly revolted by the greed and callousness of the whalers and often exasperated by the lack of understanding among the whaling skippers of the interests and aspirations of a young scientist. Things were difficult enough for these two inexperienced men waiting at Deception Island, but when they heard that, because of a series of problems, the senior men, dogs, and remaining equipment were not coming to the Antarctic, Bagshawe confessed in his diary to near despair. Nonetheless, he and Lester were able to keep up their morale and to carry out ornithological and other scientific studies in spite of their restricted

freedom on board ship. They decided that, rather than sell up the stores and return home, they should try to winter in the field ' . . . to make the expedition seem a little less ridiculous than it would otherwise'. It was a courageous decision.

The senior men and dogs did eventually arrive but the revised plan—to land at Andvord Bay some 50 km further west than originally intended and to travel down the west coast of the Weddell Sea—proved over-ambitious for such a small group. Cope and Wilkins decided to return home but agreed that Bagshawe and Lester should be allowed to stand by their decision to overwinter and carry out a static scientific programme. Of the ensuing winter and the scientific work accomplished Bagshawe wrote modestly in his book *Two men in the Antarctic*, published in 1939. When the pair were relieved by Captain Andersen in the *Svend Foyn I* the following summer, both were well in spite of the dire predictions of the disasters that might befall them.

The aftermath of that expedition seems to have left Bagshawe with a feeling of failure. He did not resume his studies at Cambridge but turned instead to the family business and, later, to his marriage to Grace Geering and their two sons. He was greatly interested in the local life of Bedfordshire and from 1924 to 1947 was honorary curator, and later honorary director, of the Luton Museum, which he modelled on Scandinavian folk life museums such as Nordiska Museet in Stockholm. He was also honorary curator of the Cambridge Folk Museum from 1940 to 1946. In 1947 he returned to Cambridge University and began to write up his research into the early trades and crafts of Bedfordshire. Unfortunately, clashes of personality meant that his desire for academic qualifications was never fulfilled. He was appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1949.

Throughout his life he showed great personal generosity to many causes and 'the Bagshawe Collection' forms a major part of the collections in the Luton Museum. He donated his Antarctic papers and relics to the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. His interest in polar matters lasted up to his death and he was considering further publication of Antarctic material. He also continued to work on his extensive research material from Bedfordshire and it is to be hoped that these self-imposed tasks can be completed and accorded the recognition they merit.

David Matthews