

## NOTES AND REVIEWS

## NORSK POLARINSTITUTT, OSLO

The following announcement was issued from Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser in February 1948:

As from 1st March 1948 Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser will cease to exist, but its activity will be continued and expanded by the newly established Norsk Polarinstitut under the direction of H. U. Sverdrup, Ph.D., Ll.D., formerly Professor of Oceanography at the University of California and Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California.

The publications of Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser will be continued, without break in the numbering, under the following titles:

*Norsk Polarinstitut* (formerly *Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser*)  
*Skrifter*.

*Norsk Polarinstitut* (formerly *Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser*)  
*Meddelelser*.

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Norges Svalbard- og Ishavsundersøkelser was founded in 1928, when it took over the work which since 1909 had been carried out by Government-supported expeditions to Svalbard. The new organisation will broaden the scope of its scientific activity, partly by adding specialists to its own permanent staff, and partly by securing the collaboration of specialists who are connected with university institutions in Oslo and Bergen or in the other scientific organisations. The sphere of interest will be expanded to include the regions in the Antarctic over which Norway claims sovereignty.

The new Norsk Polarinstitut will not absorb organisations which are primarily engaged in scientific work in the Polar regions, such as Nordlysobservatoriet (the Aurora Observatory) at Tromsø or Statens Institutt for Hvalforskning (Government Institute for Whaling Research) at Oslo. Whenever desirable it will collaborate with these organisations. The Polarinstitut comes under Industridepartementet (Ministry of Commerce) of the Norwegian Government.

## "EXPÉDITIONS POLAIRES FRANÇAISES", PARIS

[Based on information supplied by Paul-Emile Victor.]

The organisation known as "Expéditions Polaires Françaises" was recently founded in Paris as a centre for explorers and others interested in the Polar regions. Its address is 22, Avenue de la Grande Armée, Paris, 17e. Two expeditions are at present being planned: one to Greenland and one to Terre Adélie, the French sector of the Antarctic.

The Greenland expedition was led by Paul-Emile Victor, and left in May 1948. His party expected to be in Greenland for about three months. The work carried out is regarded chiefly as a reconnaissance for more detailed long-term investigations of the ice-cap planned for next year.

The Antarctic expedition, to be led by André F. Liotard, plans to carry out hydrographic, geographical, geological and meteorological studies, and hopes to set up a permanent meteorological station in Terre Adélie. The expedition will leave in the autumn of 1948. Monsieur Liotard spent the southern summer of 1947-48 visiting the British bases of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

Both expeditions have the support of the French Government.

#### LAPP INFLUENCE ON THE USE OF SKIS IN EXPLORATION

[Summary of a lecture on "The role of Swedish Lapps in the development of ski-ing", given by Petter Spik, Sirkas, Norrbottens län, to his fellow students at the Lapp Folk High School, Jokkmokk, on 8 March 1947. Manuscript lent by Dr E. J. Lindgren.]

On 4 April 1884 the first modern style ski race, the Nordenskiöld race, was held in Sweden. Most of the runners were Lapps and the winner was Pavva Lars Tuorda who, with another Jokkmokk Lapp, Anders Rassa, had been on the Second Dickson Expedition to Greenland under A. E. Nordenskiöld in 1883. These two Lapps were indirectly responsible for the race being run.

During the *Vega* expedition Nordenskiöld had become interested in the possible use of skis in Polar exploration, and when he left for West Greenland in 1883 he took two Lapps with him. Tuorda, who could speak Swedish, was given instruction in map and compass work, and both Lapps soon proved themselves very useful and were especially noted for their powers of self-orientation. This was the first time that skis were used to any extent in exploration.

In July Nordenskiöld and a party of nine men set out east from the Nordenskiöld Glacier to investigate the ice-cap east of Disko Bugt. Conditions were bad and progress was slow, and by 21 July they had only covered a distance of 75 miles. On that day Tuorda was sent out to reconnoitre. On his return he reported that conditions were still bad farther east; there was melting snow and an uneven surface with several small lakes. Nordenskiöld then decided to turn back, but sent the two Lapps eastwards with instructions to make a journey lasting 4 days (the main party would wait 6 days for them). They were to note barometric pressure and compass direction every 3 hr.

They left on 22 July and returned after 57 hr., owing to lack of water. They had gone north-east, as long as the poor conditions lasted, for about 30 miles, and had then gone due east over good dry snow until they reached a point a little east of 43° W.<sup>1</sup> which was 230 km. (143 miles) away from the main party. Here they turned back because their fuel supply had run out and they

<sup>1</sup> A. E. Nordenskiöld. *Den Andra Dicksonska Expeditionen till Grönland*. Stockholm, 1885, p. 232.