

SHACKLETON(S) IN BOSTON

by

Robert B. Stephenson, FRGS

AN UNSETTLING TELEGRAM was received by Harvard Professor William Morris Davis on March 29, 1910, from Robert Ely, director of the Civic Forum in New York:

“We are greatly concerned at small sale tickets Shackleton lecture Thursday evening mortifying failure will result unless something doing quick.”

ERNEST SHACKLETON arrived back in Britain following the Nimrod expedition on the 12th of June 1909. Once *The Heart of the Antarctic* was published, at the end of October 1909, he set out on an ambitious series of lecture tours to help pay off the debts of the expedition (and, as some thought, perhaps raise a little for the next one). Hugh Robert Mill records that “... it was to include lectures at one hundred and twenty-three different places in Europe and America.”¹ During November and December there were fifty lectures in England, Scotland and Ireland. In January of 1910 he was off to the continent giving sixteen lectures in 22 days in Italy, Austria, Hungary, Germany and Russia.² On returning to London he was off again lecturing throughout the land for seven weeks. Finally, on March 19, 1910, he and Emily boarded the *Lusitania* and were on their way to America. A mere seven days later they found themselves in Washington, D.C., and the American tour began.

President Taft received the Shackletons at the White House on the afternoon of March 26th, and that evening Sir Ernest spoke before a crowd of 5,000 at the National Geographic Society and was presented with its Hubbard Gold Medal by President Taft. “Great and hearty” audiences were addressed in Philadelphia and New York. On March 29th, in the latter city, there was a ‘welcome’ by the Explorers Club at the Hotel Astor, and in the evening Carnegie Hall was filled with prominent citizens who had come to see the young hero of the south. He was introduced by Commander Robert E. Peary who had been at the North Pole less than a year before. The next day he was feted by the Transportation Club at a dinner at the Hotel Manhattan. Later that evening, off to Boston.

Advertisements had been appearing in the Boston papers for days leading up to Shackleton’s public lecture—the second American one—scheduled for

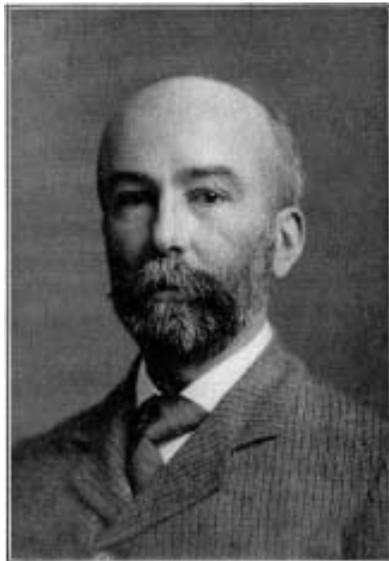
Thursday, March 31st. The venue was to be Symphony Hall, then and still today the home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Tickets were priced from 50 cents to two dollars. The notice screamed in large type “SHACKLETON The British Antarctic Explorer FARTHEST SOUTH 111 miles from the South Pole. Illustrated by Cinematograph Pictures.”³

WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS was Professor of Physical Geography at Harvard. He was sometimes referred to as the Father of American Geography. Hugh Robert Mill described him as “...small, dark, alert and wiry. He

was a hard man, with a stern, logical mind, and he aroused great opposition by his dogmatic presentation of theory and his unusual and rather uncouth terminology. But he had depths of cryptic

humour, as he told impossible tales in a mirthless voice and with impressive face.”⁴

Davis was also the main force behind the founding in 1902 of the Harvard Travellers Club and served as its first president. When he heard of Shackleton’s intended stop in Boston he must have seen an opportunity for the club to be hospitable to the explorer. Davis enlisted the aid of fellow club member—and Secretary of the Peary Arctic Club—Herbert L. Bridgeman of Brooklyn asking him to slip Shackleton



William Morris Davis

an invitation when he disembarked the *Lusitania* in New York.

Bridgeman responded on March 7th saying that

“Mr. Ely [of the Civic Forum, acting as Shackleton’s lecture agent] is exceedingly reluctant to forward any scheme which places Shackleton in touch with the public ‘without money and without price.’ You can readily understand that the too liberal parading of the lions through the streets is likely to diminish the gate receipts, though there must be, of course, somewhere a middle ground in case of a man so justly eminent as Shackleton.”

Either Mr Bridgeman contacted Mr Ely or Professor Davis did so directly. In any event and for whatever reasons, Mr Ely proved receptive to the club’s overtures because he wrote Davis on March 12th assuring him that something might be arranged: “He [Shackleton] would be delighted, I am sure, to accept a luncheon in his honor on that day or a reception in the early afternoon.”

On the 15th, Davis wrote Ely who in turn responded the next day: “I will transmit this invitation direct to him but I am in a position to formally accept it on his behalf...It is not necessary to raise the question with him regarding a ‘few remarks’; he is always ready to do this and will expect to be called upon at a luncheon in his honor. I am assuming that the Travellers Club is composed only of men and there is therefore no question of Lady Shackleton’s presence.”⁵

On the 19th, Davis again wrote Ely proposing certain arrangements. On the 22nd, Ely wrote back:

“In reply I am glad to say that the arrangements you propose seem to me admirable in every respect, namely, the luncheon of the Travellers Club to Shackleton at the Harvard Union, followed by a greeting after the luncheon from a company of students. You are safe in making this announcement in the college papers and

otherwise. Shackleton was always pleased to address students at the universities in Great Britain and on the continent and I am sure he would like nothing better than this.

The auto ride seems also an excellent plan, I have just accepted for both Sir Ernest and Lady Shackleton the invitation of Mr and Mrs T. J. Bowlker of 282 Beacon St., for dinner just prior to the lecture in Symphony Hall. They ought to have, I suppose, some time to rest in the afternoon.”

Ely also remarked that “Lady Shackleton will be most happy to accept Mrs Lowell’s very kind invitation for luncheon on Thursday, March 31st.” (Abbott Lawrence Lowell was president of Harvard.)

Once the arrangements were made Professor Davis jumped to and sent out handwritten invitations for the special lunch to selected Club members. Apparently the need for speed resulted in at least one error: “So far from your misspelling of Shackleton’s name being a thing for me to excuse I am deeply obliged to you,” wrote Thomas N. Perkins. This was thankfully corrected in the printed version that was dated March 23rd.

On that same date Professor Davis received an invitation “...to be present, as the guest of the Club, at the supper to be given in honor of Sir Ernest Shackleton, at the Algonquin Club.” This was on the letterhead of The Victorian Club which no longer



The Hotel Touraine (1897).

exists and of which little is known.⁶ So far Shackleton was booked for three meals: a Travellers Club luncheon, a dinner before his lecture and a supper following.

The Shackletons arrived in Boston early on Thursday morning, March 31st—they had taken the midnight train from New York—and were accompanied on the journey by George T. Coppins, a member of The Victorian Club “under whose auspices” Shackleton was speaking in Boston. A reception committee from the club welcomed the arriving party at South Station and it was whisked away in “a big Thomas automobile” to the Hotel Touraine, at the corner of Boylston and Tremont Streets. The Shackletons had breakfast, after which the explorer spent some time with the local newspaper reporters. The remainder of the morning saw Ernest and Emily receiving visitors at the hotel.

A little before noon, the Shackletons were driven from downtown Boston, across the Charles River to Cambridge and the Harvard Union⁷ on Quincy Street.

Emily was welcomed by Mrs Lowell and Ernest was escorted to the luncheon held by the Travellers Club in the Trophy Room of the Union. The meal was “...served at one o’clock, prompt” with each member allowed one guest. The cost: \$1.50. About eighty attended but no details survive as to the conversation, the menu or any remarks that Shackleton surely made. The only attendees that



The Harvard Union today.

are certain are Shackleton and Professor Davis, who no doubt presided, President Lowell of Harvard (who proposed the health of Shackleton), President Maclaurin of M.I.T., and—based in part on notes of acceptance in the Club archives—Arthur T. Cabot, T. J. Bowlker, J. G. Thorp, Henry P. Walcott, T. W. Thorndike, Joseph Warren, J. D. Greene (Secretary of the Harvard Corporation) and C. F. Adams 2d (Harvard Treasurer)⁸, not an undistinguished assemblage by Boston standards.

At 2:30 the meeting was adjourned and Club members and their guests then descended with Shackleton to the

“...big room...which was packed with waiting undergraduates. They were standing around the walls, seated on the window-sills, hanging over the balconies—over 1200 of them [The *Boston Journal* set the number at 2,000]. As Shackleton entered, he was cheered to the echo. With him on the platform were President Lowell and Professor Davis. Professor Davis introduced him, after which G. P. Gardner [a member of the Executive Committee of the Student Council] waved his arms violently and brought out a Harvard yell for the explorer which made him grin sheepishly.

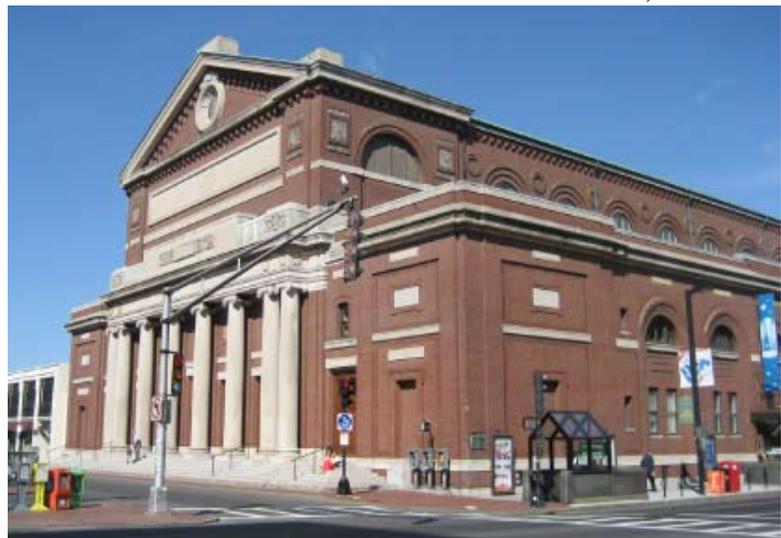
Shackleton told them a few incidents of his life in the Antarctic which made them roar with laughter—particularly the account of how they ate the last pony meat. ‘It was gamey meat,’ said Sir Ernest. ‘In fact, it was very high. The pony had been dead two months.’”⁹

Upon leaving the Union the Shackletons and some of Emily’s friends “went directly to President Lowell’s home, across the street from the Union. Mrs. Lowell served tea, and several of the members of the faculty and their wives were present.”¹⁰

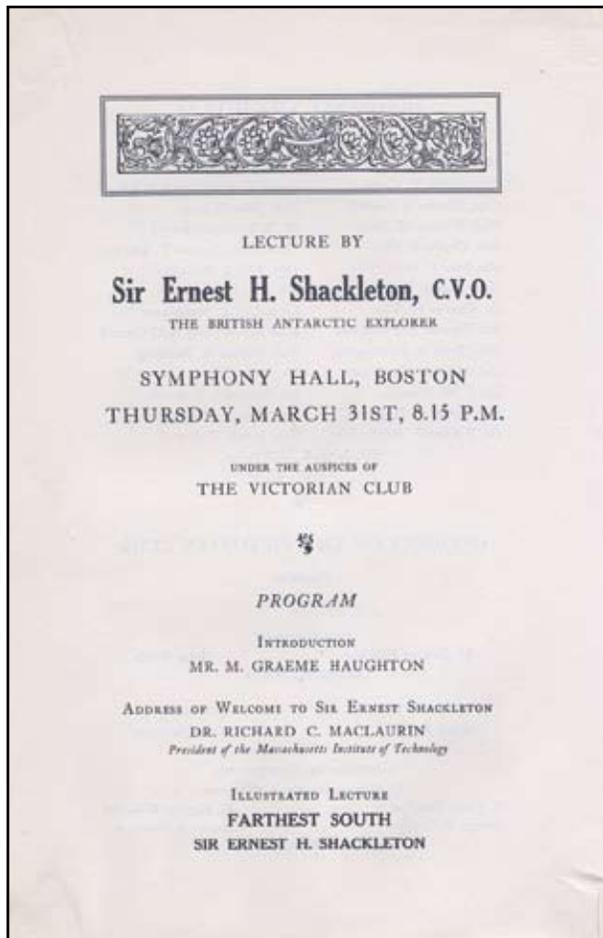
The Shackletons were then driven to the Oakley Country Club—which still exists—in neighboring Watertown, for afternoon tea and a rest. In a letter to Professor Davis, Travellers Club member J. G. Thorp offered “...to put his car at your service” and “...to call for the ladies.”

The next event for the Shackletons on that busy Thursday was a dinner at the home of T. J. Bowlker at 282 Beacon Street in Boston’s Back Bay. (The house, at the corner of Exeter Street, was replaced in 1939 by a large apartment block.) Bowlker was not a member of the Travellers Club so what his connection, if any, to the Shackletons is unknown. (The explanation might stem from his wife, Catherine Lowell Roosevelt, being the sister of President Lowell of Harvard.) Mr Bowlker did attend the luncheon but he may have been included merely because Professor Davis had been included among Bowlker’s dinner guests. President Lowell was at Shackleton’s lecture and surely he would have been at his sister’s dinner party beforehand. Who else was at the dinner and what might have transpired in way of conversation remain unknown.

The lecture at Symphony Hall, perhaps a mile from the Bowlker residence, was due



Symphony Hall today.



The program for Shackleton's lecture.

to begin at 8:15. What next we know is that the Shackletons were escorted "...by mounted members of the British Military and Naval Veterans' Association" to the venue, along presumably with the dinner guests. Professor Davis no doubt was in the procession as he had earlier been invited by Albert Flint of The Victorian Club to serve "...as a member of an Honorary Committee...to meet Lieutenant Shackleton, informally, at Symphony Hall shortly before 8 p.m." President Maclaurin of M.I.T., who would welcome Shackleton at Symphony Hall, and officers of The Victorian Club were almost certainly at the dinner and in the procession.

Mr M. Graeme Haughton, President of The Victorian Club, introduced the speaker and Dr Maclaurin gave an 'Address

of Welcome.' In this he "...said there is much talk about the uselessness of polar exploration, but the value of exploration could not be told until it was tried. He hoped that since the American flag had been planted at the North Pole, the British flag might float over the South Pole."¹¹

Judging from the newspapers that appeared the next day, Shackleton wowed 'em. They all reported a "large audience." (Symphony Hall presently accommodates 2,625 in the same leather-bound seats that were in use in Shackleton's time.)

From The Boston *Globe*:

"Sir Ernest H. Shackleton got a splendid reception in Symphony hall last evening... His frank, genial, almost boyish manner caught everybody, but it was the evident manly strength and courage behind it all that made the deepest impression.

The gleams of humor in his dramatic narrative and the good nature that shone through his words brought the audience very close to him. There is no doubt but he is the kind of stuff of which heroes is made.

He has a "sangfroid" that is positively amazing when it is recalled what he has done and what he undertook to do and the awful sufferings himself and his companions endured during that trip of 1500 miles from the ship to within about 89 miles of the south pole, and even more awful return trip when hunger stalked with the party for about two months before they found the Nimrod."¹²

The Boston *Evening Transcript* had this to say:

"Sir Ernest H. Shackleton, the British explorer of the Antarctic regions, gave a thrilling account of his dash toward the South Pole, before a large audience at Symphony Hall, last night. It was not an oratorical address, just a plain narrative, told with humor and naivete, but it was listened to with the closest attention and was frequently punctuated with applause. The recital of the sufferings of the party in a trip of fifteen hundred miles from their ship to within about one hundred

miles of the Pole, brought his audience into intimate relations. Cinematograph pictures and stereopticon views added to the interest of the lecture.”¹³

The headline of the *Boston Post’s* account read ‘HOT TIME IN OLD TOWN FOR SOUTH POLE HERO.’ It went on to describe Shackleton as

“... a young man. He is tall, and his build conveys the impression of immense strength. His jaw is square, his clean-shaven face tanned, and his smile is whimsical and boyish. In general appearance he strongly resembles the much abused Gibson man.”¹⁴

Not to be outdone, the *Boston Herald* observed that

“Sir Ernest is apparently about 36 years old, with the look of a student, black eyes and hair, a ruddy complexion, firm grip and affable manner. He has the lithe build of an athlete and looks entirely fit.”¹⁵

The *Boston Journal* announced “GREAT AUDIENCE” and “BRITISH EXPLORER RECEIVED WITH WARM-HEARTED HOSPITALITY” and described Shackleton as a “perfect figure of robust health... Such a man would thrill a football coach, for Sir Ernest has a pair of shoulders and a square, determined chin that would make even a Yale rush line tremble. He never wears an overcoat in this climate, and in explaining why says that he never had a cold in his life and does not wish to get one.”¹⁶

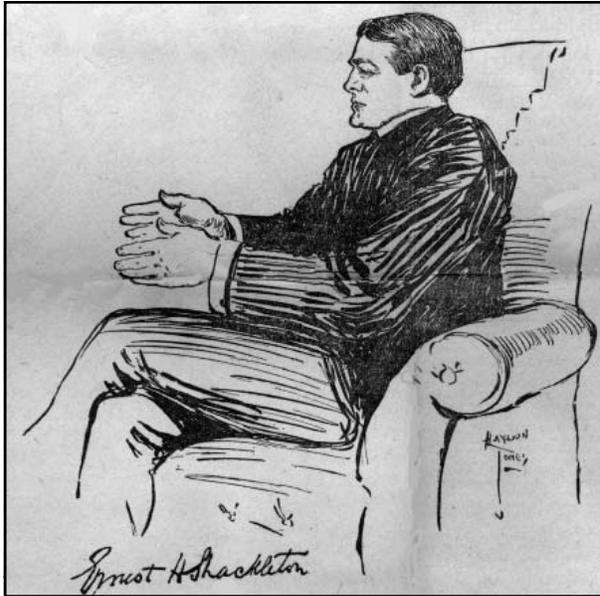
Earlier in the day Shackleton had commented to the *Journal* reporter that “I think the Scott expedition will gain the goal,” the explorer declared with a shade of British pride in his tone. “You see, Scott will have one of the best equipped expedition that ever started on such a mission—ice motors, Siberian ponies, which are the only practical bit of animal life to consider in such a country, and my trail to follow. At my stopping point he will be within less than a hundred miles from the pole. He is a man of both courage and luck, and I can’t figure



The Algonquin Club, the site of the supper.

how he’ll fail... Incidentally, the reporter had a most interesting chat with Lady Shackleton. ‘No, she was not a suffragist, though she believed in some phases of the cause. The adjustment of some of the laws regarding women in England would settle the whole affair, I believe,’ she said. ‘I do not think the majority of women wish to vote.’”¹⁷

The evening was not over yet. Following the lecture, Shackleton and probably most of those mentioned above, repaired to the Algonquin Club on Commonwealth Avenue for a supper given by The Victorian Club. We know that Professor Davis was present; the Harvard Travellers Club archive has the letter inviting him and enclosing “...herewith a ticket for your use.” Emily may very well have been included but possibly not. (The *Boston Transcript*, in laying out Shackleton’s schedule, reported that “Following the lecture he will be the guest at a dinner at the Algonquin Club,



The sketch of Shackleton by Haydon Jones that accompanied the article that appeared in the *Boston Herald* on April 1, 1910.

at which many prominent Boston *men* are expected to be present.”¹⁸ [emphasis added]) Sir Ernest was no doubt called upon for some after supper remarks.

So Thursday, March 31, 1910, had been a busy day and evening for the Shackletons, probably not unlike many of their other days and nights on the lecture circuit: Arrival early in the morning; breakfast; meeting the press; receiving visitors; a luncheon; talking with the students; a drive, tea and a rest; dinner at a private home; a lecture; supper afterwards; all interspersed with a ‘few remarks;’ and presumably a late ‘good night.’

So all appeared to go well and Symphony Hall was full or nearly so.¹⁹ But two days before, Professor Davis had received that telegram from the very nervous

and concerned Robert Ely predicting a “mortifying failure” due to low ticket sales. What had happened to turn the tide? Who knows: Davis probably did what he could to deliver the Harvard and Cambridge communities. Perhaps the advertising paid off. Or possibly the stirring newspaper accounts of Shackleton’s talk at Carnegie Hall on the 29th resulted in a last minute surge of sales.

So what did the Shackletons think of Boston on what may have been their one and only visit? One newspaper account included some rather peculiar exchanges.

“Boston,” said Sir Ernest to a *Post* reporter yesterday as he prepared to step into a waiting automobile and hurry away to a dinner whose chief base was not somewhat ancient pony meat. “Boston is a good city, and I like it. I like America as a whole, and particularly I like Boston. There is something about the city—a certain kind of—that is to say, a somewhat intimate—oh, well, I like it.”

When the *Post* reporter caught up with him again, he had eaten his dinner and made a speech, and was just preparing to go to another dinner. “Since I spoke to you last,”

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON, ANTARCTIC POLE HUNTER, WHO LAST NIGHT GAVE LECTURE HERE, AND HIS WIFE AND LITTLE ONES



From the *Boston Journal* of April 1, 1910.

said Sir Ernest, "I have not changed my mind. Boston is most hospitable. I like it, I like its manners and customs and people and buildings and colleges and traditions and audiences and dinners. I like everything about Boston."²⁰

Although Boston was deemed a success, the same couldn't be said for the continuation of the tour. Mill describes what followed:

"But then the tide suddenly fell; the smaller towns of New England in which it was arranged that he lecture made no response. For a night or two he spoke to empty benches, and then discovered that the ground had not been prepared by the lecture agents. There had been almost no advertising; he arrived in one town in the same train as the posters announcing his lecture, which should have been adorning the walls for a week before."²¹

The tour continued for several more months, in the United States and Canada, sometimes fraught with problems and at other times, with great success.

By summer the Shackletons were back in Britain and recuperating at their rented house in Sheringham, Norfolk.



SHACKLETONS AND THE HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB *A Postscript*

SIR ERNEST was not the only Shackleton to have an association with the Harvard Travellers Club.

Edward Shackleton, later Lord Shackleton, was at the Harvard Club²² on December 6, 1937, to speak on the 1934-35 Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition. The Club's announcement noted that the meeting would be in the Æsculapian Room at 8:15 and that the charge for dinner would be "\$2.00 per person, including cocktails."²³ It also added that "Mr Shackleton is the son of the late Sir Ernest Shackleton of Antarctic fame..." but no mention was made of the Club luncheon for the speaker's father at the Harvard Union. The Minute Book of the Club did record that

"His pictures, colored and black and white, movies and stills, were excellent, and his accompanying talk first class. Both by his remarks and selection of illustrations he made the Arctic alive and real in contrast to the rather cold, drab picture which a lecturer on this part of the world often presents to an audience. As often happens some of the most interesting remarks of the evening were made by the speaker to questions after the talk, before the meeting broke up. Comment heard afterwards was very favorable."

The Harvard Travellers Club celebrated its hundredth birthday in 2002. In the Club's most recent YEAR BOOK the event is described:

"Among the grandest and best attended meetings in recent years was the Centennial dinner held

100 years to the day after the first meeting of the Club in 1902: November 15, 2002. The speaker was Jonathan Shackleton continuing a Shackleton connection stretching back to Lord Shackleton and to his father, Sir Ernest Shackleton...”

Jonathan spoke of his famous cousin, Sir Ernest, and of Lord Shackleton, and of his own travels in Antarctica, which continue to this day. In the audience was Jonathan’s wife, Daphne, and his brother Charlie. All have travelled in Antarctica.

A fourth Shackleton spoke—albeit briefly—at the 763rd meeting of the Club on February 8, 2005. David Shackleton, son of Jonathan and Daphne, and then working in Boston, was the guest of the writer and was put on the spot to rise at the dinner table and give Shackleton greetings to those assembled.

Perhaps a fifth Shackleton is in the wings, waiting to make an appearance in Boston.

HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB
AND THE POLAR REGIONS
A Second Postscript

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON wasn’t the only polar traveller to appear before the Harvard Travellers Club. Herewith, others arranged chronologically by meeting number. (Some Alaskan and Canadian talks not included.)
*Club members.

COMMANDER ROBERT E. PEARY, 3rd Meeting, February 27, 1903. *Field Work of the Peary Arctic Club.*

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON*, 16th Meeting, January 27, 1905. *The Summer of 1904 in Iceland.* 38th Meeting December 20, 1907. *Winter Life of the Eskimo.* 79th Meeting, November 29, 1912. *An Arctic*

Exploration. 353rd Meeting, December 8, 1953. *Greenland, 1953.*

DR. OTTO NORDENSKJÖLD, 22nd Meeting, January 13, 1906. *An Account of his Antarctic Expedition, 1901-04.*

ANTHONY FIALA, 27th Meeting, April 27, 1906. *Two years in the Arctic Regions.*

BRIGADIER-GENERAL ADOLPHUS W. GREELY, 52nd Meeting, April 30, 1909. *Scenes of the New Siberia.*

CAPTAIN ROBERT A. BARTLETT*, 59th Meeting, February 11, 1910. *On the Peary Expedition to the North Pole.* 73rd Meeting, January 26, 1912. *Seal Fishing about Newfoundland.* 98th Meeting February 3, 1915. *The Drift of the Carluk during the Arctic Night, the Loss of the Ship, and the Rescue of the Men from a Point 60 Miles North of Herald Island to Wrangell Island—and the Walk to Siberia.* 162nd Meeting, December 13, 1926. *Hunting Hair Seals off Newfoundland.*

CAPTAIN ROALD AMUNDSEN, Special Meeting, January 21, 1913. (This was held at the Harvard Union and was probably a luncheon much like the one given for Shackleton. Amundsen lectured that evening at Boston’s Tremont Temple.)

DR. GEORGE P. HOWE*, Special Meeting, February 14, 1913. *Resume of Capt. Scott’s South Pole expedition.*

SAMUEL MIXTER*, 108th Meeting, February 25, 1916. *A Winter in the Arctic.*

DR. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, 110th Meeting, April 28, 1916. *A Visit to South Georgia, with an Account of a Visit to the Penguin Rookeries.* 416th Meeting, November 14, 1961. *Operation Deep Freeze (U. S. Government Antarctic Expedition).*

JOHN HEARD, JR.* , 127th Meeting, March 18, 1921. *Whaling off the Northern Coast of Alaska.*

SIR HUBERT WILKINS, 191st Meeting, May 16, 1930. *Notes on a Proposed Trip under the Polar Ice by Submarine.*

EDWARD E. GOODALE* , FREDERICK CROCKETT* AND NORMAN VAUGHAN* , 192nd Meeting, October 28, 1930, *Experiences with the Byrd Expedition to the South Pole.*

MAJOR L. T. BURWASH, 198th Meeting, April 11, 1931. *Canada's Arctic Coastline from MacKenzie River to Labrador and the Franklin Expedition.*

DR. ALEXANDER FORBES* , 202nd Meeting, December 15, 1931. *An Aerial Photographic Survey of the Northern Coast of Labrador.*

EDWARD P. BECKWITH* , 210th Meeting, November 22, 1932. *Cosmic Ray Observations in Alaska.*

JOHN K. HOWARD* , 222nd Meeting, February 20, 1934. *Northern Iceland and Northeastern Greenland.*

WALTER A. WOOD, JR.* , 226th Meeting, October 23, 1934, *The Fiord Region of Eastern Greenland.* 317th Meeting, April 12, 1949. *Project Snow Cornice.*

H. BRADFORD WASHBURN, JR.* , 235th Meeting, November 26, 1935. *Aerial Adventures in the Yukon, and a winter crossing, on foot, of the St. Elias Range to Yakutat Bay.* 263rd Meeting, April 11, 1939. *Ascent of Mt. St. Agnes in the Chugach Range, Alaska.* 272nd Meeting, May 14, 1940. *Alaskan Glacier Studies.* 292nd Meeting, February 26, 1946. *Army Air Force Work near Mt. McKinley, Alaska.* 311th Meeting, October 5, 1948. *The White Tower Expedition to Mount McKinley.*

335th Meeting, October 16, 1951. *Ascent of Mt. McKinley from the Southwest.* 360th Meeting, November 16, 1954. *First Ascent of the South Buttress of Mt. McKinley.*

377th Meeting, December 11, 1956. *Mt. McKinley Cook Controversy.*

RICHARD S. RUSSELL, 236th Meeting, December 17, 1935. *Personal Experiences with the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition.*

H. E. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDER TROYANOVSKY, 249th Meeting, May 18, 1937. *Exploration in the Soviet Arctic*, followed by the film "Heroes of the Arctic," the record of the Chelyuskin Expedition.

EDWARD SHACKLETON, 252nd Meeting, December 6, 1937. *Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition, 1934-1935.*

WILLIAM R. LATADY* , 312th Meeting, November 9, 1948. *The Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition.*

TERRIS MOORE* , 318th Meeting, May 25, 1949. *Flight to Little Diomedede Island, Bering Strait.*

E. FRED ROOTS, 347th Meeting, February 17, 1953. *The Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition to Queen Maude Land, 1949-1952.*

EDWARD E. GOODALE* , 348th Meeting, March 17, 1953. *The Weather Bureau's Arctic Project.*

COMMANDER DONALD B. MACMILLAN* , 350th Meeting, May 19, 1953. *North Far North.*

LAURENCE M. GOULD, 388th Meeting, March 11, 1958. *IGY in the Antarctic.*

HENRY S. FRANCIS, JR.* , 399th Meeting, October 13, 1959. *IGY in Antarctica.* 502nd Meeting, May 16, 1972. *The Antarctic.*

H. ADAMS CARTER*, 414th Meeting, May 16, 1961. *Milton Mt. McKinley Range Expedition*.

JOHN P. TURTLE*, 427th Meeting, February 19, 1963. *A Year in Antarctica*.

WILLIAM O. FIELD*, 434th Meeting, January 21, 1964. *Our Changing Glaciers (in Alaska, Canadian Rockies, Swiss Alps, New Zealand and Antarctica)*. 524th Meeting, March 18, 1975. *Glacier Studies in Southern Alaska*. 599th Meeting, October 2, 1984. *Alaska: A Sixty-Year Perspective*.

DR. KAYE EVERETT, 446th Meeting, May 18, 1965. *Alaska and Greenland—Soil Conditions and Geology*.

JOHN H. ROSS*, 446th Meeting, May 18, 1965. *Cod Fishing in Bering Sea*.

LEANDER STROSCHEIN, 454th Meeting, May 17, 1966. *The Polar Plateau Station in Antarctica*.

JOHN C. BOYD*, 463rd Meeting, October 17, 1967. *The Penguins of Cape Crozier, Ross Island, Antarctica*.

DR. SAMUEL C. SILVERSTEIN*, 465th Meeting, December 12, 1967. *Climbing Antarctica's Highest Mountains*.

DR. DAVID E. LEITH*, 476th Meeting, March 18, 1969. *A Study of Diving Mammals of the Bering Sea*.

THOMAS D. CABOT*, 481st Meeting, December 9, 1969. *A Summer Trip to Iceland and Greenland*.

MICHAEL WYNNE-WILSON*, 485th Meeting, April 21, 1970. *The Antarctic Cruise of M. S. Lindblad Explorer*.

WALTER H. KILHAM, JR.* , 498th Meeting, January 11, 1972. *Inuvik, Banks Island, and Old Crow, in the Canadian Arctic*.

DENNIS C. McALLISTER*, 518th Meeting, May 28, 1974. *A Ski Trip Across the Greenland Icecap*.

JAMES L. MADDEN*, 534th Meeting, May 25, 1976. *A Cruise to Northwest Greenland*.

DR. STEVEN B. YOUNG, 536th Meeting, November 9, 1976. *The Kerguelen Archipelago: A Voyage to the Loneliest Islands in the World*.

NEIL GOODWIN*, 539th Meeting, February 15, 1977. *Filming the Migration of Wolves and Caribou in the Canadian Arctic*.

ROBERT F. PERKINS, JR.* , 546th Meeting, January 17, 1978. *Canadian Tundra Canoe Trip from the Great Slave Lake to the Polar Sea*. 626th Meeting, January 19, 1988. *The A, B, C's of Nature: 72 Days Alone in the Arctic*.

NED GILLETTE, 552nd Meeting, November 7, 1978. *The High Arctic of Ellesmere Island*.

PROFESSOR ELMER HARP, JR., 570th Meeting, January 20, 1981. *Archaeological Exploration of the BeIcher Islands*.

DR. URSULA B. MARVIN, 605th Meeting, April 16, 1985. *Antarctica and Meteorites*.

PETER C. ALDEN*, 630th Meeting, May 24, 1988. *The Southern Andes, Falklands and Antarctica*. 785th Meeting, December 11, 2007. *Climate Change, Ice Bears and Inuit in the High Canadian Arctic Archipelago*.

DR. JAMES R. ABEL, 637th Meeting, April 18, 1989. *The Arctic Barrens Expeditions: A 1972-1988 Retrospective*.

NORMAN VAUGHAN*, Special Meeting, May 4, 1992. *Informal Remarks on his upcoming Mt Vaughan Expedition*.

ROBERT B. STEPHENSON* AND JOHN H. ROSS*, 662nd Meeting, May 26, 1992. *Antarctica: Two Perspectives.*

GEORGE P. BATES*, 667th Meeting, February 9, 1993. *Ellesmere Island, Canada.*

DR. WARREN M. ZAPOL*, 669th Meeting, April 13, 1993. *The Weddell Seal: A Diving Virtuoso.*

DR. ROBERT H. EATHER, 677th Meeting, April 12, 1994. *Majestic Lights: The Aurora in Science, History and the Arts.*

DR. GEOFFREY E. CLARK*, 691st Meeting, February 13, 1996. *The Greely Expedition: Disaster On the Ice.* 772nd Meeting, March 14, 2006. *Adventures in Arctic Film Making: The 1881 Greely Expedition.*

JOHN B. STURROCK*, 692nd Meeting, March 12, 1996. *An Antarctic Adventure.*

NORMAN D. VAUGHAN*, 696th Meeting, November 12, 1996. *Dogs on Ice: Adventure and Exploration in the Antarctic.*

DR. JAMES J. MCCARTHY*, 697th Meeting, December 10, 1996. *Traveling Comfortably: In the footsteps of Polar Explorers.*

KEN BURES*, 707th Meeting, February 10, 1998. *Kayaking in Northeast Greenland.*

ALVAH AND DIANA SIMON, 708th Meeting, March 10, 1998. *Into the Arctic Arena: Frozen into Crushing Ice.*

PAUL MAYEWSKI, 722nd Meeting, January 11, 2000. *Core Research: Unlocking the Secrets of the Ice.*

ROBERT B. STEPHENSON*, 723rd Meeting, February 8, 2000. *Exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia.*

ARTHUR WHITE*, 723rd Meeting, February 8, 2000. *East Greenland: Geological Investigations by Zodiac.*

LUCIA DELEIRIS*, 732nd Meeting, March 13, 2001. *Penguins and Seals: Sketching in the Antarctic.*

MADOLON C.Z. BURES*, 739th Meeting, February 12, 2002. *The Eskimos of Ammassalik.*

JONATHAN SHACKLETON, 744th Meeting, November 15, 2002. *Shackleton Returns! The Antarctic, Ireland, the Shackletons and One Hundred Years of the Harvard Travellers Club.*

NILS BONDE-HENRIKSEN*, 747th Meeting, February 11, 2003. *Backpacking across Baffin Island, Auyquittuq National Park Reserve, Nunavut, Canada.*

LOREN M. WOOD*, 763rd Meeting, February 8, 2005. *Traversing Mt. Mckinley.*

NATHANIEL S. COOLIDGE*, 779th Meeting, February 13, 2007. *White Water Canoeing in the Arctic (Baffin Island)*

WAYNE PETERSEN, 794th Meeting, January 13, 2009. *Svalbard—An Arctic Naturalist's Paradise.*

Note: Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd, certainly America's best known Antarctic explorer, never spoke to the Club and was never a member. Efforts to put this right were many but to no avail. He lived conveniently at 9 Brimmer Street in Boston and was well known to many members but for whatever reason, was not to be persuaded.



NOTES

Accounts of Shackleton's visit to Boston appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Herald*, *Post*, *Journal* and *Evening Transcript*. The *Harvard Crimson* also covered his visit. Quoted material not otherwise cited is from the Harvard Travellers Club archives.

¹ Hugh Robert Mill, *The Life of Sir Ernest Shackleton* (London: Heinemann, 1923), p. 167.

² *Ibid.*, p. 169.

³ The advertisement in the *Boston Evening Transcript* that appeared the day before the lecture dropped the mileage down to 97. The *Boston Globe* report of the lecture gives the figure of 89 miles and, later, as "within 80 miles of the south pole." The *Boston Herald* came up with yet another measurement: "Explorer Planted Queen's Flag Within 111 miles of His Goal."

⁴ Hugh Robert Mill, *An Autobiography* (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1951), p. 90.

⁵ He assumed correctly, though since 1983 the Club has had both men and women members.

⁶ The address given in the invitation is 614 Barristers Hall, probably Mr Flint's business address. The *Boston Directory* of 1905 gives the address as 60 State Street, again surely a business address. It was not listed in the *Official Club List of Boston* (1907). The organizing meeting of the Club was held on November 16, 1897 at 553 Boylston Street. The Constitution of the Club notes "The objects of the Club are: The consideration and discussion of questions affecting the British Empire; the dissemination of information in regard thereto; and the promotion of social intercourse among its members." The Club issued several publications, speeches mostly. It apparently did not have a lengthy life.

⁷ This colonial revival building dating from 1900 was designed by McKim, Mead & White and "made possible by the gift of Mr Henry Lee Higginson." The building was much altered in the late 20th century and is now the Barker Center. An early photograph shows a large room hung with chandeliers fabricated from what appear to be elk antlers. Perhaps this was the Trophy Room where the luncheon was held.

⁸ The minutes of the Harvard Travellers Club are quite thorough and complete as to the nearly 800 regular meetings but special gatherings such as this one were seldom recorded in any formal way. Higginson is best known as the founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He was in the audience at Shackleton's lecture that evening.

⁹ *Boston Post*, April 1, 1910.

¹⁰ *Boston Journal*, April 1, 1910.

¹¹ *Boston Evening Transcript*, April 1, 1910.

¹² *Boston Globe*, April 1, 1910.

¹³ *Boston Evening Transcript*, April 1, 1910.

¹⁴ *Boston Post*, April 1, 1910. "The "Gibson Man," equally as handsome and self-assured as the Gibson Girl, provided her perfect partner. The Gibson Girl and the Gibson Man in some ways represent the "Barbie and Ken" dolls of the early 1900s as icons of popular Culture." (www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/gibson.htm)

¹⁵ *Boston Herald*, April 1, 1910.

¹⁶ *Boston Journal*, March 31, 1910.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Boston Evening Transcript*, March 31, 1910.

¹⁹ Hugh Robert Mill records that "At Boston there was appreciation and a large hall, but it was not full for Tetrizzini was singing, not this time in his honour, as a rival at the Opera House." (Mill, *Life*, p. 173). As all the reports mentioned a "large audience" it's not unreasonable to assume that if not full Symphony Hall was close to full.

²⁰ *Boston Post*, April 1, 1910.

²¹ Mill, *Life*, p. 173-74.

²² The Harvard Club stands just west of Massachusetts Avenue at 374 Commonwealth Avenue. Its large new clubhouse opened in 1913 so just missed hosting Sir Ernest when he paid his visit to Boston. Its first president was Henry Lee Higginson, who also founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra and was at Sir Ernest's talk on March 31, 1910.

²³ The charge in 2009 is \$55 although without the benefit of cocktails (which are available but not without cost).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is indebted to the following for valuable assistance in preparing this account of ‘Shackleton(s) in Boston:’

Naomi Boneham (Scott Polar Research Institute); Bridget P. Carr (Boston Symphony Orchestra); Stanley Ellis Cushing, John H. Lannon, Carolle Morini, Stephen Z. Nonack, Mary Warnement (Boston Athenæum); Margaret Pokorny; Dr Lawrence Thornton Shields (Algonquin Club); David M. Wilson.

About the author: Robert B. Stephenson, a long time member of the *James Caird Society*, lives in Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and is the founder and coordinator of *The Antarctic Circle*, “a forum and resource on historical, literary, bibliographical, artistic and cultural aspects of Antarctica and the South Polar regions.” He served as president of the Harvard Travellers Club from 1991-93 and is its archivist and the editor of its *Year Book*.

