

## OBITUARY

DR HENRYK ARÇTOWSKI, the distinguished meteorologist, was born in Poland in 1871 and died in Washington on 20 February 1958. He was educated in Belgium and Paris and also studied in London and Zürich. He joined the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, 1897–99, and was in charge of the geological, oceanographical and meteorological programme. He was connected with the Belgian Weather Service until 1909 and then became chief of the Science Division of the New York Public Library. In 1920 he returned to Poland to become professor of geophysics and meteorology at the University of Lwow, and was attending a conference of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Washington when Poland was invaded at the beginning of the Second World War. After a period in England he was appointed to a position in the Smithsonian Institution from which he retired six years ago.

BROR ÅKE CAMPBELL, the Swedish ethnologist, was born in Linköping on 1 May 1891 and died on 14 October 1957. He obtained his doctorate in 1929 and in 1952 received the title of professor. He was also the secretary general of the International Association for European Ethnology and Folklore. Campbell, who was head of the folklore department of Landsmåls- och folkminnesarkivet i Uppsala from 1930 and docent in Scandinavian ethnology at Uppsala Universitet from 1938, was interested in the study of cultures in Lapland, especially the relationship between Swedish settlers and Lapp nomads; *Från vildmark till bygd: en etnologisk undersökning av nybyggarkulturen i Lappland före industrialismens genombrott* (Uddevalla, Hermes, and København, Munksgaard, 1948) deals with this subject. He also wrote on the place of the Lapps in Swedish popular tradition.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, on 5 May 1882 and died in Adelaide on 14 October 1958. He accompanied his parents to Australia as a boy and graduated at the University of Sydney. In 1905, after accompanying a pioneer geological expedition to the New Hebrides, he was appointed lecturer in mineralogy and petrology at the University of Adelaide. He was Professor of Geology at this university from 1920 to 1952.

In 1907–09 he joined Shackleton's British Antarctic (*Nimrod*) Expedition to the Ross Dependency. He was a member of the first party to climb Mount Erebus and also of the party of three, under Sir Edgeworth David, which first reached the South Magnetic Pole. He organized and led the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14, which discovered and explored King George V Land and Queen Mary Land, claiming them for the British Crown. Shore parties wintered at Cape Denison and on the Shackleton Ice Shelf, and very extensive scientific investigations were carried out, both on the Antarctic mainland and at a third station on Macquarie Island. It was during this expedition that Sir Douglas made his greatest journey. He was sledging with X. Mertz and B. E. S. Ninnis 280 miles from the Cape Denison base when the latter was lost down a crevasse, together with his dog sledge and most of the provisions. The two survivors struggled to return, but Mertz died 100 miles from base, and Mawson returned alone and in extreme privation, with illness and weather keeping him for a week in an ice cave only five miles from his destination. On his return to Australia he was knighted and awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society. His published narrative of this expedition, *The Home of the Blizzard* (London, 1915), will always remain one of the great polar classics.

During the First World War he served in Europe, then returned to Adelaide University, where he devoted his energies to the preparation and publication of the



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scientific reports of his Antarctic expedition. In 1929–31 he organized and led the British, Australian, New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition for two summer voyages in the *Discovery*. MacRobertson Land was discovered; also, from the air, the Banzare Coast and Princess Elizabeth Land. The boundary between Australian and Norwegian interests was fixed and the regions which were later to become the Australian Antarctic Territory were formally claimed. It was very largely due to his tireless persuasion that the Australian Government created the Australian Antarctic Territory and has continued to take an increasingly active interest in the Antarctic.

In addition to polar journeys Sir Douglas led a number of significant geological expeditions in Australia. He was a polar explorer of heroic stature, yet his greatest achievements were probably in other fields. He was first and foremost a scientist, as ready to carry out geological and mineralogical investigations in Australia as in Antarctica; everything else during an expedition was incidental to his main purpose.

Sir Raymond Priestley writes of him:

I first got to know Douglas Mawson in January 1908 as the *Nimrod* wallowed south through what seemed to be an unending succession of westerly gales, each worse than its predecessor. With one exception we of the shore party were seasick; we all "gave up", but he at once returned to the wardroom and repeated his meal. Mawson liked warmth. One day, after a 20-hour spell humping cargo, we were resting when a sudden blizzard caused the ship to break away from her moorings. Douglas was sleeping in the engine room with his long legs disposed across the cross-head of *Nimrod's* engine. When she broke loose the engines were started and an hour later he was found still asleep with his legs rising and falling as the piston-head went up and down.

Nothing daunted that lean, hungry-looking Australian, whose determination and grit were only matched by the singlemindedness with which he pursued his own and his leader's aims.

ANDREW L. NELSON was born at Clydebank and died in New Jersey on 26 August 1958 at the age of 54. Between 1929 and 1935 he served the Discovery Committee as navigator, first officer and finally captain of *Discovery II*. In addition to these duties he was responsible for organizing surveys of the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkney Islands and part of the South Shetland Islands. He was joint author, with Dr Kemp, of a report on the South Sandwich Islands in *Discovery Reports*. He was an able navigator, and an accurate scientific observer, his sounding charts have contributed much to what is known of the bottom topography of the Southern Ocean. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Navy and was later employed as an oceanographer at Lamont Geological Observatory, a division of Columbia University.

HELGE PETERSEN, director of Det Danske Meteorologiske Institut from 1942 to 1956, died on 29 September 1958 at the age of 72. He was the author of a number of papers on Greenland's climate and meteorological organization, and was also a member of Kommissionen for Videnskabelige Undersøgelser i Grønland.

CARL WILLIAM THALBITZER, the Danish philologist and ethnologist, was born in Helsingør in 1873 and died on 18 September 1958. He studied languages at the University of København and in 1900 paid the first of a long series of visits to Greenland, including a winter at Jakobshavn and one at Angmagssalik. He travelled widely among Greenlanders and became an authority on the language, customs and culture of the people. In 1926 he became professor of Greenlandic language and culture at the University of København. He published numerous works on every aspect of Greenlandic life including "A phonetical study of the Eskimo language" (*Meddelelser om Grønland*, Vol. 31, 1904) and a large part of "The Ammassalik Eskimo" (*Meddelelser om Grønland*, Vol. 39, 1914, Vol. 40, 1923 and 1941) which he also edited.