

Obituary

Bruno Zehnder, the Swiss-born freelance photographer, died on 9 July 1997 near the Russian Mirny station in Antarctica. Zehnder was known internationally for his remarkable pictures of emperor penguins, including one that was used on the cover of *Time* magazine.

He had arrived at Mirny on 11 June to continue his studies on the breeding activities of the emperor penguin. On 7 July, he set off at noon to the colony located about 2 km from the station. Two hours later, he was informed by radio that the weather had deteriorated, and that he should start his return journey. He declined the offer of assist-

ance, although signal rockets were fired and searchlights switched on from 1700–2200 hours. Zehnder's body was recovered at 0820 on 9 July by a search team from Mirny.

Zehnder was born in 1945. For many years, he was active in promoting Antarctic conservation, and he spent several summer and winter seasons there. He won the United Nations Environmental Protection Prize in 1987, and the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year award in 1990. A memorial service was held at his home town of Bad Ragaz in Switzerland on 8 August, and another on 6 September in his adopted home of New York.

In Brief

SPRI'S SATELLITE PICTURE ARCHIVE. The Scott Polar Research Institute holds the largest collection of NASA Landsat scenes of Antarctica anywhere outside the United States. These are in the form of photographic prints at scales from 1:250,000 to 1:1,000,000 and were obtained in connection with Charles Swithinbank's work of interpreting topographic features in ice-covered areas. Although the bulk of the collection consists of Antarctic scenes, there are also some from the Arctic.

The archive has steadily grown during the past 25 years through the courtesy of Richard S. Williams Jr of the US Geological Survey, a pioneer in the use of satellite images for interpreting glacial features. The collection includes 1700 paper prints at 1:1,000,000, 900 at 1:500,000, 20 at 1:250,000, and a variety of mosaics at various scales. In addition, there are Argon KH-5 satellite photographs dating from 1963 and ERS-1 SAR images from 1992 to 1995, most at the 1:500,000 scale.

The Landsat prints take in almost the whole of Antarctica to latitude 82°S, while the recently declassified Argon photographs range from coastal scenes to the southernmost outcrops of the Transantarctic Mountains, an area never

before seen except in low-resolution meteorological satellite images.

Since the launch of Landsat 1 in 1972, scanned images have been sent to Earth by telemetry and stored on magnetic tape. However, many of the tapes have deteriorated through time and are now unreadable. For this reason, photographic archives will offer the only source for historical images depicting the Antarctic coastline. Very substantial changes, notably of ice fronts, have been documented between 1963 and 1995.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES. The International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) will be holding its third international congress at the University of Copenhagen, 21–23 May 1998. The title of the congress is 'Changes in the circumpolar north: culture, ethics, and self-determination.' Some 350 participants are expected to attend. For information, contact the conference coordinator, Frank Sejersen, at: IASSA Secretariat, c/o Department of Eskimology, 100H Strandgade, DK 1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark.