

hibition was held at the Commonwealth Institute in London in September 1977 and future showings will be held in Canada and New Zealand.

WANTED—INFORMATION ABOUT GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

An expedition is currently being organized to visit the Nûgssuaq peninsula, west Greenland, during late April–August 1979. The main objective is to study the breeding behaviour and ecology of the Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* on its summer breeding grounds. In order to assist in the planning of research the expedition members are appealing for information on the distribution and numbers of the goose in that and other areas of Greenland from those who may have recently visited this area. They would be especially interested to hear from anyone who has visited the Nûgssuaq peninsula, especially near Sarqaq. Anyone with relevant information should contact D. A. Stroud, Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, Department of Zoology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Wales.

OBITUARY

Rear Admiral **C. R. L. PARRY**, who played an active part in the organization of the British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1955–58, died on 31 March 1977, aged 75 years. He attended the Royal Naval College at Osborne and his naval career began in 1917 when he served as midshipman aboard HMS *Tiger*. He was promoted to commander in 1935 and captain in 1941, after which he served with the United States Pacific Fleet in Hawaiian waters as Assistant Naval Attaché and Liaison Officer. He won the Distinguished Service Order for his services as captain of the 21st Destroyer Flotilla and received promotion to Rear Admiral in 1951. He was awarded the CB in 1952 and retired from the navy in 1953. In 1955 he was appointed secretary to the British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The size of this expedition made it a daunting task, but he very soon established himself as a popular figure who will never be forgotten by its members. Tall, distinguished looking, with snow white hair and always impeccably turned out, he brought his own breezy atmosphere to the office, soon becoming a well known and respected figure to the innumerable commercial and government bodies with which the expedition had dealings.

His belief in personal contact was delightfully indicated by his first action on taking up his post. Over his door appeared the Duke of Wellington's famous dictum: 'If I attempted to answer the mass of futile correspondence which surrounds me I should be debarred from all serious business of campaigning'. His cheerfully outspoken comments uttered in a deep booming voice endeared him to everyone, bringing an air of camaraderie to a hard pressed office.

When the expedition ended he became secretary to the British national appeal for the World Wildlife Fund in 1961. All his associates, whether in the navy, the expedition or the fund, felt a personal loss when he died.

Sir Vivian Fuchs

Dr **KAJ BIRKET-SMITH**, well known for his ethnographical studies in Greenland and at the Department of Ethnography, Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen, died on 29 October 1977, aged 84 years. He was born on 20 January 1893; at the age of 15 his interest in general ethnology was already evident with the publication of three papers in *Frem*, a popular Danish series, in 1908. In 1910 he entered Københavns Universitet to study zoology, and participated in his first expedition to south-west Greenland in 1912. He graduated in 1917 and a year later embarked on a second trip to Greenland. The information he collected during this trip was published as *Ethnography of the Egedesminde district with aspects of the general culture of west Greenland* and remains to this day an indispensable aid to any student of Greenland ethnology. In 1921–24 he took part in the Fifth Thule Expedition, and along with its leader, Knud Rasmussen, studied the ancient culture of the Caribou Eskimos (Kinpetu). His work, *The Caribou Eskimos*, was published in 1929. In the same year he was made curator of the Department of Ethnography and spent ten years

working on the material collected by the Thule expedition. He ventured into the field again in 1933 when he led, with Dr Frederica de Laguna, an expedition to Prince William Sound, Alaska. The five-month trip resulted in a joint publication on the Eyak Indians and for Birket-Smith a paper entitled *The Chugach Eskimos*, which provided hitherto unknown information about Eskimo culture. He was head of the Department of Ethnography from 1940–63 and also lectured at the Københavns Universitet. Throughout his prolific career he produced more than 200 publications.

OLIVE MURRAY CHAPMAN, artist and author, who travelled extensively in the Arctic and the East, died on 11 June 1977. She was educated at Queen's College and Heatherley's Art School, London. Her first book, *Across Iceland: the land of frost and fire*, published in 1930, is an account of a journey that she made alone on horseback from the south of Iceland, round the Snæfellsnes peninsula and across to the north-east, and contains many of her watercolour sketches. *Across Lapland with sledges and reindeer* and a short travel film entitled 'Winter in Lapland' give her impressions of a trip from Alta to Narvik, made in 1931. She also wrote two books on her travels in Cyprus and Madagascar. She became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1926.

ERRATUM

Polar Record, Vol 19, No 118, January, 1978, pp 13 and 16. The figure caption on p. 13 refers to the map on p 16, and the caption on p 16 to the map on p 13.