

THE SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE ARCHIVES: SPREADING THE WORD

**Hilary Shibata
Naomi Boneham
Caroline Gunn**

Scott Polar Research Institute
University of Cambridge
Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER, U.K.
E-mail: jhs1001@cam.ac.uk

ABSTRACT:

The Archives Hub

The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) at the University of Cambridge holds one of the largest collections of manuscript and other unpublished material relating to the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and to many persons who have worked there.

The largest holdings concern the many British expeditions undertaking exploratory activities in these regions from the early nineteenth century to the present. Here the institute's holdings include journals, log-books, reports, correspondence, administrative records, scientific data, maps and artwork.

The archive holds particularly extensive collections for the many expeditions sent to the Arctic in search of Sir John Franklin's lost expedition of 1845-1848, and the "Heroic Era" of Antarctic expeditions including those of Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The archive also holds material on both the Arctic and Antarctic whaling and sealing industries.

The SPRI archive is fully catalogued and over 1,000 collections covering the Arctic and Antarctic can be searched online via the Archives Hub, www.archiveshub.ac.uk, which is a national gateway to archival holdings in UK universities and colleges.

Virtual Shackleton

Virtual Shackleton is a new section of the Scott Polar Research Institute web site (www.spri.cam.ac.uk/library/archives/shackleton) that responds to the tremendous popular interest in the life and expeditions of the Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The archives at the Scott Polar Research Institute hold an outstanding collection of diaries, correspondence, photographs and other artefacts that relate to the life and expeditions of Ernest Shackleton. The collection includes material relating to the following expeditions:

- 'Discovery' – British Antarctic Expedition (1901-1904, led by Robert Falcon Scott)
- 'Nimrod' – British Antarctic Expedition (1907-1909, led by Ernest Shackleton)
- 'Endurance' – Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917, led by Ernest Shackleton)
- 'Aurora' – Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (Aurora) (1914-1917, led by Captain Aeneas Mackintosh)
- 'Quest' – Shackleton Rowett Expedition (1921-22, led by Ernest Shackleton (Frank Wild))

Virtual Shackleton allows you to view a selection of our archive and museum treasures and aims to provide a scholarly resource as well as an introduction to the Institute's wealth of historical documents and artefacts from the ages of Polar Exploration.

KEYWORDS: Archives; online resources; polar exploration; Arctic; Antarctic; biographies; Sir Ernest Shackleton; Robert Falcon Scott; Sir John Franklin