



The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 20 · Summer 2014



Picture by Frank Hurley. Courtesy of Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

Bi-weekly ablutions of The Ritz. Wordie, Cheetham and Macklin scrubbing the floor

So many celebrations, so much to be done...

2014 marks the centenary of the start of the Endurance Expedition. Like the expedition itself, an enormous amount of hard work and preparation has gone, and continues to go, into the celebration of this momentous anniversary. Expeditions, dinners, boat restorations, theatrical productions, publications – events galore are planned in honour of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the other members of his team whose achievements will never be forgotten. As you will see in the following pages, these

tributes will take many different forms, but all are united by a common theme, namely that of honouring the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic and commending the qualities of leadership associated with Sir Ernest. Before you turn the page to read more about what is planned for the anniversary, spare a thought for all those who will be working tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that everything for the Centenary celebrations is shipshape!

James Caird Society news and events

Events planned for the Centenary

Key dates in 1914

Friday 1 August	<i>Endurance</i> sails from London
Friday 8 August	<i>Endurance</i> leaves England from Plymouth
Sunday 27 September	Shackleton leaves UK to join the ship at Buenos Aires
Sunday 26 October	<i>Endurance</i> sails from BA
Friday 5 December	<i>Endurance</i> leaves South Georgia heading for the Antarctic
Monday 15 December	<i>Aurora</i> sails from Sydney, reaches Antarctica 16 January 1915

Expeditions in honour of the Centenary

Shackleton Epic Expedition – as reported in our last issue. January 2013 a team led by Tim Jarvis completed the double from Elephant Island to Stromness. The expedition was aired on the Discovery Channel in November 2013 and the book is also available (see page 14).

Shackleton's Unfinished Business Expedition led by Charlie Paton of Extreme Outdoor Adventures. Hopes to depart in November 2014 for the Trans-Antarctic Route.

From Fire to Ice Expedition, led by

Rob Small See page 6 for more details.

Shackleton Boat Project. This undertaking will see the *Sir Ernest Shackleton* transported from Scotland to the SPRI in Cambridge. More details on page 6.

Sailing Regatta from London to South Georgia. A flotilla of sailing boats, organised by Andrzej Minkiewicz leaves London on 1 August 2014, reforms in Milbay Docks Plymouth and finally sails from UK on 8 August hoping to arrive in South Georgia 5 January 2015.

Dinners and receptions

Devon and Cornwall Polar Society will restage Shackleton's Final Dinner at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel Plymouth plus lectures 7/8 August 2014. *James Caird* replica *Alexandra Shackleton* will be on display.

SPRI Centenary Voyage Dinner will take place at Trinity House on 27 Sept 2014. The dinner will include some wonderful auction prizes, and the guest speaker is Tim Jarvis. The voyage itself departs on 21 November 2014 and returns 10 December.

Lunch on board *HQS Wellington*, Livery Hall of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, on Saturday 9 May 2015 to celebrate JCS 21st Birthday.

James Caird moves to the new Science Building at Dulwich College. This will tie in with the annual AGM and dinner in November 2015.

Westminster Abbey Commemoration Service Friday 20 May 2016.

Drama, exhibitions, shows...

The *Endurance* story staged in Italian – see page 10.

The Explorers Club Antarctica. A show from New Zealand about Scott, Shackleton and the heroic age of Antarctic exploration starts in the UK in August 2014 at Edinburgh Fringe followed by tour.

Shackleton's Legacy – 8 November 2014. A day of discussion arranged by SGA and Friends of SPRI.

Shackleton's Carpenter, a play about McNish by Gale Louw, will be performed at various venues in SE England from November 2014.

Christie's 'Travel, Science and Natural History Sale' takes place on Wednesday 8 October 2014. Likely to include several Shackleton / Polar items.

There are several other films, dramas and exhibitions being planned. There will be more about these in the 2015 issue of the JCS newsletter, as more details become available. In the meantime, try checking on the new official anniversary website. Please note that there may be other similar-sounding websites available. This is ours!

www.shackleton100.org

The AGM 2014 will be held at Dulwich College on Friday 7 November 2014, starting at 5.30pm. Following the meeting there will be a talk by Kelly Tyler-Lewis author of *The Lost Men*

Dinner will be served in the Great Hall afterwards

Meetings in 2015
Saturday 9 May
Birthday Lunch aboard *HQS Wellington*
(replaces traditional May dinner)

Friday 6 November (AGM)
Official moving of *James Caird* to new site at Dulwich College (details tbc)

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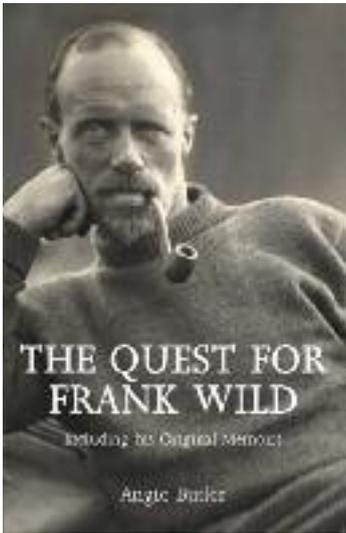
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The Official Centenary Website: www.shackleton100.org

Society Dinners in November 2013 and May 2014



The November AGM and dinner, which took place on Friday 8 November 2013, was accompanied by a talk by Angie Butler which described in fascinating detail her seven years researching the book *The Quest for Frank Wild*. Angie told the Society diners the story of her finding the ashes and then how she arranged to take them to South Georgia to be buried alongside Sir Ernest Shackleton.

She also explained how she had met Eric Marshall's nephew, Edward Marshall, an encounter that introduced her to some photographs of the Nimrod Expedition which had been taken by his uncle but were largely unseen beyond the family. These she also shared with the guests, a rare treat. Finally, Angie played a clip of Shackleton's voice describing Wild's fall down a crevasse during the Nimrod Expedition – with slides to illustrate the moving words.

The James Caird Society invited Arthur Ainsberg to lecture at our May meeting, held on Friday 9 May 2014. Arthur had had an interesting and challenging career in the financial services world in the United States. He held

top jobs working in senior roles in Oppenheimer & Co, Odyssey Partners, and other financial service institutions – including being named as the Chief Operating Officer for the Lehman Brothers Liquidation in 2009. So why should he be lecturing to the James Caird Society? How could any of this be relevant and have anything to do with Sir Ernest Shackleton?

As so often in life the answer is quite simple, although it took Arthur over fifteen years to bring the two things together.

The simple answer is that, having discovered Shackleton, Arthur became totally absorbed in finding out why Shackleton was such a phenomenal leader of men. He retraced the life of Sir Ernest through archival research and adventure travel, culminating in the publication of his book *Shackleton lessons in Leadership*. Since the publication of the book Arthur has lectured extensively on the Endurance Expedition and the important role of leadership in times of crisis.

During his talk, Arthur showed the 2002 Imax film which illustrates beautifully where Shackleton's strengths lay. Arguably this American-made film, although quite short, was one of the best films made of the Endurance Expedition.

Finally with the help of some prompt cards which he put up on the screen, Arthur gave the audience the chance to choose for themselves from the various suggestions which strategy they thought Shackleton would have chosen or would recommend in certain 'sticky' situations.

The audience entered into this with interest.

Shackleton's Carpenter

'I know a good story for you,' said my husband one day while walking on the beach. 'It's about Shackleton's carpenter'.

This was not a propitious start. A few years before, I'd noticed a copy of Caroline Alexander's book *The Endurance* on the dining room table. 'What on earth is he doing with that?' I had thought!

A holiday walk, however, is a good place for tales to be told, and after I had heard the story of McNish, my appetite was whetted.

My plays (I have written six) tend to be about flawed characters. I am intrigued not by heroism and brilliance, but by nuanced people who portray a range of dimensions in their character. The black and white holds no interest. The grey, the coloured, the blurred, the morally uncertain; that's what I find exciting.

Harry McNish was one of those: heroic certainly, brilliant as a shipwright and carpenter, absolutely. But also dour, introspective, argumentative and challenging. The fact that he confronted Shackleton at a difficult time was interesting. That he was proved right, that he was not awarded the Polar medal, that he ended up alone and destitute on a wharf in Wellington, New Zealand; all of this I found fascinating.

The play opens in 1930 with the now penniless carpenter, physically and mentally broken, sleeping in an open boat on the wharf. He wakes in the middle of the night and speaks of his time, his experiences, his loved ones; he conjures up the ghosts of his past, principally Shackleton.

I have created a situation where a man in dire straits, who has seen and done great deeds with extraordinary bravery, has reached the end of his tether. Alone and lonely, desperate and ill, he has to impart how he feels and explain what brought him to this point. I have avoided a chronological narrative to retain its verisimilitude, but I also had to provide the audience with an understanding of what happened and what he endured.

In the first production of *Shackleton's Carpenter*, Malcolm Rennie (known in particular for his recent role in *Mr Selfridge*) plays McNish. The play has been funded by the Arts Council and will be performed in six venues in the South-East of England from November 2014 to February 2015 followed, we hope, by a run at Royal Geographical Society and elsewhere in London.

Gail Louw

The Shackleton Banjo

When Sir Ernest Shackleton gave orders to abandon *Endurance*, it was clear that survival for the entire expedition depended on travelling light, and carrying only equipment essential to survival.

As is well known, Shackleton insisted that each man save only 2lbs of personal possessions, but he famously made an exception for Leonard Hussey's banjo, which he described as 'vital mental medicine'.

That story became an inspiration and a catalyst last year for Norfolk entrepreneur Simon Middleton, founder and managing director of The Great British Banjo Company. When Simon launched his business as Britain's only production-level manufacturer of banjos (the first in fact for more than 60 years), he knew he wanted to name his first product to commemorate the importance of the banjo to the morale of the expedition. And so The Shackleton Banjo was born.

Raising initial funding of £48,000 on the crowd-funding website Kickstarter, Simon designed The Shackleton and then went into production in a tiny workshop in Norwich, Norfolk. By the end of the two-month Kickstarter campaign Simon had sold more than a hundred banjos in advance and attracted three new private equity investors, putting the company on a proper footing.

Now more than 150 Shackletons have been sold, right across the UK, as well as in the USA. Even as far away as Hawaii. More are being ordered every day, and there is a two-month waiting list.



The Shackleton Banjo is not a replica of Hussey's original. The latter was a heavy, Victorian banjo with a tone which would sound harsh to modern tastes, whereas the Shackleton is a very lightweight modern instrument with a sweet soft tone. It's ideal for all 5-string banjo styles from traditional Appalachian 'clawhammer' through to Bluegrass, folk and more. It's a thoroughly British instrument though. The neck is crafted and finished in Norwich, and most of the metal components come from small Norfolk engineering workshops. The rim (body) is handmade in Manchester, and each banjo is built, finished and set-up in Norwich by Simon Middleton and his luthier, Geoff Ransome.

The banjo has received rave reviews from banjo enthusiasts, and has been praised by some of the UK's and even the world's top players.

Now the banjo is established, the small company is developing a range of related products. Shackleton sweaters based on designs from the Endurance Expedition will appear later this year, and a range of Shackleton traditional English ales will be on sale from June.

Simon Middleton, now a member of JCS, said: 'The whole Shackleton story has been a huge inspiration to us, and has caught the imagination of banjo players all over the world. When we started we had no idea just how significant naming our banjo The Shackleton would become. The Boss understood the power and importance of music and its positive effect on the human spirit. We hope our banjo captures some of that spirit.'



Some Presidential outings during the past year

2013

June 10

To the Royal Geographical Society for the AGM, Prizegiving and reception.



June 11

To St Clement Danes for the memorial service for Sir Rex Hunt CMG, Governor of the Falkland Islands 1980-1985, and their loyal friend and supporter. Who can forget the 1982 photograph of Sir Rex wearing full uniform, the plumes of his hat fluttering defiantly in the wind, as he was expelled from the

Islands by the Argentine invaders? The President was fortunate enough to know him well; a fine address by another former governor, David Tatham CMG, had his measure; after listing Sir Rex's many achievements the speaker concluded simply 'he was a lovely man'.

September 19

To the Falkland Islands Government Office for a meeting of the newly formed committee of the Falkland Islands Museum and Jane Cameron National Archives.

October 7

To HQS *Wellington* for a dinner given by the Worshipful Company of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

October 9

Meeting of the Committee of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

10 October

To Dublin for the launch of the Discovery Channel film of Tim Jarvis's Shackleton Epic Expedition. The President was dismayed that the film had been named *Death or Glory*, and pointed out to Discovery that the title was the antithesis of everything that Ernest Shackleton stood for!

November 7

To the Saatchi Gallery to launch Thomas Mercer's Legacy marine chronometer. Thomas Mercer, an English firm dating from the eighteenth century, had been very helpful to Tim Jarvis's Epic Expedition, lending a chronometer of

similar vintage from their archives. Legacy, which celebrates Shackleton's original voyage of survival and Tim Jarvis's centenary expedition, was a wonderful piece of craftsmanship. The dial shows the course of the *James Caird* and of the *Alexandra Shackleton*. The President eyed it wistfully. Alas, it costs six figures...

December 2

To the Naval Club in Hill Street to meet representatives of the charity Dan's Fund for Burns. The President was impressed by the concept of the fundraising and research expedition From Fire to Ice and agreed to be Patron. Not the President's usual sort of expedition – but admirable. The leader is Rob Small (see Page 6).

2014

January 10

To the Ministry of Defence with Tim Winton, Leader of the naval expedition Antarctic Endurance 2016. The President is the principal patron. A very interesting meeting.

February 27

An old neighbour brought a composer friend to see me. When Paul Frith saw the *James Caird* for the first time he was so moved by the story that he decided to compose a symphony: *In Commemoration of the 1914-1916 Trans-Antarctic Expedition*. The President has heard, and much liked, the first movement, and looks forward to hearing the rest. It is hope that the work will be performed somewhere worthy of it during these years of celebration.

March 10

To HQS *Wellington* where the President, who is a member of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, gave a talk.

March 18

The President signed 80 copies of the fine book by Stephen Scott Fawcett, *The Shackleton Centenary Book 2014*. Stephen has produced this volume for the James Caird Society.

May 16

To the Royal Overseas League for the AGM of the South Georgia Association. A great lecture on albatrosses given by wildlife artist Bruce Pearson. The President has been lucky enough to see quite a few albatrosses – but not quite all the species (thought to be around 21) as yet...

A good year

*The Hon Alexandra Shackleton
President, James Caird Society*

Expeditions in the planning stages

From Fire to Ice – Shackleton's unfinished journey



For the first time ever a non-military burns survivor will attempt to reach the South Pole and complete Shackleton's unfinished journey.

In January 2010 Rob Small's life changed forever: he was working in Zanzibar when the house he was living in caught fire, trapping him inside. Rob sustained 43% total body surface burn with a 27% chance of survival.

He has spent 200 days in hospital, undergone 30 operations (so far) and learnt to walk again.

After staff at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital fought to rebuild his life, and succeeded, Rob discovered the charity DFFB (Dan's Fund For Burns). Thanks to the fund, Rob is now in a position to 'give back' – he and his team will live under canvas, travelling on ski, towing sledges of supplies 112 statute miles to the South Pole.

Their journey sets off from the Polar Plateau at almost 10,000 feet. With the wind constantly against them providing a remorseless minus 50-degree wind-chill the



Photo: Mike Thornewill

challenge, for a novice team, will be huge – but possible.

Before, during and after the expedition the medical members of the team will perform tests while monitoring Rob's physiology. They hope to determine if there are any clues in his body's response to the stress of the cold and sustained exercise that might explain his survival from his devastating burns. The expedition also aims to generate money for DFFB.

The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton is proud to be Patron of the From Fire to Ice Expedition which will set off on its epic journey in December 2015. As her grandfather so succinctly put it: "Difficulties are just things to overcome, after all."

For more information, or to support this amazing venture, visit www.fromfiretoice.org

The Shackleton Boat Project

Last September, work began in Ardnamurchan on renovating the *James Caird* replica *The Ernest Shackleton* in time for her journey to Cambridge as part of the Centenary celebrations.

Here is a log of the works with an idea of the costs involved:

Remove ballast £150; hire JCB to lift boat onto scaffolding frame and remove collapsed trailer £500; erect scaffolding, buy polythene and weather board £1000; prepare and paint exterior hull and deck, two masts, rudder and varnish oars; pressure washing and sanding smooth hull and interior; painting exterior – 2 coats white gloss above waterline, 2 coats grey matt below water line; painting interior – below floorboards and floorboards, 2 coats grey matt; cockpit 2 coats white exterior gloss; deck – pressure wash and paint 2 coats grey; toe rails new wood primed, undercoated and finished with grey deck paint; all woodwork painting and cleaning and preparation £4000; steel work –

lifting brackets inside and outside wire-brushed to bare metal, primed and 2 coats white enamel; keel band and steel keel shoe same treatment; steel mast step and tabernacle same, steel bracket for mizzen same £600; replace running rigging £200; replace standing rigging £200

Repairs

Remove and replace toe rails £500; remove bilge keels £500; repair floorboard in fore-cabin and replace small area of rot; seal leaking fore-cabin hatch and leaks through tabernacle bolts; remove box section welded to steel shoe fitted after the trip £300; remove outboard bracket fill holes and make good £200

For display at Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI)

Wash and remove mildew from sails and ITWOS banner £200; permanent welded steel cradle £500



Total likely to be £8700 plus contingencies – £10000

Plus transport to Cambridge + display materials + canopy

Next stage: by early September 2014 *The Ernest Shackleton* arrives by road and is launched into the non-tidal Great Ouse. It is hoped that the boat will be in place under its canopy at SPRI by late September 2014.

The James Caird Society is supporting this mammoth undertaking; any additional contributions will be gratefully received. Please contact the Hon Treasurer, Tony Parker (tonyparker@btinternet.com).

The planning stages in 1914

The Affairs of Men, Summer 1914

On 28 June 1914 two things happened simultaneously. In Sarajevo a young man stepped towards a carriage, drew a pistol from under his cloak and shot an archduke and his wife, both of whom died later that day. Six hundred miles to the north Sir Ernest Shackleton sat reading a letter from Sir James Caird, a jute merchant and philanthropist from Dundee. In the letter was a cheque for £24,000 (worth £2.4million today) as an unconditional donation towards his expedition.

Nobody in the world knew the importance and impact of these two unrelated incidents, but they both triggered a series of events which are still much remembered today. In Europe tensions had been building ever since the death of the great peacemaker, King Edward VII, in 1910. By 1914 it only needed a small incident to start a major war. The shooting of the German Kaiser's close friend the Archduke was it.

In London Shackleton's preparations for the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition were delayed by lack of money. Sir James Caird's letter was the trigger. At last he had the funds to set off. With the *Endurance* lying in the London docks he immediately went to Lloyd's insurers. Normally ships going to Antarctica were only covered to the last port of call. Shackleton secured insurance for the entire voyage, making *Endurance* the first British ship to

be insured while going into the ice. The 28 members of Shackleton's expedition were already on board looking forward to months at sea followed by many months working through the pack ice and across Antarctic wastelands. With the clouds of war gathering their fellow countrymen were signing up, reporting to recruiting stations, collecting uniforms and kit bags and boarding rattling trains to Army camps. One group of men were sailing south, the other group were heading to France. Both groups had no idea of the dramas ahead.

After gallantly entertaining two Queens on board (see below) Shackleton cast off and on 1 August the *Endurance* left London, sailing down the wide Thames and along the deceptively peaceful Kent coast. On 3 August it lay off Margate and Shackleton heard about general mobilisation and, his conscience pricked, offered his ship and crew to the Admiralty as a fighting unit (albeit unarmed). An unambiguous telegram saying 'Proceed' signed by the First Sea Lord (Winston Churchill) was the second trigger. The next day war was declared, but the *Endurance* sailed on via Plymouth and out into the Atlantic. Apart from a little news picked up in Buenos Aires they heard nothing more about the war in Europe for two years, nor did the war in Europe hear about them.

David McLean



16 July 1914: Alexandra, Queen Mother, and her sister Maria Feodorovna, Dowager Empress of Russia, visit *Endurance*

Private Collection Photo © Christie's Images/Bridgeman Images

Never the lowered banner ...

One hundred years ago, on 16 July 1914 Alexandra, Queen Mother, together with her sister, Maria Feodorovna, Dowager Empress of Russia, visited *Endurance* at the South-West India Dock before Shackleton set sail (see picture on page 7). She had presented Shackleton with a Union Flag for the Nimrod Expedition; she now presented him with a second one, together with a small replica of her personal Royal Standard, flown over Marlborough House. On his return Shackleton brought her back the Union Flag with an inscribed silver commemorative plaque to its bamboo pole, shaped like an elongated shield; this is now kept in the Ballroom at Sandringham House. The terse summary he composed about his travails and the travels of the Union Flag has a moving resonance:

'On April 9th 1916, the ice splitting up, we took to the boats. On April 15th, after a perilous journey in three small open boats we landed on Elephant Island. The flags were left on Elephant Island when I started for South Georgia to get help, and after four and a half months, on August 30th 1916, they were picked up with the men by the rescue ship. I carried them with me from Magellan Straits twice across the Andes in a week, north across the isthmus of Panama, then across the United States to San Francisco, thence to New Zealand and down to the Ross Sea in the Antarctic, when I went to rescue the marooned men on Ross Island, back to New Zealand, Australia, across the Pacific to San Francisco, across the American continent, and home to England; and finally I handed back the flags to Her Majesty in August 1917.'

Shackleton believed passionately in the chivalric magic of a flag, as was shown in his first action on quitting *Endurance* for the ice when he set up and raised the Union Flag; as Hussey wrote, it was 'a splendid gesture of defiance to the ice'. His famous rallying cry, 'Never the lowered banner, never the lost endeavour', most stirring of his slogans, is of course connected with their numinous tribal power. He wrote these phrases out in his last letter from the Quest Expedition to his wealthy philanthropic sponsor, John Quiller Rowett, dated 18 December 1921. 'Last endeavour' rather than 'lost endeavour' has crept into Shackleton literature (where admittedly it makes for an almost more interesting sense). *The Times* for 30 January 1922, in reporting his death, quoted Rowett, showing that Shackleton really wrote lost rather than last for the endeavour:

'Shackleton was my best friend. I have known him all my life. We were boys together at Dulwich College and I shall count it the greatest privilege of my career to have been associated with him in his tragic last expedition. His one thought was to help Science and uphold the

honour of British exploration. Everyone coming in contact with him realised his great personality. His generous soul, idealistic and impulsive, was ever ready to help anybody in trouble.'

Mr Rowett read his last letter aboard the *Quest* at Rio dated 18 December. It said

'My dear John. One hundred and ten degrees in the shade. All work done. We are going. The next you'll hear will be, please God, success. Should anything happen in the ice it will have nothing to do with the ship. The ship is all right.

*"Never for me the lowered banner,
Never the lost endeavour"
Your friend, Ernest.*

The source of the phrases, with the correct reading of 'lost endeavour' is to be found in a chivalric text of the late romantic movement, and it is typical of Shackleton to transfer the statement of a lover's deathless devotion in a poem to the cause of exploration: 'never the lowered banner, never the lost endeavour' derives from a two-stanza poem addressed to the 'star of my life', reproduced opposite. This is *Cor Cordium* ('Heart of Hearts', the inscription on Shelley's tomb in the English Cemetery at Rome), written by the Scottish Celtic Twilight poet 'Fiona Macleod' (pseudonym of William Sharp, 1855-1905), and published in *The Hour of Beauty* in 1907. Sharp had become obsessed, incidentally, with the persona he developed of a powerful 'Anima' figure, the woman within himself, who took over his imaginative life; he published ten books under the name of this imaginary woman. He kept the pseudonym a secret, even contributing a fictitious entry for her to *Who's Who*.

Shackleton from early years memorised much poetry, shutting himself away reading in his cabin in his Merchant Navy and White Line days; later he was said to have bored his tent-companions in a blizzard by declaiming hundreds of lines by Browning. The association in his mind of the banner was obviously connected with his cult of knightly man-hauling exploration with a sledging flag. On the Discovery Expedition, when selected to attempt the Pole, Scott told him they could not take their flags because of the weight; Shackleton declared that he would sew the red and gold silk banner with the family coat of arms into his jacket; Scott relented, and the miniature banners were raised.

Dr Jan Piggott

Cor Cordium

*Sweet Heart, true heart, strong heart,
star of my life, oh, never
For thee the lowered banner, the lost endeavour!
The weapons are still unforged that thee
and me shall dissever,
For I in thy heart have dwelling,
and thou hast in mine for ever.*

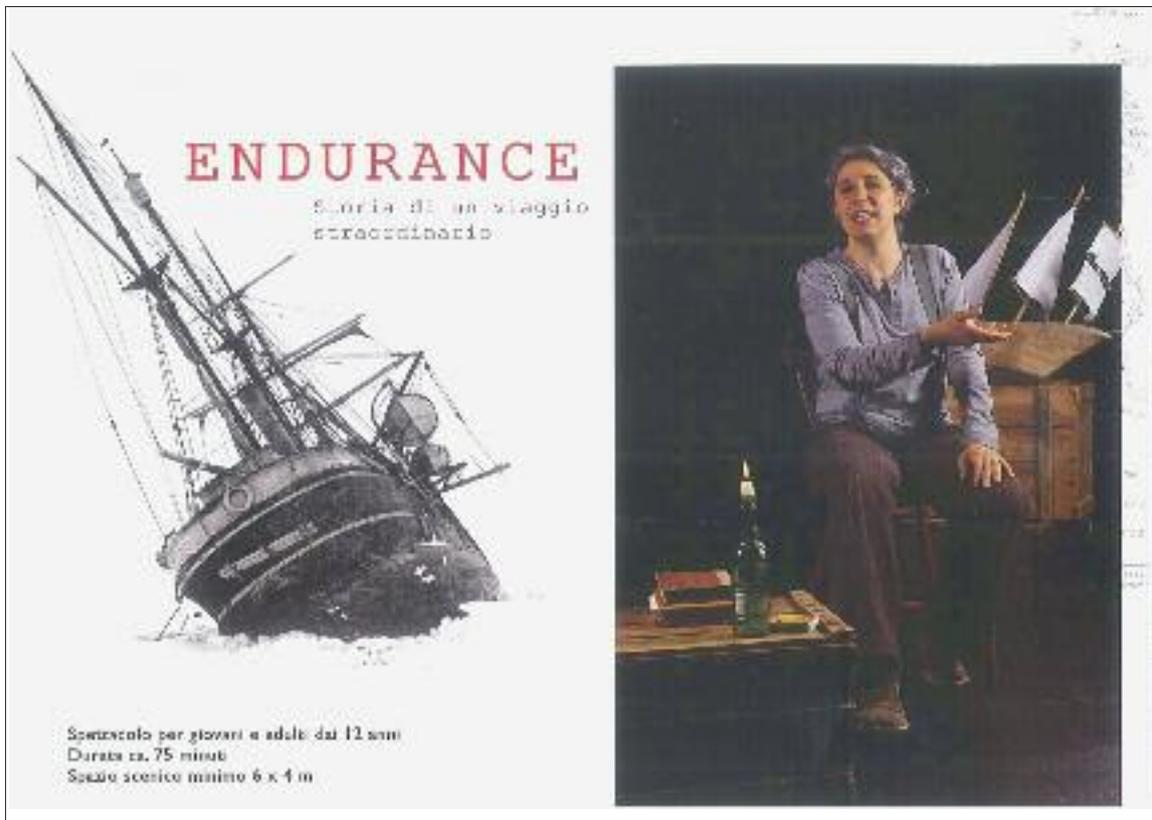
*Can a silken cord strangle love, or a steel sword sever?
Or be as a bruised reed, the flow'r of joy for ever?
Love is a beautiful dream, a deathless endeavour,
And for thee the lowered banner, O Sweet Heart never!*

'Fiona McLeod'



Shackleton in Switzerland, Italy, Greece ... and beyond?

Endurance: Storia di un viaggio straordinario



The drama of Shackleton's Endurance Expedition has been recreated on stage in Italian with a premiere at the Teatro del Gatto, Ascona, Ticino, Switzerland on 14 December 2013. It was subsequently performed at other Swiss theatres and in Italy, including to audiences of young people.

Endurance: Storia di un viaggio straordinario is the initiative of actress Stefania Mariani and photographer Michele Montalbetti from the company Stage Photography. They were inspired by this century-old adventure, not just in terms of history but for the lessons that can still be learned from it today.

Michele discovered the story in an article entitled *The Naked Soul of Man: Ernest Shackleton* in the journal *Parabola* (spring 2011). Stefania Mariani and director Jean Martin Roy turned it into a script and soon production was under way with the full support of the James Caird Society and in particular President Alexandra Shackleton and committee member Roger Slade. Stefania and Michele came to the UK twice, in particular taking in visits to the RGS, RSGS, SPRI and Dulwich College. Roger Slade attended a performance in Locarno on 15 March 2014, whilst JCS member Giovanni Blasich also attended an earlier performance in Lugano.

Why did this Swiss company choose Sir Ernest Shackleton and his Endurance Expedition? The play notes explain:

- * Shackleton is a modern hero*
- * Shackleton sacrificed his expedition purpose to save his men*
- * To explore the concept of travel as adventure and inner growth*
- * To celebrate the centenary of an important yet little known (in this part of Europe) event*
- * To reflect the company's interest in the goodness of the human spirit and the enormous skills and resources of humans*

The play has been a considerable success. Extracts from a review by Giovanni Blasich (see opposite) explain why.

The production goes to Greece in summer 2014 and there are thoughts of taking it to Chile to acknowledge the SS *Yelcho* connection in the rescue of the expedition members from Elephant Island. There is also interest from a Swiss television company.

The undoubted success of the play demonstrates not just the relevance of this extraordinary adventure today but its international appeal, especially during the centenary year. It will play a vital part in helping to preserve the memory, and commend the outstanding qualities of leadership, of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Roger Slade



'*Endurance* is the theatrical presentation of an extraordinary story where the word is the absolute protagonist, combined with measured and incisive gestures by the actress Stefania Mariani, who gives rhythm to the story. Effective hand movements in the air print in block letters the name of the expedition: The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. There are only a few iconic elements in the scene: an English-style chair; boxes of different shapes, some overturned; a bottle with a candle; a mini Union Jack. The floor of the stage is deep blue, as are the wings and curtains to remind us of the sea.'

'The story unfolds with the introduction of the three fundamental factors of the expedition: the sponsors, the ship, the recruitment of the crew. *Endurance* herself appears from behind a box – a wooden model of a ship, created by craftsman Jakob Surbeck.'

'During the crew roll call the narrator introduces the character and function of each man while a doll that represents him is placed aboard the ship.'

'As the ship is about to set sail, the narrator takes the model and accompanies it with broken dance steps to simulate the ship's pitching.'

'The ice pack is represented by a white satin sheet lying on the floor, ready to embrace the ship in its tremendous grip. Using her hands in an animated fashion, the narrator describes the contrasting movement

of ice blocks that lay crushed and the sinking of the *Endurance*. High pathos is achieved at the disappearance of the ship: with extreme simplicity and effectiveness the white sheet slides around the model, wrapping it up completely. There are references to resentment, sarcasm and rebellions by some crew members, but the feeling prevails that all the hands form a group, a cohesive team, aimed at survival, under the command of the Boss, whose tenacity, resourcefulness, perseverance, and leadership are enhanced.'

'Later in the story, the cry of "Earth!", announcing the arrival at Elephant Island, sends shivers down the backs of the audience and then the tension melts when the siren of the whaling station in Stromness is heard, evoked by blowing into the neck of a bottle.'

'*Endurance* is a show that tells a true story with a few minimal elements yet is highly evocative and expertly cast. Voice, gesture, mime and dance steps serve to unleash the imagination of the viewer, leaving the question: is this reality or imagination? On leaving the theatre, however, the audience is confronted with the stark reality through the projection of Hurley's photographs. This makes it clear that the story they have just witnessed was authentic, neither fiction nor fantasy.'

Pictures courtesy of Michele Montalbetti



Shackleton's Ireland

Endurance Expedition 1914–1917 Gathering Event in Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin

Introduction

Friday 11 October 2013 was a bright sunny morning, and at 11am I opened the doors of the Exhibition to a long queue of people waiting to come and meet the descendants of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Tom Crean.

The reason for this event was to celebrate a 'Gathering of Families' connected to the Endurance Expedition of 1914–1917. Irish Tourism had developed the concept of a 'get together' for Irish families with relatives now living overseas to bring them home during 2013 to reconnect with their Irish roots and to promote Ireland internationally.

That morning we were in luck as we had the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton visiting as well as Tim Jarvis, the Australian adventurer who had successfully completed the first re-enactment of the *James Caird* boat journey and South Georgia mountain climb in one go (not sure about his Irish roots!). He spoke about the challenges of the Southern Ocean and the difficulties they experienced in making the boat journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia in 12 days – hungry, wet and tired. They then had to trek across the ice-capped mountains of South Georgia after being delayed for a number of days due to storm force winds. Everyone at the event was mesmerised by his story.

The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton spoke about how she had been asked by Tim to support his adventure and she was delighted to lend her name and honoured to have the replica of the *James Caird* for this adventure named after her!

The Exhibition

At the heart of the exhibition, accompanied by wall mounted text boards, are Hurley's dramatic images. A remarkable record of historic importance, the photographs illustrate daily life aboard ship, the men's scientific study, their battle with the ice and their friendship with the dogs.

Some of Hurley's most compelling images are of the ship's break-up. These are presented along with photographs of the camps and their attempted march over snow and ice to reach open water. Startling original film-footage by Hurley, enhanced by computer animation, shows *Endurance* as she disappeared into the Weddell Sea.

A replica of the *James Caird* gives the visitor a real sense of the awesome challenge that Shackleton and his men faced in their rescue mission from Elephant Island, sailing an open boat across 800 miles in 50-ft waves and gale-force winds, with only a sextant, some charts, an unreliable chronometer and four sightings of the sun in 16 days to guide them to South Georgia.

Throughout his life, Shackleton always regarded himself as Irish, so it was appropriate for us to host the Gathering Event for the descendants of Shackleton and Crean.

The Speakers

In the glorious sunshine, as the photographs show, we had a speech from the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton who acknowledged the achievements of Tim Jarvis's Epic voyage and she welcomed everyone who attended, especially the families of Tom Crean. Tim Jarvis spoke about his adventures in re-enacting the famous boat



The Shackleton Exhibition in Dun Laoghaire



The reception and shop area at the exhibition

journey and mountain climb. The previous evening in Dublin he had attended a launch of Discovery Channel's three part documentary on the Epic Expedition which was well received and aired at the end of October (now available on DVD). We then had an entertaining speech from Brendan O'Brien, a grandson of Tom Crean, who talked about his mother and how little she knew about her father's achievements in Antarctica except for the name of the family pub – The South Pole Inn – and his Polar medals stashed away in a dusty drawer. Brendan's own grandson Ben was present extending the great family tree of Tom Crean down through several generations.

At 1pm the group and many others moved literally next door to the Royal St George Yacht Club for lunch and further talks from other adventurers. The first was Jo Davies who spoke about her plans to retrace the route Shackleton would have taken had he landed on the continent instead of becoming stuck in the Weddell Sea for nine months and drifting across to the Peninsula. The second speaker was Irishman, Paul Devaney from Irish Seven Summits who had climbed five of the highest peaks in the world and was heading off to attempt Vinson Massif in January 2014 and Everest in April 2014. He successfully reached the top of Vinson Monsiff on 5 January 2014 but sadly the Everest attempt had to be abandoned following the tragic loss of the Sherpas on Mount Everest on 18 April 2014.

The event finished with a lively Q&A with the Hon Alexandra Shackleton standing alongside Brendan O'Brien, two grandchildren of two of the most famous explorers and adventurers ever; now that is something to tell the grandchildren!

*John O'Reilly
Owner/Director
Shackleton Exhibition, Dun Laoghaire*



Left to right: Brendan O'Brien, grandson of Tom Crean, the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of Sir Ernest Shackleton, Ben O'Brien, great great grandson of Tom Crean and Tim Jarvis, adventurer and leader of the Epic Expedition



The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton at the exhibition



Brendan O'Brien speaking in the October sunshine

14th Shackleton Autumn School 25–26 October 2014

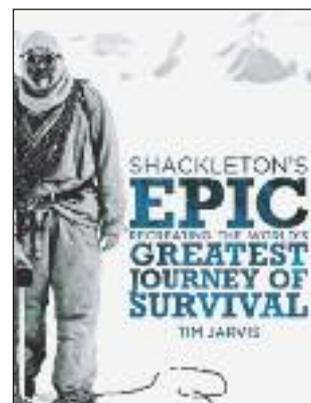
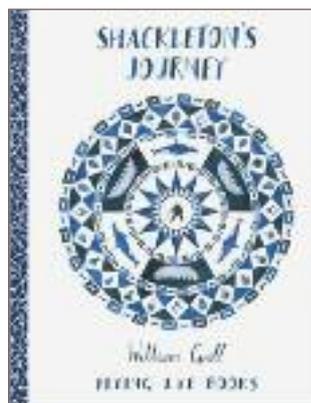
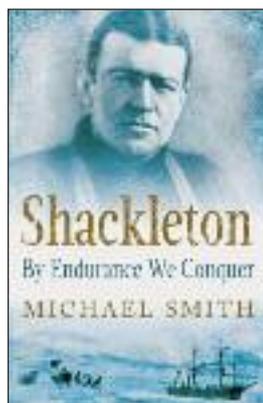
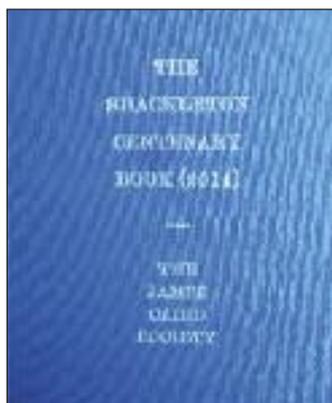
Lecturers, Drama, Film, Excursion,
Exhibits, Polar Exhibition 'Scott'

The annual Shackleton Autumn School Festival
is a 4-day event commemorating
Sir Ernest in the county of his birth.

The Autumn School provides the only forum for the
discussion of Polar exploration/research in Ireland.

www.shackletonmuseum.com

The books page



The Shackleton Centenary Book 2014 – Edited by Stephen Scott-Fawcett

Size: - 12 inches high; 8.5 inches wide; 9/10th inch thick.
Cover: Hard. Medium-blue quality buckram. Silver block. 223pp.

Content: Well –illustrated in colour and B+W. Numerous new articles and essays focusing on Shackleton's life with emphasis on the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1914-17.

Contributors: Ann Savours, Jan Piggott, David Yelverton, Michael Smith, Stephen Scott-Fawcett, Stephen Haddelsey, Robert Stephenson, Meredith Hooper, Shane Murphy, Rorke Bryan, Austin Dwyer, Tina Ferris, Alfonso M. Fillipi Parada, Antarctic Heritage Trust, Elizabeth Rajala.

Original articles by J M Wordie, William Lincoln Bakewell, Ernest Shackleton and various diary extracts (McNish and Hurley).

Publication date: 1 January 2014 (Sutherland House Publishing) ISBN: 978-0-9576293-0-1

Price: £50.00 + P&P (Standard Version); £95.00 + P&P (Subscriber Version).

Contact: Tony Parker – tonyparker@btinternet.com

By Endurance we Conquer – Michael Smith

Former journalist Michael Smith is an established authority on Polar exploration. *An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean Antarctic Survivor* was short-listed for the Banff Mountain Book Festival 2002. The illustrated version was shortlisted for the Irish Published Book of the Year 2007. From the *Irish Times*: 'The epic struggles, heroics and unbelievable hardships of the voyages are wonderfully told. Compulsive reading.'

Michael's current work, appropriately, is a biography of 'one of history's great explorers, an extraordinary character who pioneered the path to the South Pole 100 years ago and became a dominant figure in Antarctic discovery': Sir Ernest Shackleton. A charismatic personality, Shackleton's incredible adventures on four expeditions have captivated generations and inspired a dynamic, modern following in business leadership. And of course none more so than the *Endurance* mission, where Shackleton's commanding

presence saved the lives of his crew when their ship was crushed by ice and they were turned out on to the savage frozen landscape. But Shackleton was a flawed character whose chaotic private life, marked by romantic affairs, unfulfilled ambitions, overwhelming debts and failed business ventures, contrasted with his celebrity status as a leading explorer. Drawing on extensive research of original diaries and personal correspondence, Michael Smith's definitive biography brings a fresh perspective to our understanding of this complex man and the heroic age of Polar exploration.

ISBN: 9781780745725, 400 pages, 156 × 234mm

Publication: 2 October 2014

Shackleton's Journey – William Grill

Something rather special for children. To celebrate Ernest Shackleton's departure on *Endurance* across the Antarctic, star illustrator William Grill brings us a detailed visual narrative of this extraordinary and historical expedition.

Grill's beautiful use of coloured pencils and vibrant hues place him somewhere on the artistic spectrum between Raymond Briggs and David Hockney, and his fastidious cataloguing of every single detail of the expedition gives this book a distinct flavour.

Shackleton's Epic – Tim Jarvis

Hot on the heels of the Scott centenary comes the round of Shackleton commemorations, celebrating not the explorer's death, but the 1914-17 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, informally known as *Endurance*, after the ship that took the Boss's men to the White Continent.

Society members will need scant reminding that *Endurance* did not return having foundered in the ice off the coast of Antarctica. Shackleton, however, did return to England in a curious form of victory, having saved every man of his crew, despite failing in most of the expedition objectives. He did this by leading his men to Elephant Island, from where he pulled off one of the great rescue missions in the history of exploration.

Timed to coincide, broadly speaking, with the centenary of the voyage of the James Caird, Australian explorer Tim Jarvis successfully recreated Shackleton's

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journey faithfully to almost the last detail, set out here in his superb account. Jarvis of course had a certain amount of digital technology (that invariably failed him) in order to record his modern version of Shackleton's epic. As well as the feat of human endeavour, a key part of the successful expedition was the performance of the specially commissioned replica boat, the *Alexandra Shackleton*, named after the president of the James Caird Society.

Shackleton's Epic tells an extraordinary story on a number of levels. First we have the familiar history. But

then Jarvis leads us through the vicissitudes of planning a modern expedition, selecting a team, training, raising finance. Jarvis then takes us into the back-breaking 'double' of crossing 800 miles of the worst sea in the world, followed by a harrowing traverse of the spine of South Georgia.

What the book reveals is, quite apart from being an adventure-style explorer of the first order, Jarvis is no mean hand at turning a phrase.

Nick Smith

A personal view of Charles Swithinbank, a distinguished JCS member who died on 27 May 2014

A British adventurer. For most Polar scientists their interest in the Polar regions stems first and foremost from their work, Charles Swithinbank was different. He gravitated towards the Polar regions first, through a lucky break, and the scientific career followed. No wonder he was sought after by expeditions from so many different countries. In that respect he followed in a line of great British explorers who sought out the world's most inhospitable places, chiefly in order to push out the boundaries.

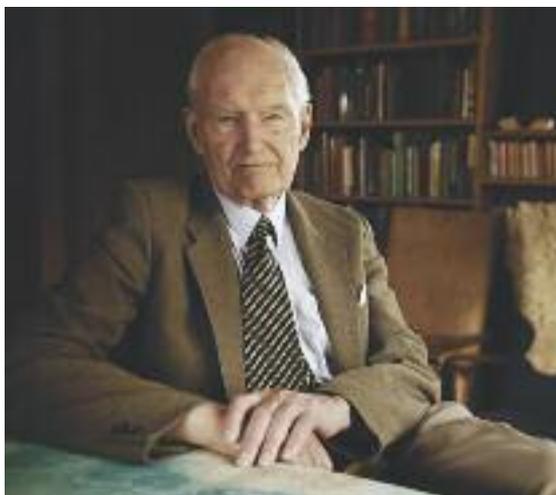
A true pioneer. Charles Swithinbank realised two things: firstly – Antarctica is like a different planet; secondly – inquisitive humans would want to go there in ever larger numbers.

Consequently he devoted much of his life to surveying Antarctic glaciers and snowfields for suitable runways so that we could fly there. Many runways for wheeled aircraft were first surveyed and tested by Charles. In recent years he tried to persuade Richard Branson to land one of his 747s on ice. Charles knew that it would work but Branson declined, probably a risk too far. With all due respect to Charles, I hope that this dream of mass air travel is over-ruled. Antarctica is too fragile. People need to make an effort to get there in order to appreciate its extraordinary uniqueness. An airport would ruin the whole essence of Antarctica.

A superb lecturer. Charles was an entertaining lecturer. Of the lecturers on my first Antarctic cruise he was one of the most popular. Older than the others, he brought experience and wisdom. He showed a gripping cine film he had taken when travelling on a whaling ship. In 2008 he gave a sell-out lecture

at the James Caird Society dinner at Dulwich College called '50 years on ice – the changing scene'. Dissatisfied with the screen provided, he persuaded the College to invest in a 'proper' big one, appropriate to the size of the Great Hall, chipping in half the cost. It continues to improve the impact of all images projected on it.

A man for the occasion. Charles Swithinbank was ever prepared for the occasion, as the following incident illustrates. During the Falklands War in 1982, Margaret Thatcher was concerned that Argentine forces might threaten the (unarmed) British Antarctic bases. Needing expert advice in a hurry she rang Lord Shackleton who gave her several names including Ray Adie and Charles Swithinbank, both veteran British Antarctic Survey men. Armed with maps and NASA Landsat photographs they met Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street on 1 June. As a scientist herself, she was quick on the uptake moving through a series of detailed questions. Her interest was so engaged that the meeting lasted 90 minutes and quite a few drinks were consumed. 'Just bring the bottle!' called Mrs T to an aide. How often did she do that? When President Reagan arrived several days later he secured a mere 30 minutes!



Charles Swithinbank was so successful in emphasising the importance of the work of British Antarctic Survey that its budget was subsequently increased considerably. There is no doubt that the benefits of that meeting still abide, and that Mrs T had met two men who were not afraid of her, and who spoke about their subject with confidence.

David McLean

Photo courtesy of Martin Hartley



The James Caird Society was founded by Harding McGregor Dunnett in 1994.

It is a registered charity dedicated to honouring the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic and to commending the qualities of leadership associated with the name of Sir Ernest Shackleton KCVO. These qualities proved invaluable during the ill-fated but glorious Endurance Expedition when Shackleton maintained his men's morale while they were stranded for months on the ice without hope of rescue. This achievement, combined with the feat of bringing the team home safely, is unique in the history of exploration.

Email addresses please!

The Society is collecting email addresses from all members so that we can circulate relevant information and invitations quickly and easily. Applications for places at JCS events will be accepted by email. If you live overseas the annual newsletter will only be sent by email. No email addresses, will be shared with third parties. Please keep our membership secretary, Robert Irvine, updated. Send any changes NOW!
Membership_secretary_jcs@yahoo.co.uk

Membership application form

I wish to become a member of the James Caird Society paying a subscription of *(indicate as applicable)*:

- £55 for three years, or
 - £100 for six years, or
 - £20 annually *(Payable only by bankers' order)*
- Subscription year begins 1 July*

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Please photocopy this form or download it from our website. Single year applications (for UK residents only) must also include a completed Bankers' Order Form which can also be downloaded from our website. Cheques should be made payable to The James Caird Society and should be sent, with the relevant form, to: Mrs Pippa Hare, The Hon Secretary, The James Caird Society, Fig Tree Cottage, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EN, UK Tel: 01580 714944 Email: pippahare@btinternet.com

UK taxpayers are urged to take advantage of Gift Aid which allows the Society tax relief on subscription. A Gift Aid Declaration Form is available on the website.



A Twin Otter over Hercules Inlet as two modern-day explorers head for the pole.



A Russian transport plane taking off from Patriot Hills, an ice runway first spotted by Giles Kershaw and Charles Swithinbank (see p15).

These pictures by Martin Hartley are reproduced in memory of the late Charles Swithinbank, distinguished Polar scientist and JCS member

The James Caird Society 2014

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Editor: Dorothy Wright, dorothymanders@hotmail.com
 Design and typesetting by Strathmore Publishing Services, London EC1 and David McLean · Printed by Portland Print, Kettering