



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

7338 Wayfarer Drive

Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

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Memorial Lecture

In Collaboration with the National Academy of Science
Polar Research Board

Early Exploration of the Poles: A Pictorial History

By Dr. Donal Manahan

October 27, 1999, 5:30 pm

The National Academies' Georgetown Facilities
Room 118, The Green Building
2001 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington DC

(Reception to follow)

Donal T. Manahan is currently chair of the Polar Research Board. He is an environmental physiologist from the University of Southern California where he is the Director of the Marine Biology Section in the Department of Biological Sciences. He works in the Antarctic, as well as in temperate regions and deep-sea hydrothermal vents. His research includes physiological ecology of early stages of animal development, animal/chemical interactions in the ocean, and the genetic bases of physiological processes. He is also director of an international training course in Antarctica, "Integrative Biology and Adaptation of Antarctic Marine Organisms." Dr. Manahan has an avid interest in the history of exploration of both poles.

Last Chance: Antarctic Calendars for the New Millennium!

We still have some of these better-than-ever calendars remaining, which promise to take you and your friends into 2000 with startlingly beautiful images. These calendars, published by Hedgehog House of New Zealand, feature the photographs of Colin Monteath and numerous other talented artists. The price is \$11, which includes mailing anywhere in the U.S. and Canada. Send checks directly to Antarctic Society, 7338 Wayfarer Drive, Fairfax Station, Virginia, 22039.

Special Announcement

Ray Arnaudo of the State Department has received copies of a book on the demographics of Antarctica, which he is kindly making available to interested members of the Society. The book, entitled *The Structure and Dynamics of Antarctic Population*, was written by Juan Carlos Beltramino, a retired Argentine diplomat with a long history in Antarctic Treaty work. The 100-page book, published in 1993, provides a brief history of Antarctic population trends and is illustrated with charts and tables on expeditions and stations.

If you would like a copy of the book please contact Ray:

Via mail (with a self-addressed mailing label):

Office of Ocean Affairs, OES/OA, Rm. 5805, Department of State, Washington DC 20520

Via e-mail: arnaudorv@state.gov

Via Facsimile: 202-647-9099

Brash Ice. This issue is brought to you through the courtesy of Kristin Larson tossing it together in a hurry, with Ruth Siple once again doing all the stuffing, in a hurry.

We want to bring to your attention that we still have beaucoup numbers of the New Zealand Hedgehog calendars. For an Antarctic souvenir calendar of the millennium, this one can NOT be beat. I was blessed this summer by the visit of three South Pole sitters, the Logans of Maine and the German physicist scientist, Robert Schwarz. Their collection of aurora photographs, taken at the South Pole in recent years, is unquestionably the best ever from Antarctica. One of Robert's spectacular pictures graces the month of June in the new Hedgehog calendar. For \$11, the calendar is a steal.

This newsletter is brought out at this time in order to get a notice on the street of a very interesting lecture being given by Donal Manahan, Antarctic researcher and current Chair of the Polar Research Board. We encourage you to support this function. In past years, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, we worked closely with PRB in co-hosting our annual Memorial Lectures, and it was great for us. We invite all Society members to show up for this provocative lecture and also to demonstrate support of their meeting.

This newsletter has a central theme, which can be attributed to our friendship and cooperation developed with Valmar Kurok, who is the Montreal Antarctic Society (4633 Harvard Ave, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4A 2X3). He writes, edits, publishes, and mails their newsletter, *The Seventh Continent*. It is an excellent newsletter, with very timely articles on Antarctic happenings that you will not find elsewhere. One of his realms of interest is music, and we dare say without any fear of contradiction, that he knows more about Antarctic music than any other person. So we asked him if he would summarize the state of the art relative to what has been composed on Antarctica.

Valmar is a very nice, cooperative guy, and he really put together the primary substance of this newsletter for us. Thanks Valmar. But on the way to the Forum - they still play hockey in Canada on occasions- Valmar omitted mention of his own very recent CD production, *Antarctic Arrival*. It is a collaboration between Valmar and Marc-Andre Bourbonnais, recorded by Platinum Heights Sound Design in Montreal. We asked Ed Williams of Roanoke, Virginia, a very distinguished surgeon who just happens to be an excellent videographer, (whose main success is in combining photographic artistry

with music) 10 comment on Valmar's new music production. Ed tells us that *Antarctic Arrival* is just great.

Valmar's CD features songs with titles like Antarctic Arrival (announced by a howling blizzard), Never Mind the Icebergs, Flight of the Albatross, Antarctic World Beat Theme, Underwater Waltz, Penguin Stroll, Seekers of the Poles, Aurora Australis, March of the Glaciers, and White Winter Curtain. And as for myself, I told Valmar, "Your music is very danceable," and he thought that was a most worthy comment on his music.

We are thinking of other possible central themes for succeeding newsletters, and our next one will probably list as many Antarctic web sites that we can assemble. Your ideas and input for favorite sites will help us materially in putting together the best possible listing. Send yours to either Kristin (k_larson@earthlink.net) or me (pcdal@midcoast.com) via e-mail.

As this is approaching the holiday seasons, may we remind you that there are many excellent Antarctic books out there by Society members that would make excellent Christmas gifts. Charles Swithinbank, John Behrendt, George Doumani, Ron Naveen, and Al Fowler have all authored recently. You don't have to buy another book on Shackleton, there really are other Antarcticans besides Sir Ernest.

Penguin Prattle. You will quickly note that the form and function of this particular newsletter departs significantly from our norm. And as mentioned above, there were several good reasons for doing so, not the least of which was our desire to get word out on the PRB lecture featuring Donal Manahan. Having seen several of Donal's presentations I can recommend this event unequivocally.

We will be back in your mailbox very soon with another letter bringing you up-to-date on deployment and research plans for the current ice season, more info on the Shackleton exhibit, some great book reviews and other important

developments south of sixty. Now, on to the main event.

ANTARCTICA EXPERIENCED THROUGH MUSIC - Capsule Comments on some currently available CDs about Antarctica. Compiled by Valmar Kurol, Montreal Antarctic Society.

There is no other music like the toneless music of millions of years of accumulated silence, through which come bars of unearthly colours. There is no need for ears to hear the fugues played on this ice organ. Here nature has set aside for man a domain of beauty and inspiration such as he cannot know elsewhere on this planet -Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd (The National Geographic Magazine, Oct. 1947).

In his 1986 treatise, **The Ice - A Journey to Antarctica**, American author and history professor Stephen Pyne argues that "traditional fiction could not find enough material in the Antarctic experience or the Antarctic environment to construct typical novels. The range of potential experiences was much smaller than elsewhere, the opportunity for surprise much less. Modernist literature was more inclined to follow Joseph Conrad into the Heart of Darkness than to pursue Robert Scott into the Antarctic's Heart of Whiteness. Instead the Antarctic has been largely a wasteland for imaginative literature."

If one substitutes *music* for *fiction/literature* the above comments may be just as appropriate. The visual and spiritual superlatives of Antarctica are now frequently expressed through photographs and coffee table books but to a lesser extent through music. What kinds of tunes and rhythms does the seventh continent inspire? Is there an Antarctic sound? Whatever the answers to these questions, it seems that there is a scarcity of Antarctic-themed music for those with an appetite for it. The classical repertoire appears to be minimal and it is the pop artists who have been making more Antarctic musical noises, in some cases literally. The following is a

consumer's guide to what has been available in the past few years directly in stores and through the Internet in North America. There are few discs devoted entirely to Antarctica, but quite a few with individual songs entitled *Antarctica* or something similar.

SINFONIA ANTARTICA (Seventh Symphony)
by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Perhaps you have seen the vintage 1949 film *Scott of the Antarctic*. The background music, by one of Britain's greatest 20th century composers, was later arranged into his Seventh Symphony, which premiered in 1953 and is considered to be the granddaddy of Antarctic music. The scoring includes a wind machine and conveys the struggle and desolation of Robert Scott's final journey. It is a deep, dreary and depressing work, not to be played on a Walkman. There are many recorded versions and listeners may find their individual tastes and preferences among the various issues.

One of these, issued in 1997, conducted by Andrew Davis with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, contains a very illustrative booklet with historical photographs of Scott's expedition. Teldec 0630-13139-2

Also notable is the Raymond Leppard version with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, issued in 1993, which uses narrated excerpts from Scott's own journals. A useful booklet is also included. *CossKC2214

Another recent CD was released in 1998. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra recording of this work, on the budget-priced NAXOS label, is a real bargain at a third of the price of some of the more expensive ones. The booklet notes are informative but why, oh, why feature a cover photo of Greenlanders hunting in the ice, when this is supposed to be the South? Naxos 8.550737

The second release in 1998 of this classic Antarctic music, performed by the Halle Orchestra, conducted by Sir John Barbirolli, is no spring penguin. The full symphony was premiered in January 1953 by Barbirolli and the present performance was recorded in June 1953. This

reissue on CD is now the oldest of the nine or so performances of the Symphony currently available on disc. EMI 7243 5 66543 2 7

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

Of special interest to classicists, the British Antarctic Survey and the London Philharmonia Orchestra have commissioned prolific British composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies to compose an Antarctic Symphony, his 8th, for its premiere in 2001. In 1997-98 Sir Peter spent three weeks at Britain's Rothera Base on the Antarctic Peninsula experiencing life there. The BAS said "Through this commission we hope to raise awareness of Antarctica as a unique scientific laboratory among people whose interests normally lie within the Arts. In turn we at BAS very much look forward to learning more about the world of serious music." Sir Peter's eloquent Antarctic diary is available at his web site at <http://www.MaxOpus.com>

ANTARCTICA - Suite for Guitar and Orchestra (1992) by Nigel Westlake. Guitar played by John Williams.

Westlake, an Australian, wrote the score for the IMAX film *Antarctica* and later reworked it into this longer guitar concerto in four movements. Highlights are the stately Wooden Ships and a shimmering piece called Penguin Ballet, which captures emperor penguins frolicking beneath the ice. Sony Classical SK53 361

LULIE the ICEBERG - Music by Jeffrey Stock, Story by Her Imperial Highness Princess Hisako of Takamado of Japan (1999).

Based on the Princess¹ children's book, written after she saw a lone iceberg drifting off Greenland, the "magical tale centers around a quest for the origins and destiny of life as seen through the eyes of an innocent and very brave iceberg, Lulie, as he embarks on a courageous ocean journey between the Arctic and the Antarctic, the two oldest living continents on the planet". One of the movements is entitled *South Pole*.

Recorded at Carnegie Hall, the performance is narrated by Sam Waterston and the musicians include the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Betty Baisch's Choral Associates, Yo-Yo Ma (cello), Pamela Frank (violin) and Paul Winter (saxophone).

This CD is hard to miss with the colourful iceberg, emperor penguins and humpback whales on the cover. Produced in cooperation with UNICEF and Icebridge, a forum of scientists and educators dedicated to the promotion of knowledge about the polar regions and the oceans. Sony Classical SK61665

ON THE LAST FRONTIER by Einojuhani Rautavaara(1999).

This Finnish classical composer has become well-known to North American audiences in recent years, particularly for his haunting 1972 *Cantus Arcticus*, an ode to the land of the Arctic Circle.

On the Last Frontier (A Fantasy for Chorus and Orchestra, 1997) is based on the composer's interest, going back to childhood, in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*. Published in 1837, this novella about Pym and a group of sailors marooned on a tropical island at the South Pole with a race of savages is considered to be seminal in Antarctic fiction and has spawned numerous like-minded stories. As Rautavaara approached his 70th year, he took the book's closing plot and developed his own rich musical themes of imagined lands not yet explored. Ondine ODE 921-2

ANTARCTICA by Bemie Krause (1998).

This is a CD of natural sounds from the field produced by Douglas Quin for the *Wild Sanctuary* series of wildlife recordings. Stereo/surround microphones were used to record Weddell and leopard seals, orcas, and emperor and Adelie penguins. Of special note are the creaks and groans heard from the Canada Glacier and Wind Harps from the Taylor Valley. "To create this kind of magic with natural sound takes time, enormous

patience, perseverance, and a keen compositional sense to make lyrical the material heard on this album. Sounds from the Antarctic present the ultimate test." Miramar 09006-23113-2

ANTARCTICA by Vangelis (1983).

Synthesizer music from Koreyoshi Kurahara's film of the same name. Best song is the title track, *Theme from Antarctica*, which still remains the definitive Antarctic mood music. Nothing else on the disc matches this magnificent throbbing and pulsating piece which is the perfect accompaniment for sailing down the pristine Lemaire Channel or Gerlache Strait. Many amateur videos of the Antarctic have probably borrowed this theme for background music. Polygram 815732-2

POLAR SHIFT - A Benefit for Antarctica, various artists (1991).

A compilation of New Age instrumental and vocal music dedicated to the conservation of Antarctica. Performers include a number of single-name artists such as Vangelis, Yanni, Enya and Kitaro, along with ET's John Tesh. A very enjoyable and soothing palette of sounds. Informative liner notes give reference sources for further reading though some of the addresses are now out of date. Private Music BMG2083-2-P

ANTARCTICA by Ian Tamblyn (1994).

Tamblyn is an Ottawa-area Canadian pop-folk artist and currently an arctic tour lecturer.

This recording is associated with the CBC radio documentary, *Notes from the Bottom of the World*, based on his trip to McMurdo Sound. The music is a combination of new age/folk-rock/jazz influences played with crystalline, vibrant instrumentation, at times including penguin brays and Weddell seal squeals. The most memorable song is *The Penguin came from Pittsburgh*. Attractive emperor penguin cover picture. North Track NTCD3. In the U.S. this CD is available as NorthSound NSCD 29532

THE BODY NEEDS TO TRAVEL by Ian Tamblyn(1997).

Ian Tamblyn's latest CD is a collection of folk songs composed while he was on Adventure Canada expeditions, largely in the Northern Hemisphere. Included is *The Emperors*, written in 1992 during his trip to Cape Evans, Antarctica. The song is about the advice given by three emperor penguins encountered. "There I thought of poor old Scott and how he must have felt, wandering through a land where no man belongs and dying with his hands reaching out, oh but the Emperors they belong here and they gave me this advice, oh don't go reaching for that brass ring when you're walking across the fields of ice." North Track Records NT-20

ANTARCTICA by Richie Beirach (recorded 1985, issued 1994).

Beirach is an American jazz artist who improvises on elements of eclectic modern music. This solo piano *Antarctica Suite*, according to the liner notes, "unlike the musical pablum that assaults us daily, isn't programmed to make you consume or conform. Only feel." Titles include *The Ice Shelf*, *Deception Island*, and *Neptune's Bellows*. ECD 22086-2

ANTARTIDA by John Cale (1995)

This is a musical soundtrack to a Spanish-American film by Manuel Hueriga, not so much about Antarctica as a place but rather, as a state of mind. Cale is a former member of the rock group Velvet Underground. The music consists of short, sparse, haunting, melodic themes - Antarctica seems perfectly suited to be a source of inspiration for minimalist composition. Les Diques du Crepuscule TWI-1008

The theme song for this soundtrack has its origin in a Cale song, *Antarctica Starts Here* found in his 1973 solo recording *Paris 1919*. Reprise/Warner Bros, Records Inc. 2131-2

THE THING by Ennio Morricone (1982). The soundtrack to the popular Antarctic sci-fi movie of the same name. Morricone has composed many highly regarded film themes but this tuneless electronic noodling is entirely forgettable. Varese Sarabande VSD-5278

ANTARCTICA The Last Wilderness by Medwyn Goodall (1993).

Goodall, who lives in Cornwall, England, has recorded many CDs for the Dutch new age music label, Oreade Music. It's a pleasure to hear one of the few all- Antarctic CDs we have come across. There are six extended synthesizer and other instrumental pieces with titles such as *All White*, *Endless Emptiness* and *Snow Kingdom Forever*. Dreamy, peaceful music and gentle to the ears but we're not entirely convinced we've been transported to Antarctica through the music. Mar 3812

Individual songs entitled *Antarctica* also appear on the following commercially available discs:

LAST DAYS OF THE CENTURY by Al Stewart - (1988, reissued 1997).

This is the swingiest Antarctic song we have heard to date, with lyrics such as- "Who knows what the powers may be that cause a man to go mindless of the dangers out across the virgin snow."

The Scottish soft-rocker introduced his song in concert as follows: "In England, just south of where I was born, there was a fascination with going to the South Pole: we had two explorers that tried it at the beginning of this century. There was Shackleton, who was the punk-rocker of polar exploration; he believed in making minimal preparation, just going, putting on a warm sweater and seeing how far he got, and needless to say, he never got to the South Pole. He nearly died a few times, but never made it.

There was another man called Scott, who was a boyhood hero to English people because he died on the way home. He actually got there, but that wasn't important. What was important was that he died coming back again. In England we revere people not for what they've done, but for whether or not they died while they were doing it.. .of course, this song isn't about any of this, it's about a very cold and frosty woman." EMI 7243-8-21616 22

BLUE SKY MINING by Midnight Oil (1990). Australian eco-rockers sing "there must be one place left in the world where the water's real and clean, where the skin says it can breathe, where we can be". Columbia CK-45398

SAME RIVER, SAME SONG by Kym Pitman with Ibis (1993). Mellow nature-attuned acoustical folk music from an Australian group. Their haunting, melancholy song *Antarctica* ends with the farewell wish, "so stand pure and free you southern land, forever left to mother natures hand, there is so much we all can gain, by leaving this windswept land unstained". Available in North America as Small World Music, Inc. NS 1431 CD

GREATEST HITS by Men Without Hats (1996). This Montreal-based techno-pop group had a string of international hits in the 1980's and their song *Antarctica* was originally released as a single in 1982. Aquarius Records Q2-00579

CINEMATIC by Adrian Borland (1996). Spacey American rock music. Setanta, Inc. SET US-003

THREE DAY WEEKEND by Evan Marks (1998). Funky American jazz-tinged rock. Verve Forecast (Polygram) 314 537 690-2

EARTH: VOICES OF A PLANET by Paul Winter (1990). A tribute to the 20th anniversary of Earth Day by this prominent, spiritual, earth-friendly jazz

musician. The disc includes songs dedicated to each continent, including Antarctica. Living Music Records, Inc. LD 0019

SEA POWER - A GLOBAL JOURNEY by Michael Whalen (1993). This is the soundtrack to a joint U.S./Japanese/British television series of the same name, which examined the power and mystery of the oceans, including the frozen pack ice of Antarctica's Weddell Sea. Narada Cinema ND 66005

"JUNGLE" JACK BANNA'S WORLD - (1996). Another musical journey across the continents, composed and played by Mark Frye and inspired by Hanna's wildlife television specials. Included is *The Antarctic Voyage*. "At the bottom of the world lies a continent of glacial peaks, icy water; and soaring birds that inspired this music." High Chief Records 7 243 8 41557 28

MUSIC FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE WHALES by Gregor Theelen (1995). Theelen is a Dutch composer-musician whose New Age orchestrations take us on a soothing whale-seeking journey. One piece is entitled *Antarctica*, an arrangement of an Eric Satie composition. In an act of pole reversal, the accompanying track notes indicate "Life of the whale underneath the ice of the South Pole. There they go to feed." Oreade ORN 5239-2

SOUND OF THE WHALES - MUSIC FOR RELAXATION (1997). Whale calls are combined with tranquil mood music composed for the oceans by David Britten This "will take you on untold journeys that will leave you feeling relaxed and renewed." One of the pieces is entitled *Antarctic Chorale*. SUMCD4154

LIBERTY by Duran Duran (1990). 1980's glam-rockers from Britain included a pleasant song called *My Antarctica* on this CD -

"in this place nothing changes, my Antarctica."
Capitol CDP 7 94292 2

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY by the Peechees
(1997).

American grunge-rock group thrashes its way through a song called *Antarticists*, mangling geographical references to the North and South Poles, penguins, seals and ice. Kill Rock Stars 285

NOT WE BUT ONE by the Mike Nock Trio
(1997).

This jazz trio, led by Nock, a New Zealander now resident in Australia, includes a piece called *Antarctic Ice*. Naxos Jazz 86006-2

DESCANSO DOMINICAL by Mecano (1988).

This Spanish pop/dance group's *Heroes de la Antartida* may possibly be the world's only dance track homage to Robert Scott and his group's fateful return attempt from the South Pole. Ariola 8516-2-RL

BONZAI GERMANY COMPILATION - Volume 1 (1998).

A collection of synthesizer dance club music from Germany including a track called *Fire and Ice - Antarctica (Land of Illusion)*. This awful music will pound you into stupefaction or boredom, whichever comes first, but at least the song title got our attention. Bonzai CD 001

OCEANSCAPE by William Goldstein (1986).

According to the liner notes, this is one of the first CDs to be recorded directly from computer via synthesizers to a digital master. The numerous brief orchestral compositions on this Sony Music disc include a very short jumpy piece called *Window to Antarctica*, noteworthy only for the title. Synthesized musical sounds have mellowed considerably since the era represented on this disc. PEG03 I/A 33937

CARNIVAL OF CHAOS by GWAR (1997).

This American theatrical shock-rock heavy-metal group slashes and burns from their opening number, *Penguin Attack* ("stumbling from the ice age, they were last in flight, they would write a new page, if they could only write rumbling from the ice age they were last in line, they would start a new age if they could just tell time"), and then does further damage to the ears with *Antarctican Drinking Song*. GWAR (apparently God What a Racket) have been known to cause moral panic and the music takes a back seat to the visuals. Metal Blade /Attic Records 3984-14125-2

An earlier indignity is their video, **LIVE FROM ANTARCTICA**, issued in 1990. And no, it's not live in Antarctica. Important R-1814

ACROSS THE WHITE PLAINS by Deborah Liv Johnson (1995).

This San Diego-based folk artist entitled her CD, and one of the best songs on it, to our ears, in honour of the American Women's Antarctic Expedition, whose four members achieved the South Pole in 1993. In a crystal clear voice, with understated, top-notch musical backing to the haunting melody, she sings, "There are no trees, There is no grass that grows, There are no flowers, No autumn leaves to blow, But there's a distance, Where my heart must go, Across the white plains, Across the white plains.. .And in my home on ice, I feel the silence of the night, Sleep has missed my eyes here tonight, The wind will bring the morning, The wind will close my eyes tonight." Mojave Sun Records MS 1233

SINGIN' SONGS OF SCIENCE by J. P.

Taylor and the Academics (1998). Florida-based Taylor has written a CD of rockin' songs to help students learn serious science concepts, such as plate tectonics and laws of motion. Included is *Antarctica*, based on his own trip there. The song explains the Antarctic food chain and "well it gives me a thrill, to tell you 'bout krill". SSI00, web site: •www.singinsongs.com.