

Chairman's Report, 1971

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege as your present chairman to present the Tenth Report of the South African Antarctic Association.

As laid down in our constitution, the chief aims of the Association are to promote and maintain interest in Antarctic research, exploration and developments, especially concerning our own efforts in Antarctica. To achieve this requires constant dedication by a relatively small group of actively interested members who organise meetings, talks and film shows and edit our journal, the *Antarktiese Bulletin*, which is sponsored by B.P. Southern Africa Limited, and who are responsible for its distribution.

Your committee has been rather successful in attaining these objectives in the past year. A total of five meetings excluding the dinner, were arranged during the course of the year. Of these, two were held in Johannesburg where they were well supported. It would be as well to keep in mind that Johannesburg and area provide a potentially large and interested audience and that we should direct more efforts to gaining new members from this region.

In particular we were privileged to see films taken by Captain Alfred Ritscher's Neu Schwabenland Expedition. These films were shown through the courtesy of Mrs. Ritscher, his widow, and we thank her most sincerely for her interest in the Association.

In addition to these meetings we undertook no less than 26 slide and film shows for various schools, church groups, scout troops and other interested groups. The lion's share of the credit for this remarkable achievement goes to Mr. Chris Muir.

Furthermore, we have, through the kind offices of the vice-chairman, Mr. Pat Turner, been able to interest various newspapers in the use of articles on Antarctica. The first article by Miss Lin Menge appeared in the Rand Daily Mail on the 28th November, 1970, and I should like to extend the grateful thanks of the Association to Miss Menge on a fine piece of work. The Sunday Times has commenced work on a colour article to appear in their colour supplement in the next few months. It is also likely that we may be able to motivate an article on natural history in Antarctica.

We extend our sincere thanks to the various speakers for their interesting and informative talks, to the various embassies for the loan of films on the Arctic regions and Antarctica; to the Museum for Science and Industry and to the University of the Witwatersrand for providing us with excellent facilities for the meetings; and to the general public who supported our numerous slide and film shows so wholeheartedly.

For financial reasons we did not embark on the essay competition as proposed by the previous committee under Dr. L. Kent and we leave it to the next committee to decide whether they should proceed with this, possibly after approaching the Department of Transport, various

newspapers and the sponsors of the *Bulletin*, B.P. Southern Africa Limited.

The annual dinner was held in July, when our guest speaker was Mr. Morkel van Tonder.

Mnr. van Tonder het ons verbeelding gebind met 'n toespraak oor Scott se laaste reis en die dryfveer wat hom en sy makkers so lank aan die gang gehou het. Mnr. van Tonder se boek, *Want die Sneeu is Altyd Wit*, is nou beskikbaar en is die moeite werd om te kry.

Een van die hoogtepunte van die jaar was die vergunning van erelidmaatskap sonder verpligting op lidmaatskapfooeie aan lede van die Antarktiese Klub, behalwe 'n vrywillige bydrae van individue indien hulle dit wenslik ag. So volledig 'n stel van die *Bulletin* as moontlik is aan die klublede wat ons kon opspoor, gestuur. Ons vertrou dat dit sal lei tot 'n groter belangstelling deur klublede in die doen en late van die Vereniging aangesien sommige van hulle vir talle jare al die kern vorm van aktiewe lede.

Ooreenkomstig met beslissings betreffende die druk van kaarte van Antarktika met die Greenwich meridiaan bo, is dit besluit om, waar moontlik, die beoogde das, baadjie en lapelwapens sodoende te wysig. Die nuwe ontwerpe is alreeds vir u goedkeuring voorgelê.

Die redakteur van die *Antarktiese Bulletin* is nog steeds Dr. Doug Torr, bygestaan deur sy vrou Marsha. Namens die Vereniging wil ek hulle bedank vir die moeite wat hulle aangaan om die *Bulletin* aantrekliker te maak. Ek het vir twee uitgawes van die *Bulletin* as redakteur ingestaan en verseker die Doktors Torr dat ek terdeë besef wat 'n ondankbare taak die is. Die *Bulletin* verdien die steun en bystand van al ons lede aangesien dit een van die hoofmiddels is waardeur die mikpunte van die Vereniging bereik kan word aangesien dit ook as bylaag van *Spektrum* verskyn.

Ek kan ook nie versuim om die borge van die *Bulletin* en die Antarktiese Goue Medalje, naamlik B.P. Southern Africa, hartlik te bedank vir hul ondersteuning en aanmoediging nie.

Ook is dit vir my 'n genoeë om Henry Fulton hartlik geluk te wens met die Vereniging se toekenning van die B.P. Antarktiese Goue Medalje vir 1971.

Ten slotte wil ek beaam wat 'n voorreg dit was om as voorsitter op te tree en die lede van die komitee, mnr. Pat Turner, Ferdie Viljoen, Anton Aucamp, Leon Wolmarans en Hans Loots hartlik te bedank vir hul ondersteuning en bystand en mnr. Marten du Preez vir sy onoffisiële bystand en deurgaande belangstelling.

Ek wys finaal daarop dat 'n Vereniging totaal afhanklik is aan die belangstelling van sy lede en die publiek, en moedig lede dus aan om 'n aktiewer rol te speel in die Vereniging se werksaamhede.

D. C. Baker