

POLAR STAMPS

The bequest of Dr Brian Roberts, who died in 1978, brought to the Scott Polar Research Institute an extensive and valuable collection of books and manuscripts. It also added a new dimension to the Institute's varied interests: stamps. The Institute has acquired stamps in a desultory manner for many years, but Brian Roberts assembled a large, well-organized and valuable collection of stamps and envelopes, and the acquisition of that collection obliged us to look again at our stamp collecting policy. We asked Mr H. E. J. Evans, Secretary of the Polar Postal History Society of Great Britain, to survey the collection, and he has reported that we now have a good basis on which to extend it and that its greatest strength lies with the Falkland Islands and Dependencies, British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia, and Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises. Mr Evans has suggested that the Institute's friends throughout the world might help to extend the collection by sending in suitable stamps and covers, so we take this opportunity to ask readers of *Polar Record* to bear our collection in mind if interesting stamps come into your hands. Our collection covers all polar regions, including stamps from non-polar countries which have a polar theme.

OBITUARY

Lieutenant **PETER DAVID MULGREW**, BEM, died on 28 November 1979 aged 52. He was serving as a guide to the 257 passengers on board an Air New Zealand DC-10 tourist flight that crashed into Mount Erebus, Antarctica. There were no survivors.

Peter Mulgrew was born on 21 November 1927 in Lower Hutt, New Zealand, and educated at Hutt Valley Memorial Technical College. During World War II he joined the Royal New Zealand Navy as a rating, trained as a wireless and communications operator, and reached the rank of Petty Officer. In 1955, Sir Edmund Hillary selected Mulgrew as a wireless operator for the 1956–58 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, during which they travelled on tracked vehicles with two other expedition members from Scott Base, McMurdo Sound, to the South Pole, arriving on 4 January 1958. Later that year he was awarded the Polar Medal.

On the successful completion of the expedition, Hillary encouraged Mulgrew to apply for a naval commission, and in 1960 he was granted leave of absence from the navy to join Hillary's winter 1960–61 Himalayan expedition. During that expedition, Mulgrew suffered severe frostbite, and as a result, had both feet amputated, but with considerable courage and determination he recovered and returned to the navy. He later retired and became a company director. Although Mulgrew returned on two occasions to walk in the Himalayas, he turned to sailing to satisfy his competitive spirit; in 1972 he represented his country in the world one-ton yachting championships. He was also the author of three books about his various exploits. Peter had achieved considerable financial success in the competitive world of industry. He was a cheerful, buoyant, shrewd and cocky person, and by this I mean only respect and admiration for his high-spirited attitude to life.

It was at the peak of his career as a racing sailor and successful businessman that his life ended abruptly and, ironically, in the place where the growth and realization of his many talents had begun. He is survived by his widow and two daughters.

George Lowe

WILLIAM ROBERTSON LATADY died on 13 October 1979, aged 61. Born on 14 February 1918 and educated at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bill Latady joined Finn Ronne's Antarctic Research Expedition, 1947–48, as the official photographer. The expedition wintered alongside the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey base E on Stonington

Island, and Americans and British alike soon recognized Latady's extraordinary range of abilities and skills. He could turn his hand to anything that required manual dexterity, inventiveness and patience, from the installation and calibration of the trimetrogon air cameras to making a replacement needle for a sewing machine. As a skier and mountaineer he was in a class by himself. For those who lived and worked alongside him we remember him as a real person with a pungent, yet never unkind wit, for his repartee and brevity of speech. He showed great loyalty to people when loyalties were under strain, complete reliability, and had an ability to lead when he was not the leader and to cause no offence as he did so.

In the non-expedition sense, Bill was no less outstanding. He bullied the West German Goertz firm to produce a specialist copying lens to his design which is still a world-beater. He became an international installer of 'Cinerama', managing both the technical and financial side of the business, and invented and marketed a high-speed photographic system for surveying airport runways. He was a founder member of the Juneau Ice Field Project and was active in this research field until the 1970s. His ability as an optical engineer was recognized when he was awarded the American film industries technical oscar for a ceiling mounted remote control studio camera.

As Professor Maynard Miller writes, 'he was a tinkerer, a craftsman, an inventor, a genius in his own field, and probably the finest optical engineer in North America'. For all of us who overwintered with Bill at Stonington Island, knowing him was a highlight that we will never forget. The world could do with a few more Bill Latadys.

Kevin Walton

ERRATUM

Polar Record, Vol 19, No 123, September 1979, p 614–16. 'Otter Glacier' was officially named Armstrong Glacier in 1976.