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Antarctic and Rocket Film Lectures Title 211

The subject of my next lecture on 6 July 1970 was "Antarctica" and the audience was composed of 'Young Conservatives'. It must have been a sub-group of the Conservative Party, but as I do not belong to that party, I can only presume that I was persuaded by a member, whom I can no longer remember, to talk to their young hopefuls, including perhaps a few young scientists.

The Antarctic Continent, from which I had just returned, was a subject I liked and about which I had read a great deal in my large collection of old books dealing with the Antarctic. Perhaps I had the intention of inspiring the young scientists in the group to go out and explore for themselves, when they had heard what adventures had befallen earlier scientists in the Antarctic—but I do not know if I succeeded. I can't even recall where I lectured.

I started of course with Captain James Cook, a Fellow of the Royal Society, whose superb skill in navigation allowed him to reach 72° south in 1772-1775, during his second voyage to those regions. I stressed the fact that exploration during the Heroic Age, and ever since, had been a very international enterprise. The first to spend a winter season in the Antarctic was the Norwegian C. Borchgrevink in 1894 and the French explorer Charcot who followed him in his ship *Pourquoi pas?* in 1908. Then there was the German glaciologist, Drygalski, who as the first in 1901-1903 led an international expedition, overwintered and published his results in 20 volumes.

The British heroes, Shackleton and Scott, the American Peary (incidentally not the first man to reach the North Pole) and the Norwegian Amundsen were all discussed in my lecture dealing with the Heroic Age, before turning to modern exploration by air and the American Admiral Byrd who flew to the South Pole in 1929. I mentioned Antarctic tourism and finally compared the conditions on the Moon with those in the Antarctic and how this partial similarity might be exploited for training eventual settlers on the Moon.

My fourth and last lecture of that year, on 18 November, dealt with "Rocket Cinematography" and was given at the City University in London E.C.1. It was based on a chapter of the second volume of my book on *Research Films*, which was written, but never published. I discussed the history of rocket flight and the important role which cinematography played in recording the all-too-frequent failures of the early rockets for subsequent analysis and technical improvements. The best examples for this was the development of the German A 4, or V 2, rocket which attacked London and southern England in 1944.'

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