

## Report for the SCAR Executive Committee Meeting in Sofia, 6-14 July 2005

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The SCAR Action Group on the “History of the institutionalisation of Antarctic Research within SCAR” (founded October 2004) is the first international and interdisciplinary group devoted to the history of polar research. In the course of our annual workshops we want to investigate the engagement, realisation, and co-operation in Antarctic research, as well as the leading figures in the context of different national settings and perspectives.

To answer some of these questions the 1st SCAR workshop on history of Antarctic Research took place at the Bavarian Academy of Science and Humanities in Munich on 2 - 3 June, 2005, under aegis of the SCAR Action Group and the Commission for Glaciology of the Academy. Prof. Horst Hagedorn, chairman of the Commission, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Academy.

18 participants came from Australia, Chile, England, Germany (of course), Holland, Sweden and USA giving nine papers and presenting three posters. Each oral presentation had a time slot of 60 minutes, so it had mostly been enough time for detailed and good discussions. The posters were on display throughout the whole workshop. Abstracts describing the Australian and Russian activities were received also.

Adrian Howkins (USA) and Aant Elsinga (S) presented the early involvement of Argentina and of Sweden respectively, while Johan van Bennekom (NL) talked about the Dutch involvement. International cooperation long before the Antarctic Treaty was highlighted by Jorge Berguño (RCH) and by Cornelia Lüdecke (D). John Behrendt (USA) took us along on dangerous early traverses to measure ice thickness during the IGY (1957/58) while Reinhardt Krause (D) gave a biography of Georg von Neumayer, after whom the German Antarctic station was named. Peter Abbink (NL) discussed the changes in the Antarctic Treaty in the 1980's, when the number of consulting parties nearly doubled. C. Lüdecke explained why a privately organized German expedition in the 1950's failed due to opposition from scientific bodies. The last lecture was by Balthasar Indermuehle (AUS) on the history of Astrophysics in Antarctica, from the first meteorite find in 1960 till the use of the ice as gigantic particle detector.

During the poster presentation, Jason Davis (USA) explained the changes to Antarctic identity rhetoric as demonstrated by papers published in the National Geographic Magazine. David Michael Dodd (AUS) addressed the Australian context of the history of Antarctic research. Helmut Honik's (D) C. Lüdecke's poster focussed on the Bavarian officer Wilhelm Filchner (1877-1957) and the second German Antarctic expedition to the south eastern part of the Wedded Sea (1911-12) and his estate, which is placed in the Filchner-Archive of the Bavarian Academy.

At the end of the workshop plans were made for a new meeting either in Argentine or in Chile at the end of May 2006. Besides a session shall be also organised at the Open Science Conference of SCAR at Hobart (Tasmania) in July 2006, because we want to address colleagues from Asia as well.

The proceedings of the first SCAR workshop will be published in the Reports of Polar and Marine Research of the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven (Germany) prior to the SCAR Conference in 2006.

A German journalist, Wolfgang Karg from Berlin, also participated in the workshop. Afterwards he made some interviews with the speakers on their personal experience in Antarctic research as well as the significance of the history of Antarctic research for the future.

Summing up the workshop it can be said that the mixture of PhD and graduate students, historians, Antarctic veterans, and historians of science, as well as profound experts of the Antarctic Treaty led to very lively and interesting discussions. Between single sessions nice coffee breaks right next to the conference room facilitated the continuation of the discussions. During lunch breaks typical Bavarian dishes were served at the same place. Besides we spent the very nice summer evening in a beergarden.

The workshop had been sponsored by the Scientific Committee of Antarctic Research, Deutsches Zentrum für Luft und Raumfahrt (Oberpfaffenhofen), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Polarforschung, und Schwerpunkt Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Technik (University of Hamburg) and Spaten-Löwenbräu Gruppe.