

Acc.12559
March 2006



Inventory

Acc.12559

Sir James Mann Wordie

National Library of Scotland
Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131-466 2812
Fax: 0131-466 2811
E-mail: manuscripts@nls.uk

© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

Journals, correspondence, notebooks, photographs, press-cuttings and related papers, 1903-1959, n.d., of and relating largely to the expeditions of polar exploration and scientific discovery, travel and mountaineering activities of Sir James Mann Wordie, Master of St John's College, Cambridge (1889-1962).

Sir James Mann Wordie was born in 1889. He was educated at Glasgow Academy, Glasgow University and St John's College, Cambridge. Wordie began research in geology at Cambridge University in 1912 becoming a Fellow in 1921. His academic career was spent at St John's, culminating in his appointment as Master in 1952. He retired in 1959.

Wordie was involved in polar exploration and scientific discovery for much of his life. He took part in Sir Ernest Shackleton Antarctic expedition of 1914 as geologist and chief of scientific staff spending a year in the 'Endurance' and a winter on Elephant Island. After wartime service with the Royal Artillery, Wordie returned to polar exploration as geologist and second in command of the Scottish Spitsbergen Expeditions of 1919 and 1920. Further Arctic and Antarctic expeditions followed in the 1920s and 1930s including Jan Mayen Island, Greenland, Ellesmere Island and Baffin Island. During the Second World War, Wordie served on the 'Discovery' committee of the Colonial Office and was closely involved with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He was later chairman of the advisory scientific committees of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and chairman of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition, of the International Geophysical Year, 1954-1958, and the British Mountaineering Council, 1953-1956. He was President of the Royal Geographical Society from 1951-1954 and first chairman of the Mount Everest Foundation. Wordie was a keen mountaineer and member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club. He climbed extensively in Scotland, the Alps and Greenland. During the 1921 Greenland expedition he made the first ascent of Beerenberg. Wordie died in 1962. He is commemorated by the Wordie Glacier in Graham Land and the Wordie Craig in Spitsbergen.

The papers have been arranged into series by expedition and tour.

Manuscripts from the Wordie Collection of printed books presented to the Library in 1959 have been catalogued as MSS.9501-9568 and Acc.11483. Other papers of Wordie are held by the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.

Presented, 2005

- 1-4 Scotland
- 5-8 Switzerland
- 9-11 Germany
- 12-15 North America, 1913
- 16-20 Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition, 1914
- 21 South America, 1917
- 22-25 First Scottish Spitsbergen Expedition, 1919
- 26-34 Second Scottish Spitsbergen Expedition, 1920
- 35-40 Muster's Jan Mayen Island Expedition, 1921
- 41 'The Elspeth', 1922
- 42-48 Cambridge Iceland and East Greenland Expedition, 1923

- 49-53 Cambridge East Greenland Expedition, 1926
- 54-58 Cambridge East Greenland Expedition, 1929
- 59-69 Cambridge Greenland, Ellesmere Island and Baffin Island Expedition, 1943
- 70-85 Baffin Island Expedition, 1937
- 86-90 Falkland Islands Expedition, 1947
- 91 Centenary of the American Geographical Society, 1952
- 92-94 British North Greenland Expedition, 1954
- 95 Shetland, 1957
- 96-97 Photographs
- 98-99 Miscellaneous papers

1-4 Scotland, 1903-1919

Notebooks, photographs, bills, press-cuttings and related papers, 1903-1919, of climbing expeditions in Scotland

- 1 Notebook, containing loose sheets on which are entered lists of climbs largely in Scotland, 1903-1919, by J M Wordie, W B Paul and others
- 2 Notebook of climbs in Scotland, 1906-1909. With bills, photographs and notes loosely enclosed
- 3 Scottish Mountaineering Club 'Statement of Qualification for Membership' of Wordie, 1911, two letters of R C Davie to Wordie, 1913, concerning their ascent of the 'The Elephant Gully' in 1910 and a related note for the SMC Journal. Printed *Catalogue of the Books in the Scottish Mountaineering Club Library*, 1907, and *List of Office-bearers and Members of the SMC*, 1913
- 4 Notebook of press-cuttings on climbing in Scotland, 1904-1910. With numerous cuttings loosely enclosed

5-8 Switzerland, 1903-1914

Journals and letters of and relating to tours in Switzerland, 1903-1914

- 5 Journal, 1903, of a tour in Switzerland, with photographs, postcards, and dried flowers in pasted in and loosely enclosed.
- 6 Journal, 1907, of a tour in Switzerland, with maps, guidebooks, postcards pasted in and loosely enclosed
- 7 Journal, 1914, of a climbing expedition to Belalp and Aletsch Glacier, Switzerland, 1914. With maps and postcards pasted in and loosely enclosed
- 8 Letters and note, 1914 and 1920, concerning climbing in Belalp

9-11 Germany, 1911

Journals and notebooks of a geological tour in Germany, 1911

9 Illustrated journal, 1911

10 Rough journal, 1911

11 Notebook, 1911

12-15 North America, 1913

Copies of correspondence, journal and notebook 1913, of a visit to North America, to attend the 17th International Geological Congress in Canada

12 Photocopies of family letters of Wordie from North America, 1913

13 Illustrated journal, 1913, with programmes, circulars, group photograph, printed pamphlets, press cuttings, ships' passenger lists, drawings, postcards and press-cuttings, pasted in and loosely enclosed

14 Notebook, 1913

15 Itineraries, press-cuttings, and programme and printed pamphlets, 1913

16-20 Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition, 1914

Press-cuttings, typescript notes and printed articles concerning Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition, 1914

16 Typescript, n.d., of 'Final List of Noon Positions of the "Endurance, 1914-1916'

17-19 Albums of press cuttings, 1914-1922, with some letters, notes and menu cards, relating to Sir Ernest Shackleton and polar exploration pasted in and loosely enclosed

17 1914-1917

18 1917-1920

19 1921-1941

20 *The Sphere*, 9 and 16 December 1916. This includes 'With the Shackleton Expedition', Part 1 and Part II

21 South America, 1917

21 Postcards of scenes in Chile and objects in the Musee de la Plata, Buenos Aires, 1917

22-25 First Scottish Spitzbergen Expedition, 1919

Journals and notebooks, 1919, of the First Scottish Spitsbergen Expedition

- 22 Journal, 1919
- 23 Typescript copy of journal, 1919, with photographs pasted in
- 24 Geological notebook, 1919, with sketches, maps and notes enclosed
- 25 Rough notebook, 1919

26-34 Second Scottish Spitzbergen Expedition, 1920

Journals, notebooks, photographs, reports and charts, 1919-1949, of and relating to the Second Scottish Spitsbergen Expedition

- 26 Journal, 1920, with poem pasted in and press-cuttings loosely enclosed
- 27 Typescript journal, 1920, with photographs pasted in
- 28 Geological notebook, 1920, with charts, letters, photographs and printed article pasted in and loosely enclosed
- 29 Rough notebook, 1920
- 30 Wallet of negatives taken on the Scottish Spitsbergen Expedition, 1920
- 31 Typescript drafts of papers including 'East Spitsbergen in 1919', 'Reports on the Geological Work carried out during the 1919 expedition of the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate' and 'Contributions to the Geology and East and West Spitsbergen', 1920 and related correspondence concerning the Stor Fiord, 1920
- 32 Geological reports, 1921-1949, by Wordie and G W Tyrrell on the expedition to the northern portion of Prince Charles Foreland, 1920, by the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate. With related correspondence, hydrographic charts and maps and notes
- 33 Annotated printed Admiralty Chart of Spitsbergen, 1865, with areas claimed by the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate coloured red. Inscribed, 'This is the plan referred to in the Power of Attorney by the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate in favour of James Wordie, dated the day of May 1920.'
- 34 Geological map of Spitsbergen, ?1920, on back of printed Admiralty Chart of Spitsbergen, 1865

35-40 'Musters' Jan Mayen Island Expedition, 1921

Expedition journals, notebooks, photographs, and article of and relating to the Jan Mayen Island expedition. The purpose of the expedition was to collect specimens and climb Beerenberg.

- 35 Journal, 1921, with press cuttings loosely enclosed
- 36 Typescript journal, 1921, with photographs, letters and notes loose and pasted in
- 37 Geological and mountaineering journal, 1921. The journal includes notes on the first ascent of Beerenberg, August 1921. With drawings and photographs pasted in and numerous loose letters, 1921-39.
- 38 Rough notebook, 1921
- 39 Glass negatives, negatives and prints, 1921
- 40 Typescripts and annotated drafts of 'The First Ascent of the Beerenberg of of Jan Mayen' 11 August 1921. This appeared in *Echo des Alpes*, No.8, 1921

41 The 'Elspeth', 1922

Journal of a yachting holiday off the west coast of Scotland in the 'Elspeth', 1922. With related correspondence and tradesmen's bills

42-48 Cambridge Iceland and East Greenland Expedition, 1923

Expedition journals, notebooks, charts, photographs and draft article, 1923, of a Cambridge based expedition led by Wordie to Iceland and East Greenland. Unfavourable ice meant the party was unable to land.

- 42 Expedition journal entitled 'East Greenland Sea, 1923'. With related press cuttings loosely enclosed.
- 43 Typescript expedition journal, 1923,
- 44 Notebook entitled 'Angle Book, 1923'
- 45 Notebook, 1923.
- 46 Notebook entitled 'Notes and Computations', 1923. With annotated maps
- 47 Photographs, 1923
- 48 Draft of article entitled 'First Attempt to reach East Greenland', n.d. With chart showing the route from Norway, n.d.

49-53 Cambridge East Greenland Expedition, 1926

Journals, notebooks, photographs and related material of and concerning the 1926 Cambridge East Greenland expedition led by Wordie. As well as charting the coastline and studying the geology, flora and fauna, the party made an unsuccessful attempt to climb Petermann Peak.

- 49 Expedition journal, 1926. With notes and press cuttings loosely enclosed
- 50 Typescript expedition journal, 1926 (2 copies)
- 51 Geological notebook, 1926. With related letters, 1929-1940, photographs and notes loosely enclosed.
- 52 Rough expedition notebook, 1926
- 53 J. M. Wordie, *The Cambridge Expedition to East Greenland in 1926*, reprinted from *The Geographic Journal*, September 1927 (2 copies)

54-58 Cambridge East Greenland Expedition, 1929

Journals, notebooks, photographs and related material of and concerning the 1929 Cambridge East Greenland expedition led by Wordie. The aims of the expedition were principally exploratory and geological. This time, there was a successful ascent of Petermann Peak, the highest mountain in Greenland.

- 54 Expedition journal, 1929, with notes, maps and press cuttings loosely enclosed
- 55 Typescript expedition journal, 1929 (2 copies)
- 56 Expedition notebook, 1929
- 57 Photographs and bills of the East Greenland expedition, 1929
- 58 J. M. Wordie, *Cambridge East Greenland Expedition, 1929: Ascent of Petermann Peak*, reprinted from *The Geographic Journal*, June 1930

59-69 Cambridge Greenland, Ellesmere Island and Baffin Island Expedition, 1934

Expedition journals, notebooks, photographs and related material of and concerning the 1934 Cambridge Greenland, Ellesmere Island and Baffin Island Expedition led by Wordie.

The aims of the expedition were largely exploratory and geological. The party also climbed the Devil's Thumb.

- 59 Expedition journal, 2 June – 11 August 1934

- 60 Expedition journal, 12 August – 15 September 1934
- 61-62 Typescript expedition journal, 2 June – 15 September 1934 (2 copies)
- 63 Rough expedition notebook. 1934. With press cuttings, telegrams and bills loosely enclosed.
- 64 Photographs, 1934
- 65 Photographs, 1934
- 66 Photographs of Greenland, 1934
- 67 Photographs of Baffin Island, 1934
- 68 Press cuttings and printed articles relating to the 1934 expedition
- 69 T.T. Paterson, *Wordie 1934 Arctic Expedition. Physiographic Studies in North West Greenland*, 1951

70-85 Cambridge Baffin Island Expedition, 1937

Expedition journals, notebooks, photographs, correspondence, accounts and articles, 1935-1940, of and relating to the 1937 Cambridge Baffin Island Expedition led by Wordie.

- 70 Expedition journal, 29 June – 5 September 1937
- 71 Expedition journal, 6 – 29 September 1937
- 72 Typescript expedition journal, 1937 (2 copies)
- 73 Expedition notebook, 1937. With letters, telegrams and bills loosely enclosed
- 74 Expedition 'Observations' notebook, 1937
- 75 Photographs of the 1937 expedition
- 76 Copies of letters of and letters to Wordie, 1935-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition
- 77 Copies of letters of and letters to Wordie with some maps and photographs, 1937-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition
- 78 Letters, accounts and notes, 1936-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition
- 79 Correspondence and accounts, 1934-1938, concerning provisions for the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition

- 80 Letters and accounts, 1937-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition
- 81 Correspondence, 1934-1937, with related photographs and drawings, concerning preparations for the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition, largely relating to possible ships and crew
- 82 Correspondence and accounts, 1937, concerning preparations for the Baffin Island Expedition especially the charting of the 'Isbjorn'. With copy of charter agreement for the 'Heimen', 1934
- 83-84 Correspondence, draft submission to the Royal Geographical Society, maps, notes, accounts, articles and press-cuttings, 1938-1940, concerning the 1937 Expedition (2 folders)
- 85 Published articles relating to the 1937 expedition. J.M. Wordie, *An Expedition to North West Greenland and the Canadian Arctic in 1937*, reprinted from *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. XCII, 1938, and T.C. Lethbridge, *Archaeological Data from the Canadian Arctic*, reprinted from *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. LXIX, 1939

86-90 Falkland Islands Expedition, 1947

Journals and report, 1947-1948, of Wordie's visit to the Falkland Islands and Graham Land in 1947. The visit was made at the instigation of the Colonial Office to report on the scientific work undertaken by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, 1943-1946.

- 86 Journal, 10 December 1946 – 5 February 1947
- 87 Journal, 5th February – 4th April 1947
- 88 Typescript journal, December 1946 – April 1947
- 89 Notebook, 1947
- 90 Typescript reports, 1947-8, with related articles, letters, telegrams, photographs and notes

91 Centenary of the American Geographical Society

Programme, 1952, for the Centennial Celebrations of the American Geographical Society. With Wordie's typescript speech and notes.

92-94 British North Greenland Expedition, 1954

Journal, notebook, letters, photograph and printed ephemera, of the British North Greenland Expedition, 1954

- 92 Journal, 1954

93 Notebook, 1954

94 Letters, photograph and printed ephemera, 1954

95 Shetland, 1957

95 Itinerary and printed ephemera, 1957, relating to a visit to Shetland. Printed material includes programme for the Zetland Inter-Club Yachting Association Regatta, *Shetland. The Official Guide*, 1957, and Robert Mackie, *Delightful Holiday Sailings to Orkney and Shetland*, 1957.

96-97 Photographs

96 Folder of photographs of formal dinners of the Antarctic Club, 1937, 1950, 1954, 1959. With photographs of an unidentified polar expedition ship, n.d.

97 Panoramic views from Arrochar, n.d.

98-99 Miscellaneous

98 Drafts of article on 'Antarctic Geology, 1922-1928, n.d., for inclusion in *The Antarctic Pilot*, 1930. With related letters, 1928

99 Miscellaneous printed ephemera including Glasgow University Magazine, Memorial Number and 'The Jubilee of the Alpine Club, 1907 supplement to *The Graphic*, 14 Dec 1907