



With Scott to the Pole

"Had we had lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale" Excerpt from 'Message to the Public' one of the final entries made by Captain Scott in his diary.

Historic photographs of this ill-fated Antarctic expedition taken by 'camera artist' Herbert Ponting tell an unforgettable tale both epic and human in scale. In 1910 Captain Robert Falcon Scott set out for the Antarctic from which he did not return. Having reached the South Pole, he died on the return journey along with his colleagues just 17.5 km (11 miles) from the safety of a supply depot.

Ponting's images offer a poignant and revealing glimpse of life in this hostile environment. From the beauty of Antarctica's icescapes, to the men relaxing on the *Terra Nova's* deck; from surveying the landscape, to an impromptu hair cut – the exhibition captures intimate, everyday moments on the expedition providing an absorbing visual diary that completes the familiar and well documented story for the race to reach the South Pole.

Other details

Images are selected from the photographic albums that belonged to expedition member Captain Oates's that were later donated by his family to the Society. All come framed and captioned. Text panels provide background information, quotes and commentary by contemporary Polar experts such as Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Pen Hadow.

Education resources

www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

for Geography Key Stage 4 and adaptable for informal education programmes

Exhibition merchandise

- Prints and postcards available

Size of exhibits

Up to 33 images, various sizes - largest 120 x 90 cm and smallest 50 x 30 cm approximately

Space required

Wall space between 50 – 80 m



Antarctic Witness

Chart the dramatic events of Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914–17 and experience this extraordinary journey as seen through the eyes of Frank Hurley, official photographer to the expedition. Set against the majestic backdrop of the Antarctic, Hurley's artistry as a photographer is revealed as he captures daily life on board the 'Endurance' and later on ice as Shackleton and his crew are left stranded after their ship meets a violent end crushed by pack ice.

Shackleton's efforts to rescue his crew are now legendary partly due to Hurley's amazing visual testimony which is recorded in 120 slides and are now part of the Royal Geographical Society's photographic archive.

Other details

The black and white prints that feature in this exhibition have been created from original glass plate negatives. All prints come framed and captioned. Text panels provide background information, quotes and commentary.

Education resources

Available at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org for Geography Key Stage 4 and adaptable for informal education programmes

Exhibition merchandise

- Limited edition prints, posters and postcards available.

Size of exhibits

32 prints – various sizes; largest approx 75 x 85 cm

Space required

Wall-space between 50 – 80 m



Unseen Island Life: Caribbean photographs from 1908-09

“The photographs of Sir Harry Johnston may help to recover a visual heritage that discards those literary stereotypes where the ‘native’ is either a savage, or merry, mischievous child.” Dr Petrine Archer-Straw

A powerful collection of photographs taken by colonial officer Sir Harry Johnston provides a rare glimpse of everyday life in Barbados, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad at the turn of the century.

The collection was donated to the Royal Geographical Society’s archive by the Johnston family in 1933. Johnston was originally asked to visit the Caribbean by US President Theodore Roosevelt and the expressive images he has taken reveal an unfamiliar narrative from these island communities; scenes of Maroon settlements – towns where runaway slaves lived freely outside from British rule in the Jamaican mountains and aspects of daily life covering farming, religion and markets are captured in detail.

Importantly, this exhibition openly yet sensitively addresses issues around colonial attitudes to race and provides

three strands of interpretation that links Johnston’s original captions to comments

on the pictures by the Jamaican colonial art historian Dr Petrine Archer-Straw and members of a London based social centre for African Caribbean elders.

Other details

Prints are made from original glass plate negatives. All come framed and captioned. Text panels provide background information, quotes and commentary. 50 prints come with captions by Harry Johnston and Dr Petrine Archer-Straw the remaining 20 exhibits are provided with all three strands of interpretation.

Education resources

Available at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org for Geography, History and Citizenship for Key Stage 3, and adaptable for informal education programmes.

Size of exhibits

70 prints come in a combination of two sizes - large size prints approximately 56 x 46 cm and smaller size prints approximately 30 x 36 cm framed.

Space required Wall space between 80 -100 m



Visions of the World: RGS Illustrated

New lands and cultures have always propelled travellers, explorers and scientists to the far corners of this earth, but not until relatively recent times has this fascination coupled with photography produced such lasting and captivating insights. The Society's exceptional photographic archive houses up to half a million images with some dating back to 1860.

This exhibition provides a glimpse of the Society's vast collection and reflects on the artistry of the photographers; from early landscapes of Egypt to portraits of Brazilian warriors, majestic polar vistas to contemporary images of parched deserts, tribesmen from Papua New Guinea encountering a gramophone to iconic images of Hillary and Tenzing drinking tea after the ascent of Everest, all collectively provide a unique view of the people, places and environments of our world.

Other details

The exhibition consists of a combination of colour and black and white limited edition prints. All prints come framed and captioned. Text panels provide background information and commentary.

Exhibition merchandise

- Limited edition prints of all exhibits are available and viewable online at www.images.rgs.org

Size of exhibits

40 prints each approximately 50 x 60 cm when framed

Space required

Wall space up to 50 – 80



Imaging Everest- The Sherpa's Tale

The Sherpa communities of Nepal are known worldwide for their knowledge of the mountains, climbing skills and loyalty to visiting climbers during many international attempts at scaling Everest. This exhibition aims to provide an insight into the lives of these communities during and leading up to the first successful ascent by the most famous Sherpa of them all – Tenzing Norgay. Taken over a thirty year period by visiting British climbers, the exhibition unveils both the scale of the operations involving Sherpa's in expeditions and a glimpse at their everyday lives.

Other details

Prints are from original colour and black & white negatives. All come framed and captioned. Text panels provide

background information, quotes and commentary.

Education resources

Available at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org for Geography Key Stages 3/4 and adaptable for informal education programmes

Exhibition merchandise

- Posters, prints and postcard sets are available

Size of exhibits

40 prints, each approximately 60 x 50 cm

Space required

Wall space between 50 – 80 m



Lost Landscapes

Landscapes evoke a sense of place, a sense of belonging and organise our world into distinct, yet interrelated, geographical areas.

The world's surface is a patchwork of varied landforms - from soaring mountain ranges and bustling cities, to tropical forests and rural idylls. Human and natural forces continually combine to bring about fundamental changes to the landscape. These forces might be a river carving a gorge through a landscape over many millennia to the explosive power of a volcano; they might be agriculture's imprint on our countryside or the rapid growth of a city.

This exhibition explores the evolution of landscapes; those that have been lost, changed or been rediscovered and questions what may happen to our landscapes in the future.

Other details

A majority prints (historical and modern) in the exhibition are from the Royal Geographical Society's photographic archive.

Size of exhibits (in cms)

22 text/caption panels and 42 prints (total items 64) in the following sizes:

140 x 20	7	60 x 60	1
20 x 30	1	65 x 40	5
25 x 20	1	80 x 70	2
30 x 40	1	90 x 20	14
40 x 40	1	90 x 50	12
40 x 50	9	90 x 60	1
40 x 70	5	90 x 70	1
40 x 90	3		

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space



From Kabul to Kandahar

The Society's collection on Afghanistan includes several hundred images with many unique prints that date back to the mid 1800's. A selection of photographs, drawings, lithographs and travel journals from that period feature in this engaging and informative exhibition.

From scenes and descriptions of market places in Kabul in 1842 to panoramic views of the city of Kandahar taken after the second Anglo-Afghan war of 1878-80, these largely unseen materials provide a glimpse of the communities, customs and histories of this mountainous country.

The exhibition is curated in partnership with the Afghan Association of London, Bronesbury College for Boys, London and others.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of black and white archive images and contemporary colour pictures.

Exhibition merchandise

- Postcards are available (4 designs)

Education resources

Available for key stage 3 geography and citizenship at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

Size of exhibits

20 graphics panels: available in large format (100 x 130cm) or small format (80 x 100 cm)

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space



Bombay Africans 1850 -1910

"The vague expression of the "Expedition" is very apt to swallow up a subordinate's (guide's) individuality and valuable services, throwing him into the background, where he is more likely to be forgotten. To obviate such a fate for the invaluable headman of the East Central African Expedition...let me bring him specially under the readers notice." – Joseph Thomson FRGS, 1881.

Discover the contribution made by a group of formally enslaved Africans to the exploration of Africa and the anti-slavery movement in the 19th century.

The exhibition spans a 60 year period and charts the incredible journeys of Africans Sidi Mubarak Bombay, James Chuma, Mathew Wainright and Abdullah Susi - from enslavement at a young age in Africa, these men were freed by British Royal Navy ships and later released in India. They returned to Africa with the likes of British explorers Burton, Speke and Livingstone to help plan and guide expeditions into Africa.

The exhibition integrates contemporary commentary from London based African adults and children's groups around the broader themes of migration, displacement and they help reinterpret the history illustrated by the Society's collection from an African perspective.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of black and white archive images, maps and contemporary colour pictures.

Education resources

Available for key stage 2 in geography and key stage 3 in history for www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

Size of exhibits

20 graphics panels: available in large format (100 x 130cm) or small format (80 x 100 cm)

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space



Seeing China: Community Reflections

'Seeing the pictures of China made me want to learn more about my heritage and history'.
Member of the Camden Youth Group, 2007

This exhibition explores the Society's historic collection of maps and photographs of China from 1850 onwards through the personal reminiscences and collective reflections of four London based Chinese community groups. Adults, young people, and children with differing backgrounds and interests explored the collection to reveal their diverse histories and experiences. The legacies of several centuries of contact between Britain and China provide a backdrop for contemporary issues such as global migration and identity, alongside an examination of complex shared, and often unequal histories, of these two countries.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of black and white archive images, maps and contemporary colour pictures.

Education resources

Available for key stage 2 and 3 from June 2008 at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

Size of exhibits

21 graphics panels: available in large format (100 x 130cm) or small format (80 x 100 cm)

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space



The Punjab: Moving Journeys

The exhibition reveals the 'Punjab', a region that spans both India and Pakistan. Developed in partnership with the UK Punjab Heritage Association, the Muslim Women's Welfare Association (Ilford), the Cartwright Hall Young Ambassadors (Bradford) and the Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail, the exhibition links London and Bradford to the borders of India and Pakistan. Through the Society's 19th century photographs, maps and texts the Punjab's history has been rediscovered and retold by community members, focusing on migrations, within and across borders, from the earliest history of the region, through Partition and into the 21st Century.

Combining contemporary commentary from British Punjabi's with Victorian photography with accounts from British visitors and colonial administrators, the exhibition uncovers this region's complex history alongside the challenges facing

Punjabi's in 21st century Britain, including how they relate to their British adoptive home and an Indian / Pakistani homeland.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of black and white archive images, maps and contemporary colour pictures.

Education resources

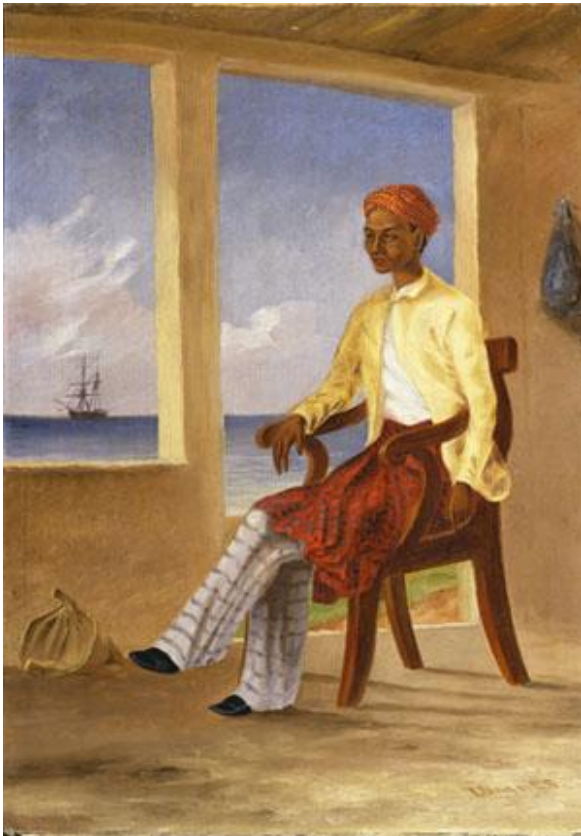
Available for key stage 2 and 3 from www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org

Size of exhibits

21 graphics panels: available in large format (100 x 130cm) or small format (80 x 100 cm)

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space



Hidden Histories of Exploration

This exhibition offers a new perspective on the Society's Collections, highlighting the role of local inhabitants and intermediaries in the history of exploration.

Hidden Histories of Exploration reveals the contribution of people such as Juan Tepano, Mohammed Jen Jamain, Sidi Mubarak Bombay, Nain Singh and Pedro Caripoco to the history of exploration. Find out about their role and its lasting significance, as illustrated in the paintings, books, maps photographs, artefacts and manuscripts of the Society.

The exhibition is arranged in three sections; the work of exploration, encounter and exploration, and recognition and responsibility. Materials from Africa, Asia, the Arctic and the Americas are represented, with highlights including paintings by Thomas Baines and Catherine Frere's sketches of women on an African expedition.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of black and white archive images, maps and colour artworks.

Education resources

No resources available

Website

www.rgs.org/hiddenhistories

Size of exhibits

19 graphics panels (each approx 60 x 90 cm)

Space required

20 - 30m linear wall space. To be fixed using Velcro or sticky fixers to display walls or stands



Changing Climates, Changing lives?

This exhibition explores the science behind climate change, the impact the climate has on people's lives in the UK and demonstrates the ways in which people can tackle climate change. Featuring a range of stunning contemporary images from around the UK, the exhibition shows the effects of climate change on the environment and how we can influence the future.

The exhibition and website is supported by Defra's climate challenge fund.

Other details

The exhibition comprises of contemporary colour pictures.

Education resources

Available for key stage 3 and 4 in geography www.yourclimateyourlife.org.uk

Size of exhibits

20 graphics panels: available in large format (100 x 130cm) or small format (80 x 100 cm)

Space required

50 – 80m linear wall space