The Imperial Trans-Antarctic 'Endurance' Expedition
1914-17

Photographs by Mr Frank Hurley, Official Expedition Photographer
Limited Edition Platinum Prints

Prospectus
“During the day I hacked through the thick walls of the refrigerator to retrieve the negatives stored therein. They were located beneath four feet of mushy ice and, by stripping to the waist and diving under, I hauled them out. Fortunately, they are soldered up in double tin linings, so I am hopeful they may not have suffered by their submersion.”

*Frank Hurley’s diary, 2 November 1915*
The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is home to a remarkable collection of original photographic glass and celluloid negatives captured by Mr Frank Hurley, the official photographer on the ‘Endurance’ expedition, 1914-17, and which made the perilous journey to safety with Shackleton, Hurley and the Weddell Sea Party following the destruction of the ship in 1915.

A century later, this iconic collection which documents one of the greatest stories of human survival, has been digitally mastered by leading experts, direct from negative for the first time, using today’s most advanced, custom-made technology.

The result: the highest quality of image achievable using every detail contained in Hurley’s original negatives, from which prints can now be produced, that surpass those made by Hurley’s own hand one hundred years ago.

Salto Ulbeek creates museum-grade platinum prints to the highest possible production values. Through their skilled technical approach to the work of past photographers, they are able to preserve historic masterpieces for the enjoyment of collectors and future generations.

Each of these newly created platinum prints is testament to the skill and quality of Frank Hurley’s photography; they will stand the test of time and are a fitting tribute to the spirit of the ‘Endurance’.

We offer private clients the opportunity to consider purchase of prints from a selection of images chosen by the Royal Geographical Society and Amana-Salto for their prominence and importance.

Pricing and other information is provided on the insert card supplied with this prospectus.

To mark the importance of this moment, the Society has collaborated with master printmaker Mr Georges Charlier and his team – based at Salto Ulbeek’s studio in Belgium – to create the first ever limited edition series of platinum prints from these images. Handmade on the finest cotton paper, the prints will be available in three sizes with full supporting provenance documentation.

For all other enquiries please contact: hurlieprints@rgs.org
or telephone: +44 (0)20 7591 3060
‘The End’, ‘Endurance’ crushed by the ice, the dogs looking on
The Platinum Printing Process

One of the great masters of photography, Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), called the platinum printing process “the prince of all media”. It is one of the oldest, rarest, most refined, and stable of all black & white photographic printing processes.

The platinum technique consists in coating specially made drawing paper with a light-sensitive emulsion containing platinum salts using a special brush. The paper is then carefully dried and exposed to UV light through one or more full size contact negatives. This is a costly and complicated procedure, each print taking almost eight hours to complete.

When compared to conventional black and white silver prints, platinum prints exhibit an expanded tonal range, three-dimensionality, and a uniquely luminous, painterly quality. Unlike silver prints, where the image is floating in a gelatin layer on top of the paper, a platinum image is part of the fine paper on which it is printed.

As well as their aesthetic quality, platinum prints are among the most permanent objects produced by man. The platinum metals are more stable than gold, and a platinum image, properly preserved, can last thousands of years.