

EDITORIAL: L. M. FORBES RETIRES

Max Forbes retired on 31 December 1971 after 17 years at the Scott Polar Research Institute, primarily as editor of the *Polar Record*, but also as curator of the Institute's museum and photographic collections. He joined the staff on 1 January 1955, following his retirement from 18 years in the Colonial Service. His last appointment had been that of District Officer for Jinja, Uganda. His translation from an equatorial town to a polar institute was not pure chance, for his wife, Evelyn, is the daughter of H. T. Ferrar, geologist with Scott's *Discovery* expedition, 1901-04. After schooling in Rhodesia, Max read English and anthropology at King's College, Cambridge. He was, therefore, well fitted by a wide experience of peoples and places to become editor of a regional journal.

His editorship began with issue No 50 of *Polar Record* and it ended with issue No 100 in press. Despite the limitations of a journal that aims mainly to "record" events, developments, and the literature of the polar regions, Max's own wide-ranging interests were apparent from the variety of topics covered. His tactful management of authors and colleagues played a valuable part, not only in developing the journal, but also in making the Institute a pleasant and stimulating place to work. Few other editors could have prevailed on their colleagues to assist him in packing the copies of his journal by hand into envelopes. This thrice-yearly event has become a semi-social occasion, in which all members of the staff join.

In addition to editing *Polar Record*, Max saw through the press a number of the Institute's other publications and those of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, and himself wrote a brochure about Captain Scott and the work of the Institute. His artistic judgment and good taste have long been reflected in the arrangement of the museum, first in the confinement of the old building and, since 1968, more broadly in the extension of the museum into the new wing. I am confident that many readers of *Polar Record* and, especially, many contributors to it will wish to join me in wishing him as full and as active a life in his second retirement as in his first.

The new editor, Alan Cooke, is a New Englander who has studied at Dartmouth College and McGill, Laval, and Cambridge universities. He first came to the Institute as a research student in historical geography, and he obtained a PhD with a thesis on the Hudson's Bay Company's activities during the 19th century in the Quebec-Labrador peninsula. He has lived and travelled in northern Canada and Alaska and, before coming to Cambridge, had worked with the late Vilhjalmur Stefansson in his polar library at Dartmouth College.

G. de Q. Robin