

= Clements Markham =

Sir Clements Robert Markham KCB FRS (20 July 1830 ? 30 January 1916) was an English geographer , explorer , and writer . He was secretary of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) between 1863 and 1888 , and later served as the Society 's president for a further 12 years . In the latter capacity he was mainly responsible for organising the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901 ? 04 , and for launching the polar career of Robert Falcon Scott .

Markham began his career as a Royal Naval cadet and midshipman , during which time he went to the Arctic with HMS Assistance in one of the many searches for the lost expedition of Sir John Franklin . Later , Markham served as a geographer to the India Office , and was responsible for the collection of cinchona plants from their native Peruvian forests , and their transplantation in India . By this means the Indian government acquired a home source from which quinine could be extracted . Markham also served as geographer to Sir Robert Napier 's Abyssinian expeditionary force , and was present in 1868 at the fall of Magdala .

The main achievement of Markham 's RGS presidency was the revival at the end of the 19th century of British interest in Antarctic exploration , after a 50 @-@ year interval . He had strong and determined ideas about how the National Antarctic Expedition should be organised , and fought hard to ensure that it was run primarily as a naval enterprise , under Scott 's command . To do this he overcame hostility and opposition from much of the scientific community . In the years following the expedition he continued to champion Scott 's career , to the extent of disregarding or disparaging the achievements of other contemporary explorers .

All his life Markham was a constant traveller and a prolific writer , his works including histories , travel accounts and biographies . He authored many papers and reports for the RGS , and did much editing and translation work for the Hakluyt Society , of which he also became president . He received public and academic honours , and was recognised as a major influence on the discipline of geography , although it was acknowledged that much of his work was based on enthusiasm rather than scholarship . Among the geographical features bearing his name is Antarctica 's Mount Markham , named after him by Scott in 1902 .

= = Childhood = =

Markham was born on 20 July 1830 at Stillingfleet , Yorkshire , the second son of the Reverend David Markham , then vicar of Stillingfleet . The family were descendents of the Rt Hon. and Most Rev. Dr William Markham , a former Archbishop of York and royal tutor ; this Court connection led to David Markham 's appointment , in 1827 , as an honorary canon of Windsor . Markham 's mother Catherine , née Milner , was the daughter of Sir William Milner , Bt . , of Nun Appleton Hall , Yorkshire .

In 1838 David Markham was appointed rector of Great Horkeley , near Colchester , Essex . A year later Clement began his schooling , first at Cheam and later at Westminster School . Reportedly an apt pupil , he showed particular interest in geology and astronomy , and from an early age he wrote prolifically , an activity which filled much of his spare time . At Westminster , which he found " a wonderful and delightful place " , he developed a particular interest in boating , often acting as coxswain in races on the River Thames .

= = Royal Navy = =

= = Naval cadet = = =

In May 1844 Markham was introduced by his aunt , the Countess of Mansfield , to Rear @-@ Admiral Sir George Seymour , a Lord of the Admiralty . The boy made a favourable impression on the admiral , and the meeting led to the offer of a cadetship in the Royal Navy . Accordingly , on 28 June 1844 Markham travelled to Portsmouth to join Seymour 's flagship HMS Collingwood .

Collingwood was being fitted out for an extended voyage to the Pacific Ocean where Seymour was to assume command of the Pacific station . This tour of duty lasted for almost four years . The ship reached the Chilean port of Valparaíso , the headquarters of the Pacific station , on 15 December 1844 after a cruise that incorporated visits to Rio de Janeiro and the Falkland Islands , and a stormy passage in the Southern Ocean . Markham 's social connections assured him of a relatively comfortable time ; he was frequently invited to dine with the admiral , whose wife and daughters were on board .

After a few weeks ' respite in Valparaiso , Collingwood sailed again , this time for Callao , the main port on the Peruvian coast , giving Markham his first experience of a country that would figure prominently in his later career . During the next two years Collingwood cruised in the Pacific , visiting the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) , Mexico , and Tahiti , where Markham attempted to assist the nationalist rebels against their French governor . On 25 June 1846 Markham passed the examination for midshipman , being placed third in a group of ten . The long periods spent in Chilean and Peruvian ports had also enabled him to learn Spanish .

Towards the end of the voyage Markham experienced growing doubts about a conventional naval career ; he now desired above all to be an explorer and a geographer . On arrival in Portsmouth in July 1848 he informed his father of his wish to leave the navy , but was persuaded to stay . After a brief period of service in the Mediterranean Markham experienced months of inactivity while based at Spithead and the Cove of Cork , which further diminished his interest in the service . However , early in 1850 he learned that a squadron of four ships was being assembled to undertake a new search for the lost Arctic expedition of Sir John Franklin . Markham used his family 's influence to secure a place in this venture , and in April 1850 was informed of his appointment to HMS Assistance , one of the squadron 's two principal vessels .

= = = First Arctic voyage 1850 ? 51 = = =

Sir John Franklin had left England in May 1845 with two ships , HMS Erebus and HMS Terror , in search of the Northwest Passage . The expedition was last seen on 29 July by whalers in the northern waters of Baffin Bay , moored to an ice floe and waiting for the chance to sail westward .

The hunt for the missing ships began two years later . The relief squadron which Markham joined was commanded by Captain Horatio Austin in HMS Resolute . Markham 's ship Assistance was captained by Erasmus Ommanney . Markham , as the youngest member of the expedition and its only midshipman , had a limited role , but carefully noted every detail of expedition life in his journal . The ships sailed on 4 May 1850 .

After rounding the southernmost point of Greenland on 28 May , the squadron proceeded northwards until stopped by ice in Melville Bay on 25 June . They were held here until 18 August , when they were finally able to proceed west into Lancaster Sound , the known route taken by Franklin . Here the ships dispersed to search different areas for signs of the vanished expedition . On 23 August Ommanney sighted a cairn , and discovered packing materials nearby which bore the name of " Goldner " , Franklin 's canned meat supplier . Together with other odds and ends of abandoned equipment , these fragments were the first traces of Franklin that anyone had found . A few days later , on Beechey Island , the party came across three graves , which proved to be those of members of Franklin 's crew who had died between January and April 1846 .

Searches continued until the ships were laid up for the long Arctic winter . During this enforced rest there were lectures and classes for the crew , and various theatrical diversions in which Markham was able to display his " great histrionic talent " . He did much reading , mainly Arctic history and classical literature , and thought about a possible return visit to Peru , a country which had captivated him during the Collingwood voyage . When spring returned , a series of sledging expeditions was launched to search for further signs of the missing crews . Markham played a full part in these activities , which produced no further evidence of Franklin , but led to the mapping of hundreds of miles of previously uncharted coast . The expedition returned to England in early October 1851 .

Immediately on his return to England Markham informed his father of his determination to leave the

navy . One of the reasons for his disaffection was the severity of the corporal punishment that was constantly administered for what in his view were trivial offences . He had been in trouble during his Collingwood service for attempting to prevent the flogging of a crewman . He had also become disenchanted by the idleness that had occupied long periods of his service . With some regret the elder Markham consented to his son 's request , and after taking and passing the gunnery part of the examination for the rank of lieutenant , Markham resigned from the service at the end of 1851 .

= = Peruvian journeys = =

= = = First journey 1852 ? 53 = = =

In the summer of 1852 , freed from his naval obligations , Markham made plans for an extended visit to Peru . Supported by a gift from his father of £ 500 (more than £ 40 @, @ 000 at 2008 values) to cover expenses , Markham sailed from Liverpool on 20 August .

Markham travelled by a roundabout route , proceeding first to Halifax , Nova Scotia , then overland to Boston and New York , before taking a steamer to Panama . After crossing the isthmus he sailed for Callao , finally arriving there on 16 October . He set out for the Peruvian interior on 7 December 1852 , heading across the Andes towards his goal , the ancient Inca city of Cuzco . On the way , Markham paused for nearly a month in the town of Ayacucho , to study the local culture and increase his knowledge of the Quechua . He then travelled on towards Cuzco , and after crossing a swinging bridge (the Apurimac Bridge) suspended 300 feet (91 m) above the raging Apurímac River , he and his party passed through fertile valleys which brought them finally to the city of Cuzco , on 20 March 1853 .

Markham remained in the city for several weeks , researching Inca history , describing in his journal the many buildings and ruins that he visited . During the course of an excursion to nearby towns and ruins he reached the area of San Miguel , La Mar , Ayacucho , where he first learned of the properties of the cinchona plant , a source of quinine , cultivated in that vicinity . He finally left Cuzco on 18 May , accompanied by a party of six who , like him , were returning to Lima . Their journey took them southwards , descending the mountains to the city of Arequipa , a former Spanish colonial settlement with a mixture of native and European architecture . The city is overlooked by the conical volcano Mount Misti , which Markham likened to Mount Fuji in Japan . On 23 June the party reached Lima , where Markham learned of the death of his father . He departed for England , where he arrived on 17 September .

= = = Cinchona mission , 1859 ? 61 = = =

Six years after his first trip to Peru , Markham returned there , with a specific mission to collect cinchona plants and seeds . He had been working meantime as a civil servant in the India Office , and in 1859 he made proposals to his employers for a scheme for collecting cinchona trees from the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes , and transplanting them to selected sites in India . Cinchona bark , a source of quinine , was the first known treatment for malaria and other tropical diseases . These plans were approved and Markham was placed in charge of the operation .

Markham and his team , which included the botanist Richard Spruce and his future brother @-@ in @-@ law , the New Zealander Charles Bowen , left England for Peru in December 1859 , arriving in Lima late in January 1860 . There was danger in their enterprise ; Peru and Bolivia were on the verge of war , and Markham 's party soon experienced the hostility of Peruvian interests anxious to protect their control over the cinchona trade . This limited his sphere of operations , and prevented him from obtaining specimens of the best quality . Later Markham overcame bureaucratic obstruction to obtain the necessary export licences .

Markham returned briefly to England before sailing to India , to select suitable sites for cinchona plantations there and in Burma (now Myanmar) and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) . Although many of the Indian plantations failed to flourish and were soon destroyed by insects , others survived , and

were augmented by species obtained by Spruce which were more suited to Indian conditions . Twenty years after the first plantations the annual cinchona bark crop from India was estimated at 490 @, @ 000 pounds (220 @, @ 000 kg) . For his work in introducing cinchona to India , Markham received a grant of £ 3 @, @ 000 (over £ 200 @, @ 000 in 2008 terms) from the British Government .

= = Civil servant , geographer , traveller = =

= = = India Office = = =

After the death of his father in 1853 Markham needed paid employment , and in December 1853 secured a junior clerkship in the Legacy Duty Office of the Inland Revenue at a salary of £ 90 per annum (around £ 6 @, @ 000 in 2008) . He found the work tedious , but after six months was able to transfer to the forerunner of what became , in 1857 , the India Office . Here , the work was interesting and rewarding , with sufficient time to allow him to travel and pursue his geographical interests .

In April 1857 Markham married Minna Chichester , who accompanied him on the cinchona mission to Peru and India . Their only child , a daughter Mary Louise (known as May) , was born in 1859 . As part of his India Office duties Markham investigated and reported to the Indian government on the introduction of Peruvian cotton into the Madras Presidency , on the growth of ipecacuanha in Brazil and the possibilities for cultivating this medicinal plant in India , and on the future of the pearl industry at Tirunelveli in Southern India . He was also involved in an ambitious plan for the transplanting of Brazilian rubber trees , claiming that he would " do for the india @-@ rubber or caoutchouc @-@ yielding trees what had already been done with such happy results for the cinchona trees . " This scheme was not , however , successful .

= = = Abyssinia , 1867 ? 68 = = =

In 1867 was selected to accompany Sir Robert Napier 's military expeditionary force to Abyssinia , as the expedition 's geographer . This force was despatched by the British government as a response to actions taken by the Abyssinian King Theodore . In 1862 the king had written to the British government requesting protection against Egyptian invaders , and proposing the appointment of an ambassador . Unwilling to risk giving offence to Egypt , the British government did not reply . The king reacted to this slight by seizing and imprisoning the British consul and his staff , and ordered the arrest and whipping of a missionary who had allegedly insulted the king 's mother . A belated reply to the king 's letter resulted in the capture and incarceration of the deputation that brought it . After efforts at conciliation failed , the British decided to settle the matter by sending a military expedition . Because the geography of the country was so little known , it was decided that an experienced traveller with map @-@ making skills should accompany the force , hence Markham 's appointment .

Napier 's troops arrived at Annesley Bay in the Red Sea , early in 1868 . Markham was attached to the force 's headquarters staff , with responsibility for general survey work and in particular the selection of the route to Magdala , the king 's mountain stronghold . Markham also acted as the party 's naturalist , reporting on the species of wildlife encountered during the 400 @-@ mile (640 km) march southward from the coast . He accompanied Napier to the walls of Magdala , which was stormed on 10 April 1868 . As the king 's forces charged down the mountain to meet Napier 's advancing troops Markham recorded : " The Snider rifles kept up a fire no Abyssinian troops could stand . They were mown down in lines ... the most heroic struggle could do nothing in the face of such vast inequality of arms . " After the discovery of the king 's body the victorious troops , according to Markham , " gave three cheers over it , as if it had been a dead fox . " Markham added that although the king 's misdeeds had been numerous and his cruelties horrible , he had finally died as a hero .

On the orders of General Napier , Magdala was burnt to the ground and its guns destroyed . The British troops then departed , and Markham was back in England in July 1868 . For his services to this campaign Markham was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1871 .

= = = Second Arctic voyage , 1875 ? 76 = = =

Markham had , through his various activities , come to know many influential people , and during the early 1870s used these connections to make the case for a Royal Naval Arctic expedition . Prime minister Benjamin Disraeli consented , in the " spirit of maritime enterprise that has ever distinguished the English people " . When the expedition was ready to sail , Markham was invited to accompany it as far as Greenland , on HMS Alert , one of the expedition 's three ships . Markham accepted , and left with the convoy on 29 March 1875 . He was gone for three months , remaining with Alert as far as the island of Disco in Baffin Bay . He wrote of this journey : " I never had a happier cruise ... a nobler set of fellows never sailed together . " He returned to England on the support vessel HMS Valorous , although the homeward voyage was delayed after Valorous struck a reef and required substantial repairs . Markham 's extended absence from his India Office duties , together with his increasing involvement in a range of other interests , caused his superiors to request his resignation . Markham retired from his post in 1877 , his 22 years of service entitling him to a pension .

Meanwhile , the main expedition , under the command of Captain George Nares , had proceeded north with the two ships HMS Discovery and HMS Alert . On 1 September 1875 they reached 82 ° 24 ' , the highest northern latitude reached by any ship up to that date . In the following spring a sledging party led by Markham 's cousin , Commander Albert Hastings Markham , achieved a record Farthest North at 83 ° 20 ' .

= = Royal Geographical Society = =

= = = Honorary secretary = = =

In November 1854 Markham had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society . The Society soon became the centre of his geographical interests , and in 1863 he was appointed its honorary secretary , a position he was to hold for 25 years .

In addition to his work in promoting the Nares Arctic expedition , Markham followed the work of other Arctic explorers , organising a reception in 1880 for the Swedish explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld after the latter 's successful navigation of the North @-@ East Passage , and monitoring the progress of the American expeditions of Adolphus Greely and George W. DeLong . Release from the India Office provided Markham with more time for travel . He made regular trips to Europe and in 1885 went to America , where he met with President Grover Cleveland in the White House . Throughout his secretaryship Markham was a prolific writer of travel books and biographies , and of many papers presented to the RGS and elsewhere . He was the author of the Encyclopædia Britannica (ninth edition) article entitled " Progress of Geographical Discovery " . He also wrote popular histories . Within the RGS Markham was responsible for the revision of the Society 's standard Hints to Travellers , and for relaunching the journal Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society in a much livelier format .

In parallel with his RGS duties Markham served as secretary of the Hakluyt Society until 1886 , subsequently becoming that society 's president . As part of his work for this body , Markham was responsible for many translations from Spanish into English of rare accounts of travel , in particular those relating to Peru . In time scholars would express doubts about the quality of some of these translations , finding them prepared in haste and lacking in rigour . Nevertheless , this work ran to 22 volumes in the society 's publications . In 1873 Markham had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society , and in subsequent years received several overseas honours , including the Portuguese Order of Christ and the Order of the Rose of Brazil . He briefly considered , but did not pursue , the

idea of a parliamentary career .

Markham maintained his interest in the navy , particularly in the training of its officers . He often visited the merchant officer training vessels , HMS Conway and HMS Worcester , and became a member of the latter 's governing body . In early 1887 he accepted an invitation from his cousin Albert Markham , who now commanded the Royal Navy 's training squadron , to join the squadron at its station in the West Indies . Markham spent three months aboard the flagship HMS Active , during which , on 1 March 1887 , he had his first encounter with Robert Falcon Scott , who was serving as a midshipman aboard HMS Rover . Scott was victorious in a race between cutters , an event that was noted and remembered by Markham .

= = = President = = =

In May 1888 Markham resigned from his position as RGS Secretary , finding himself at odds with the Society 's new policies which appeared to favour education over exploration . On his retirement he was awarded the Society 's Founder 's Medal for what were described at the presentation ceremony as his " incomparable services to the Society " .

The next few years were filled with travel and writing . There were further cruises with the training squadron , and extended visits to the Baltic and the Mediterranean . In 1893 , during the course of one of these journeys , Markham was elected in absentia President of the RGS . This unexpected elevation was the result of a dispute within the Society over the question of women members , about which Markham had kept silent . When in July 1893 the issue was put to a special general meeting , the proposal to admit women was narrowly defeated despite an overwhelming postal ballot in favour . In these circumstances the Society 's President , Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff , resigned his office . The 22 existing women members were allowed to remain , but no more were admitted until January 1913 when the RGS changed its policy . Although Markham was not the first choice as a replacement for Grant Duff ? other notable figures were approached ? he had kept out of the women members controversy and was broadly acceptable to the membership . Shortly after his accession to the presidency , in recognition of his services to geography Markham was raised in the Order of the Bath to the rank of Knight Commander (KCB) , and became Sir Clements Markham .

In a letter written many years later , Markham said that on the assumption of the presidency he had felt the need , after the dispute over women , to " restore the Society 's good name " by the adoption of some great enterprise . He chose Antarctic exploration as the basis for this mission ; there had been no significant Antarctic exploration by any country since Sir James Clark Ross 's expedition fifty years previously . A new impetus was provided through a lecture given to the RGS in 1893 by the oceanographer Professor John Murray , calling for " an expedition to resolve the outstanding questions still posed in the south . " In response to Murray the RGS and the Royal Society formed a joint committee , to campaign for a British Antarctic expedition .

= = = National Antarctic Expedition = = =

Murray 's call for the resumption of Antarctic exploration was taken up again two years later , when the RGS acted as host to the sixth International Geographical Congress in August 1895 . This Congress passed a unanimous resolution :

[That] the exploration of the Antarctic Regions is the greatest piece of geographical exploration still to be undertaken . That , in view of the additions to knowledge in almost every branch of science which would result from such a scientific exploration , the Congress recommends that the scientific societies throughout the world should urge , in whatever way seems to them most effective , that this work should be undertaken before the close of the century .

The joint committee organising the British response to this resolution contained a difference of view . Murray and the Royal Society argued for a largely civilian expedition , directed and staffed by scientists , while Markham and most of the RGS contingent saw a National Antarctic Expedition as a means of reviving naval glories , and wanted the expedition organised accordingly . Markham 's tenacity finally won the day when in 1900 he secured the appointment of his protégé Robert Falcon

Scott , by then a torpedo lieutenant on HMS Majestic , as the expedition 's overall commander . In doing so he thwarted an attempt to place the leadership in the hands of Professor John Gregory of the British Museum . In the view of Markham 's critics , this represented the subordination of scientific work to naval adventure , although the Instructions to the Commander , drawn up by Markham , give equal priorities to geographical and scientific work . The " science versus adventure " arguments were renewed when , after the return of the expedition , there was criticism over the accuracy and professionalism of some of its scientific results .

Markham faced further problems in securing funding for the expedition . In 1898 , after three years ' effort , only a fraction of what was required had been promised . Meanwhile , the Anglo - Norwegian explorer Carsten Borchgrevink had obtained a sum of £ 40 000 (over £ 3 million in 2008) from publisher George Newnes , to finance a private Antarctic venture . Markham was furious , believing that funds were being diverted from his own project , and denounced Borchgrevink as " evasive , a liar and a fraud " . He was equally hostile to William Speirs Bruce , the Scottish explorer who had written to Markham asking to join the National Antarctic Expedition . On receiving no confirmation of an appointment , Bruce obtained finance from the Scottish Coats family and organised his own Scottish National Antarctic Expedition . Markham accused Bruce of " mischievous rivalry " , and of attempting to " cripple the National Expedition ... in order to get up a scheme for yourself " . The Scottish expedition duly sailed , but Markham remained unforgiving towards it , and used his influence to ensure that its participants received no Polar Medals on their return .

A substantial private donation and a government grant finally allowed the National Antarctic Expedition to proceed . A new ship , the Discovery , was built , and a mainly naval crew of officers and crewmen appointed , along with a scientific staff which was later described as " underpowered " . Discovery sailed on 5 August 1901 , after an inspection by King Edward VII , at which Markham was present to introduce Scott and the officers . The ship was gone for just over three years during which time , from a base in the Ross Sea area , significant explorations of this sector of Antarctica were carried out , along with an extensive scientific programme . Although it was reported by the Times as " one of the most successful [expeditions] that ever ventured into the Polar regions , north or south , " it was largely ignored by the government of the day . Markham was criticised in official quarters for privately sanctioning a second season in the Antarctic , contrary to the original plan , and then being unable to raise funds for the expedition 's relief in 1904 . The cost for this had to be borne on the Treasury .

= = Later life = =

= = = Shackleton and Scott = = =

A few months after the Discovery 's return , Markham announced his retirement from the RGS presidency . He was 75 years old ; according to his biographer he felt that his active geographical life was now over . His 12 years in the presidency was the longest period on record . He remained a member of the RGS Council , a vice - president , and he kept an active interest in Antarctic exploration , particularly in the two British expeditions which set out in the five years following his retirement . These were led respectively by Ernest Shackleton and Scott .

Markham had agreed to Shackleton 's appointment as Third Officer on the Discovery following a recommendation from the expedition 's principal private donor . He had given sympathy and support after Shackleton 's early return from the expedition on grounds of ill health , and had backed the latter 's unsuccessful application for a Royal Navy commission . Later , after Shackleton had confided his intention to lead an expedition of his own , Markham supplied a generous testimonial , describing Shackleton as " well - fitted to have charge of men in an enterprise involving hardship and peril " , and " admirably fitted for the leader [ship] of a Polar Expedition . " He expressed strong support for Shackleton 's 1907 - 09 Nimrod Expedition : " ... not only my most cordial wishes for your success will accompany you , but also a well - founded hope . " When news of the expedition 's achievement of a new Farthest South latitude of 88 ° 23 ' reached him ,

Markham publicly signified his intention to propose Shackleton for the RGS Patron 's Medal .

However , Markham had second thoughts , and was soon writing to the current RGS president , Leonard Darwin , to express disbelief about Shackleton 's claimed latitudes , repeating these doubts to Scott . Historians have surmised that Scott was Markham 's protégé , and that the old man resented polar glory going to someone else . Whatever his reason , Markham adopted a bitterness towards Shackleton which he retained for the rest of his life . He is said to have crossed out all favourable references to Shackleton in his own notes on the Discovery expedition , and to have virtually ignored Shackleton 's achievements in a 1912 address to the British Association . He was equally dismissive in his history of Antarctic exploration , *The Lands of Silence* (published posthumously in 1921) .

By contrast , Markham remained on close personal terms with Scott and was godfather to the explorer 's son , born 14 September 1909 and named Peter Markham Scott in the old man 's honour . In his tribute to Scott in the preface to *Scott 's Last Expedition* (1913) , Markham describes Scott as " among the most remarkable men of our time " , and talks of the " beauty " of his character . As Scott lay dying " there was no thought for himself , only the earnest thought to give comfort and consolation to others . " In one of the last letters written from his final camp , days from death , Scott wrote : " Tell Sir Clements I thought much of him , and never regretted his putting me in command of the ' Discovery ' . "

= = Retirement = = =

After his retirement from the RGS presidency , Markham led an active life as a writer and traveller . He wrote biographies of the English kings Edward IV and Richard III , and of his old naval friend Admiral Sir Leopold McClintock ; he also kept up his editing and translating work . He continued to produce papers for the RGS , and remained president of the Hakluyt Society until 1910 . Markham continued to travel extensively in Europe , and in 1906 cruised with the Mediterranean squadron , where Scott was acting as Flag @-@ Captain to Rear @-@ Admiral George Egerton . When in 1909 Scott announced his plans for a new Antarctic venture , the Terra Nova Expedition , Markham assisted with fundraising and served on the expedition 's organising committee , arranging the deal which brought in Lieutenant " Teddy " Evans as second @-@ in @-@ command , in return for the abandonment of Evans 's own expedition plans .

Markham was awarded honorary degrees from the Universities of Cambridge and Leeds . In conferring this latter degree , the Chancellor referred to Markham as " a veteran in the service of mankind " , and recalled that he had been " for sixty years the inspiration of English geographical science . " However , Markham did not altogether avoid controversy . In 1912 , when Roald Amundsen , conqueror of the South Pole , was invited by RGS president Leonard Darwin to dine with the Society , Markham resigned his council seat in protest .

The news of the death of Scott and his returning polar party reached Markham in February 1913 , while he was staying in Estoril . He returned to England , and assisted with the preparation of Scott 's journals for publication . Scott 's death was a heavy blow , but Markham continued to lead a busy life of writing and travelling . In 1915 he was present at the service in St Peter 's Church , Binton , near Stratford @-@ upon @-@ Avon , where a window was dedicated to Scott and his companions ; later that year he assisted at the unveiling of the Royal Navy 's statue of Scott , in Waterloo Place , London . Markham read his last paper for the RGS on 10 June 1915 , its title being " The History of the Gradual Development of the Groundwork of Geographical Science " .

= = Death and legacy = =

On 29 January 1916 , while reading in bed by candlelight , Markham set fire to the bedclothes and was overcome by smoke . He died the following day . His last diary entry , a few days earlier , had recorded a visit from Peter Markham Scott .

The family received tributes from King George V , who acknowledged the debt the country owed to Markham 's life work of study and research ; from the Royal Geographical Society and the other

learned bodies with which Markham had been associated ; from the Naval Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief at Devonport ; and from Fridtjof Nansen , the Norwegian Arctic explorer . Other messages were received from France , Italy , Denmark , Sweden , the United States , and from Arequipa in Peru .

More critical assessments of Markham 's life and work were to follow . Hugh Robert Mill , Shackleton 's first biographer and for many years the RGS librarian , referred to the dictatorial manner in which Markham had run the Society . In time , questions would be raised about the accuracy of some of his Hakluyt translations , and about the evidence of haste in the preparation of other publications . On a personal level he had made enemies as well as friends ; Frank Debenham , the geologist who served with both Scott and Shackleton , called Markham " a dangerous old man " , while William Speirs Bruce wrote of Markham 's " malicious opposition to the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition " . Bruce 's colleague Robert Rudmose @-@ Brown went further , calling Markham " that old fool and humbug " . These protestations reflected Markham 's protective attitude towards Scott ; according to Bruce , " Scott was Markham 's protégé , and Markham thought it necessary , in order to uphold Scott , that I should be obliterated " . He added that " Scott and I were always good friends , in spite of Markham . "

It has been suggested that Markham 's prejudices about polar travel , particularly his belief in the " nobility " of manhauling , had been passed to Scott , to the detriment of all future British expeditions . Mill 's measured opinion , that Markham was " an enthusiast rather than a scholar " , has been asserted as a fair summary of his strengths and weaknesses , and as the basis for his influence on the discipline of geography in the late 19th and early 20th centuries . He is commemorated by Mount Markham , 82 ° 51 ' S 161 ° 21 ' E , in the Transantarctic range , discovered and named by Scott on his southern march during the Discovery expedition in 1902 . The Markham River in Papua New Guinea was named after him ; Carsten Borchgrevink discovered and named Markham Island in the Ross Sea during his 1900 expedition , a gesture that was not , however , acknowledged by Markham . The name lives on in Lima , Peru , through Markham College , a private co @-@ educational school . Minna Bluff , a promontory extending into the Ross Ice Shelf , was named by Scott for Lady Markham .

Markham 's estate was valued for probate purposes at £ 7 @, @ 740 (2008 equivalent £ 376 @, @ 000) . He was survived by his wife Minna , to whom Albert Hastings Markham 's 1917 biography of Sir Clements is dedicated . Markham 's only child , May , avoided public life and devoted herself to church work in the East End of London . According to the family 's entry in Burke 's Landed Gentry she died in 1926 .

= = Writings = =

Markham was a prolific writer and diarist ; his first published work , an account of his voyage with HMS Assistance in search of Franklin , had appeared in 1853 . After his retirement from the India office in 1877 writing became his chief source of income . In addition to papers and reports for the Royal Geographical Society and other learned bodies , Markham wrote histories , biographies and travel accounts , many as full @-@ length books . He also translated many works from Spanish to English , and compiled a grammar and dictionary for the Quichua language of Peru .

His books include the following :

Franklin 's Footsteps (1852) London , Chapman and Hall

Cuzco ... and Lima (1856) London , Chapman and Hall

Travels in Peru and India (1862) London , John Murray

Contribution Toward a Grammar and Dictionary of Quichua (1864) London , Trubner & Co ,

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