Inventory

Acc.12559

Sir James Mann Wordie

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 Shakleton 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
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


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 Shakleton’s Antarctic Expedition, 1914
Press-cuttings, typescript notes and printed articles concerning Sir Ernest Shakleton’s Antarctic Expedition, 1914
17-19 Albums of press cuttings, 1914-1922, with some letters, notes and menu cards, relating to Sir Ernest Shakleton 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 Shakleton 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 Spitzbergen 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 Spitzbergen 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 Spitzbergen 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 Spitzbergen Syndicate. With related correspondence, hydrographic charts and maps and notes

33 Annotated printed Admiralty Chart of Spitsbergen, 1865, with areas claimed by the Scottish Spitzbergen Syndicate coloured red. Inscribed, ‘This is the plan referred to in the Power of Attorney by the Scottish Spitzbergen 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.


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


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
Expedition journal, 12 August – 15 September 1934

Typescript expedition journal, 2 June – 15 September 1934 (2 copies)


Photographs, 1934

Photographs, 1934

Photographs of Greenland, 1934

Photographs of Baffin Island, 1934

Press cuttings and printed articles relating to the 1934 expedition


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.

Expedition journal, 29 June – 5 September 1937

Expedition journal, 6 – 29 September 1937

Typescript expedition journal, 1937 (2 copies)

Expedition notebook, 1937. With letters, telegrams and bills loosely enclosed

Expedition ‘Observations’ notebook, 1937

Photographs of the 1937 expedition

Copies of letters of and letters to Wordie, 1935-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition

Copies of letters of and letters to Wordie with some maps and photographs, 1937-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition

Letters, accounts and notes, 1936-1938, concerning the 1937 Baffin Island Expedition

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)

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**


96-97 **Photographs**


97 Panoramic views from Arrochar, n.d.

98-99 **Miscellaneous**


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