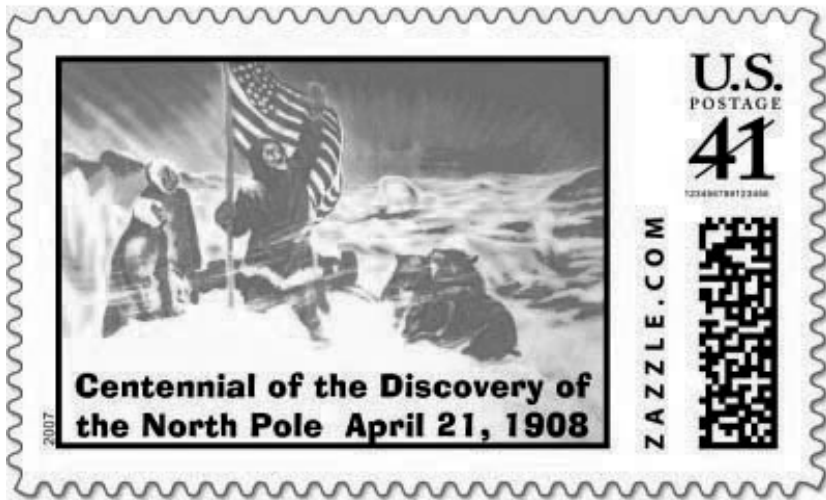


PO Box 11421 • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Centennial: Discovery of the North Pole

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## **Centennial of the Discovery of the North Pole**

**Symposium at the Yale Club  
in New York City  
April 5 - 6, 2008**

**Conference details:** Registration includes continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, two coffee breaks and luncheon April 5. Each registrant gets a symposium kit and a complimentary copy of the reprint edition of Cook's 1911 book, **My Attainment of the Pole**.

**Registration:** Advance registration, \$40<sup>.00</sup>; seniors and students, \$25<sup>.00</sup>; scholarships for students are available.

**Location:** The Yale Club is opposite Grand Central Station, 50 Vanderbilt at 44th Street.

**Housing in New York City:** Out of town registrants for the symposium are urged to consult Travelocity.com and other travel web pages. We will supply a list of hotels in the proximity of the Yale Club to all registrants.

### **REGISTRATION:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Centennial Symposium, PO Box 11421, Pittsburgh, PA 15238**



Explorers, researchers and historians from Russia, Norway and Nunuvut will participate in an international symposium that will discuss the attainment of the geographical North Pole on April 21, 1908 by Dr. Frederick A. Cook. The forum will be held at the Yale Club, located at 50 Vanderbilt at 44th St. in New York City, just opposite from Grand Central Station.

Participants will discuss the actual Polar journeys of Cook and his rival, Robert E. Peary in 1908-09, the climate which resulted in public fascination toward the "race to the Pole" in both Europe and North America and the subsequent campaign of vilification launched against Cook.

The controversy involving the claims of Cook and Peary have occupied the literature of the Polar regions and the public press for almost a century, as both claimants returned to Europe and then the United States in September of 1909.

While the dispute has not diminished, the addition of significant names in the discussion has provided new understanding to the issues.

In 2005 Canada's leading archeologist of the Far North, Dr. Robert McGhee made a definitive contribution in his book, **The Last Imaginary Place: a Human History of the Arctic World**. The winner of the Massey Medal of

the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Canada's highest award for excellence in the geographic sciences. Dr. McGhee wrote of Cook:

*"Frederick Cook remains as one of the most perceptive as well as the most vilified of Polar explorers. ..Cook had made a discovery that no amount of humiliation could take from him, and one that only the most fortunate and observant Arctic explorers ever learned."*

## An International Symposium on the Centennial of the Discovery of the North Pole

### Saturday, April 5, 2008

Yale Club, registration in foyer and continental breakfast, 8-9 am

Yale Club, Grand Ballroom. Opening and welcome, 9 am

**Warren B. Cook Sr.**, president Frederick A. Cook Society

**Jeff Stoleer**, Communications Director of the Explorers Club

**Bette Hutchinson**, granddaughter of Dr. Cook

**Barbara Hillary**, honored guest

9:30-10:15 am

**Ralph Myerson, MD** and **Pam Huntington**, commentators

"Pioneering Polar Medicine and Beyond: Frederick Cook as physician-explorer"

10:15-11:00 am

**Susan Barr**, Cultural Heritage, Oslo, Norway

"Looking to the Poles:

Amundsen and Cook, 1808-1911"

11:00 to 11:20 am

Break and video excerpt, "Race to the Poles"

11:20 to 12:15 am

**Ted Heckathorn**, polar and alpine explorer

"The core of the controversy:

Cook on Denali and at the North Pole"

12:15 - 1:30 pm

Luncheon in the Ball Room

1:30 - 1:45 pm

Q&A Panel on morning session: Dr. Myerson, Ms. Huntington, Ms. Barr and Mr. Heckathorn

1:45 pm

**Kenn Harper**, author and historian

"Liars and Gentlemen: The Cook-Peary controversy and a commentary, 2008"

**Dmitry Shparo**, explorer and author, Moscow

"Following Cook and Peary to the Pole: A Russian reassessment"

3:45 pm

Break and video excerpt, "Noose of Laurels"

Q&A Panel on Afternoon Session

Mr. Harper and Dr. Shparo

### Sunday, April 6, 2008

9:00 am Continental breakfast

9:30 am - 10:00 am

**Russell W. Gibbons**, editor and writer

"Gold Brick Redux: Fighting for Hearts and Minds, 1909 and 2008"

10:00-10:30 am

**Malvey Shparo**, "The Russian Centennial Expedition to the North Pole, 2007-2008" Malvey will describe the first Polar night expedition to the Pole, which is dedicated to the Centennial of Dr. Cook's discovery.

**Dmitry Shparo**, "Following Cook to the top of North America." Dr. Shparo will utilize overhead projection of photographs of his expedition "as affirmative evidence that Dr. Cook conquered Mount McKinley."

Conclusion of conference

The Explorers Club display on Dr. Cook's life and explorations will be available on both Saturday and Sunday. Copies of **My Attainment of the Pole** have been presented to each symposium participant. Copies of Cook's other reprints are also available.



### Symposium Presenters:

**Susan Barr** is director of Cultural Heritage in Oslo, Norway and has delivered papers on Amundsen and Cook at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the Byrd Polar Research Center.

**Sheldon S R Cook** is an attorney and historian in Atlanta, GA and has researched the Cook-Peary controversy for almost four decades. He has published in **Fram** and **Polar Priorities**.

**Warren B Cook Sr.** is the grandnephew of Dr. Cook and has been president of the Frederick A Cook Society for several years. He belongs to the Explorers Club, the American Polar Society and the Elizha Kent Kane Society.

**Russell W Gibbons** completed his degree thesis on Cook and Peary and has contributed the biographical profiles on Cook to the **Dictionary of American Biography** and the Arctic Institute and also to the **Encyclopedia of the Arctic**.

**Kenn Harper** lives and works in Iqaluit in Nunuvut, the new Inuit territory within Arctic Canada and is an author and contributor to several journals, including the **Encyclopedia of the Arctic**.

**Ted Heckathorn** has combined field expeditions in the Arctic and Alaska in his work on Cook, following his routes to the Pole and the top of McKinley and is a contributor to the **Encyclopedia of the Arctic** and **Polar Priorities**.

**Patricia Huntington** is an independent researcher in New York City and has published on Peary in **Polar Geography** and Cook in **Polar Priorities**. She is co-chair of the 2008 North Pole Centennial commemoration.

**Bette Hutchinson** is a granddaughter of Frederick A. Cook and has contributed artifacts and photos to the Byrd Polar Research Center, the Library of Congress Special Collections and the American Alpine Club.

**Ralph Myerson** is former head of clinical medicine at Drexel University and has published for some 20 years on Polar physicians and chaired the 1999 Conference on Polar and Alpine Medicine.

**Dmitry Shparo** has led expeditions to the North Pole and in 2006 followed Cook's 1906 route to the top of McKinley. He has been involved in a scholarly reassessment of Cook in Russian literature and proceedings.

**Malvey Shparo** is an officer of the Adventurers Club of Moscow and has made several expeditions to the North Polar regions, his 2007-2008 over ice trip to the Pole being the first in the Polar Night.