

Chapter 4. The places of Franz Josef Land: current visits and imagery¹⁶

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Abstract

Recent tourist cruises of Franz Josef Land have offered the chance to search for the remains of historic expeditions to the islands, as well as expeditions that used the islands as a base from which to try to reach the geographic North Pole. Expedition leader Andreas Umbreit discusses his recent such finds at both Greely Island and Teplitz Bay on Rudolf Island, as well as several other sites.

Keywords

Franz Josef Land, historic place names, historical geography, historical archaeology, polar exploration, Oslo NSF workshop

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7557/5.3581>

I would like to start with some recent views of Greely Island, which was the location of Evelyn Baldwin's 'Kane Lodge.' In Fiala's book, there is also a record that they used the Kane Lodge site as well. The lodge is marked, but very vaguely. It's not very precise. I tried to find the site in 2011, but it was so foggy that we circled Coal Mine Island without realizing that we were not on Greely Island, and gave up.

Then, in 2012, we were close inshore again and I was allowed to do some research for a few hours. From the ship, we looked in the area where it must be, here on this coast. But the area I was looking at did not fit at all the description in Fiala's book, which indicated there must be a strand flat.

There is nothing on this coast that looks like this. I was really uncertain, but with binoculars, we found some things that look, from a distance, like some wooden objects. We

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¹⁷ About the author: Andreas Umbreit was born in Munich in 1959 and brought up in the Bavarian Alps, where he served also his military service in a unit of the army mountain forces. He has worked as an Arctic guide, lecturer, and expedition leader in Svalbard since 1987 and in 2003 became one of the first Western expedition leaders to Franz Josef Land. He has also visited Novaya Zemlya, Wiese, Severnaya Zemlya, and Vaygach. His website dedicated to the history and flora and fauna of Franz Josef Land, <http://www.franz-josef-land.info>, consists of more than 60 subpages with more than 500 photographs and maps and is visited on average by 60 users per day. His *Guide to Spitsbergen*, which includes a segment on Franz Josef Land, is now in its 10th edition in German and 4th in English.

made an excursion on the other side with the tourists. After they finished, we took the Zodiac and just dashed over there and looked at these wooden objects.¹⁸



Fig. 1. A view of the shoreline of Greely Island, with what could very well be the remains of the location of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin's 'Kane Lodge' (© Andreas Umbreit).

No strand flat. But obviously, something that is older than the Russian activities. That was all that was left here. Right next to it is the moraine of the neighboring glacier, the ice is just behind. It was really interesting. Then you have the historical detail pictures of the site.

Barr: That doesn't look anything like this.

Again, that's true. That was my problem, but when you look into the detailed historical images, we have sledges – like we found them. In fact, it was at least 5 or 6 sledges there. Different types. We have netting, which was probably used for dog cages or something like that. Barrels. And it's piled up here. What I found especially interesting is this bit here. That is exactly the same as we have on Alger Island, one of the pre-fabricated octagonal cabins. A wall segment.

Forsberg: Do you know where that cabin was pre-fabricated?

No.

¹⁸ See: Umbreit, Andreas. 2012. "Franz Josef Land: Possible discovery of the Kane Lodge depot of the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition (1901/02)." *Report to the Russian Arctic National Park*. On-line at: <http://www.franz-josef-land.info>.

Forsberg: In Gothenburg. Same company that made Andrée's balloon house.

It was, you see it yourself, in immediate danger of being washed away.

Capelotti: Is there any way or any reason to suppose that there would be any remains that could be found underwater? Anything submerged? If that strand is now under water, would an underwater survey lead to anything that's there?

Very unlikely. Just a few hundred meters from here, it is 200 meters deep. It must slope very steeply down. I talked to Russian geomorphologists in the Archangelsk meeting. Their thesis is that this flat terrain on the picture is a result of the neighboring glacier, which was bigger at that time, had a bigger moraine. In the lee of that moraine, there may have been more land, which with the retreat of the glacier, has now disappeared.

Barr: Could another explanation be that they cleared up the camp. Then they piled all this litter way away?

There is no place for a camp here.

Barr: No, exactly. But there was somewhere else where the camp was.

My personal theory is that this is the very last remains. They had piled up their equipment. Here was the pile for the sledges, there are something like six different sledges, wool socks, and there was a pile for some barrels. Everything else, including Kane Lodge itself, has disappeared. That wall element is the very last one, which was washed on the beach, as it is now. This is the very last part that is still left of this Kane Lodge.

Barr: Did that area, did the hill behind fit with this photograph?

More or less, yes. It's difficult, because in the historic images it is snow and winter conditions. We went up this hill behind, and on top, there is nothing. I first thought that these remains had just fallen down from the hill, but they have not. There are interesting constructions, for example the copper plating on the skis of the sledges. Two canvas kayaks. You see, the waves must have gone in, since it is all filled with beach rubble.

Barr: This is an enormous area that has disappeared.

Yes. But we have that in several places. We have that at Cape Flora, with massive loss of terrain. We have it especially on Alger Island, where if you look at the old chart of Alger Island, when East Camp Ziegler was first constructed, it was exactly 100 meters between the camp and the shore. Now, it's maybe 30 meters.



Fig. 2. The site of East Camp Ziegler on Alger Island, showing the eroding shoreline and encroaching sea (© Andreas Umbreit).

As for the Greely Island site, there is now no land. You would never put a camp in this place, under these conditions.

Forsberg: So, technically, everything here could have been washed up on this beach.

No. How could this, concentrated as it is, be washed up? Then probably piled even there. The sledges are piled on each other.

Barr: Pete, what does it say about the leaving of Kane Lodge, that they piled everything up in one day?

Capelotti: Yes, and they sealed the building. They put a whole bunch of supplies in it in barrels, and sealed the building up. Piled up sledges and so forth.

Barr: So they piled up the sledges?

They must have piled things outside, because they have only one building. I think it one, or two?

Capelotti: It was just the one.

You see, like in the other buildings from Alger Island, you can't store much in these buildings. They're not big. They must have to pile it around. I think they had it neatly piled.

There was also one or two heads of walrus with the teeth chopped off, as the hunters did. Just collecting the ivory. There's several walrus bones here. What I find also interesting there is that, today, in this bay, there are no walruses. Maybe that beach here, maybe that was one of the reasons why they may have picked it, it was a haul out area for the walruses. Now the beach is gone. The walruses have moved to different places. Otherwise, in this bay, there are no really good beaches.

Capelotti: What is your feeling about a rock collapse, and new soil and rocks coming down.

There's a steep grade above it. Some rocks constantly falling.

Capelotti: So the site is being attacked from two sides, essentially.

Yes. When we reported this by radio to Russian authorities, who were in the same area at that time with a small sailing yacht, their ship was not big enough for rescuing much of this material. But they did bring some things up, and I think they took some back to the national park institute in Archangelsk.

What I really found most fascinating were these canvas kayaks, because they are, I believe, quite unique.

Capelotti: Wellman had used them in 1898 also. They would have been left over there.

Forsberg: Was there anything where you could see any names on the supply boxes?

Yes. But the writing was in very bad condition. We didn't touch anything. So that is the only writing I could see just by looking at the side. Neither I nor our Russian guide on board could even determine whether these are Latin or Cyrillic letters.

Capelotti: Fiala had a system of marking his crates with symbols like spades and diamonds, clubs and so forth. That sort of has the look of a spade, there, that we'd see on a deck of cards. Could be from Fiala from his sorting system. The idea was that he would only put certain supplies with certain markings, so he'd be able to easily find whether they were food or fuel or whatever it was.

Now, moving on to Alger Island. The camp is situated on a strand flat made of very fine sandy material. This is a huge area with lots of objects. In addition, they had outposts around, like the magnetic observatory. These are the two main buildings, and they were connected. There is a large collection of objects, probably a trash dump. It's all metal from the camps.

The problem with visiting now, is increasing damage especially by negligence. Photographers walking backwards with their camera and stepping into things. When I am there, I have developed a technique for visiting it by having everybody in a line. Then I or another guide go in front, and everybody just stays in the line behind me. By that way, the reward for the tourist is, that they can take pictures of everything without other people in the sight. And that is what most photographers want. By doing it like that, it's nice for the tourists, and it is good for the conservation of the site. As you can see from this apparent tent material, there is an enormous amount of material still laying there.

In newer pictures from 2012, you can see that the sea cliff is now very close to the camp (see Fig. 2).

Capelotti: Do you have an idea, based on this, when the camp would go into the ocean?

The last 100 years have cost about 70 meters of shore. It will not be long now. Some perimeter objects of the camp have been lost to the sea already between my visits in 2004 and 2011.

Barr: Well, it's going quickly now, isn't it? You can't just divide a number of meters by a number of years.

From what I have observed, the pace of erosion has speeded up, maybe because earlier, the winter was longer, and then you also had a longer lasting ice foot, protecting the shore line for longer parts of the year against sea erosion. Now the ice foot is shorter-lived, so erosion is increasing.

In Figure 2 you can see the remains of the hydrogen-generating area where Baldwin sent up his balloons in 1902. You can see from this image, which is three years old, already, that it will not be long before the entire site is in the sea.

There is not much to see at Cape Dillon on McClintock Island. We landed here in 2008, but the weather was very bad. It was where Baldwin landed first, and also where Fiala's expedition had a lookout there, looking for the rescue ship. In fact, the rescue ship came there first, where they had built a small shelter, with a tent over it. They made an oven with a stove on the inside. If you look at the pictures from the site when the ship comes, you see the tent there.

Capelotti: Was there anything in the hearth area?

Just a few objects, as you can see in these detailed pictures. Some bones, likely from walrus. They killed a lot of walruses there.

Capelotti: This is very much what Professor Martinsson has been doing, which is taking the historic images and going back to photograph them from that same perspective now, to see the historical contrast directly.

As for Cape Flora, you have all either visited it or seen pictures of it before. The coast is under erosion here, as well. What I tried especially to find, is the coal mine, but I have not found it yet. There is a lot of movement in these slopes, so it might not be so easy to find it.

Capelotti: Is it possible that it's just been covered over?

It might be. It must be somewhere up on the slope, but I don't know where.

Capelotti: There's a well-known photograph taken from up on the hill when these guys are harvesting coal (see Figure 3).

That is so focused on the site. In the background, you see Bell Island, but still the slope is long, where Bell Island still can be seen. There is a lot of possibilities. You can exclude these areas, because from here, you will not see Bell Island. But still, that slope with potential locations here is still very long.

Capelotti: They do talk about putting the coal in sealskin bags and rolling it down the hill. As in Longyearbyen, presumably there would be pieces lost as it tumbled down hill.

They would be covered now. There is so much movement in these slopes. If you walk in Spitsbergen and down a scree slope, a week after, you hardly see the footprints anymore.

Barr: There is a lot of vegetation there, moss...

Very thick moss.

Barr: If the scree is moving all the time, you wouldn't get so much.

That's true. Up at the mine, I think a lot of scree has fallen down since, up to this little plateau where they went to the rock face. I tried hard with lots of pictures from the ship, with a long lens, and so on, all along the slope. I haven't found it yet.

Capelotti: Has anybody that you know had a chance to, or the time, while you're there, to try to climb up there?



Fig. 3. The discovery of coal high above Cape Flora, during the last year of the Ziegler Polar Expedition, changed the fortunes of the men stranded there (from Anthony Fiala, *Fighting the Polar Ice*, New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1906). The location of the mine has not been rediscovered.

Some cruise ships, like the *Yamal*, did. This ruins the vegetation enormously there. They usually walk up is somewhere here in this scree. It would be very coincidental if they strike the coal mine.

There was also a cable-car from the beach up to the plateau, built during Jackson's expedition. The pond at Cape Flora is losing water, because the permafrost is retreating. This whole flat area of Cape Flora is also endangered, not only by sea erosion, but also by the retreating permafrost. Lots of artifacts have disappeared from the site over the past years also by looting. Susan had found that the kettle was gone when she visited.

Barr: It was gone just after I was there, in the same season, to Moscow.

Forsberg: Louise Arner Boyd was here in 1926. And she has a photograph showing, actually, only one little cabin left as early as 1926. Maybe the loss of the things in the camp could have come from many of the Norwegians who were there. It seems clear that Jackson's things were gone by 1926. There were six similar cabins, all made in Gothenburg, and three were set in Greenland and three in Franz Josef Land.

Barr: Just regarding the kettle, it was the cooking range as much as anything else, a Monarch Portable Cooking Range. I'm sure it was brought by a Soviet or a Norwegian expedition. It was gone a few weeks after I was there.

Capelotti: Something that heavy, they presumably would have had to land the helicopter right next to it to get it out of there.

Maybe it didn't even land. Just put down close and retrieved it. And then there are the ice breakers. They are so powerful, not mechanically, but also they have a good position. They have the ship. The national park needs supplies. The national park doesn't want to spoil the relation really by being too sensitive with regulations.

Forsberg: The birds, here murre as they breed, as in this image put an egg on a cliff. The egg is very thick in one end, and very narrow in one end. They'll incubate eggs for about a month. Then the chick hatches, and about 14 weeks old, they have enormous feet so they can paddle. They have little wings. Then the male calls. Instead of bringing the food to the chick, they bring the chick to the food. The male swims away, with the chick only two weeks old. They won't be fledged until about another month. The male brings it out to the rich waters where they can feed them.

Capelotti: The connection here is that that is why and how the coal mine was discovered at Cape Flora. Anton Vedoe, a Norwegian-Swedish-American living in Boston, he had captured a fox and built a little cage for him, and was up in the cliffs looking for eggs to feed the fox with when he discovered the coal seam. That started the whole mining process. They found it in late August, early September, 1904, just as they had given up hope that the relief ship was coming. They knew they were going to have to stay at Cape Flora for another winter, and they were rapidly running out of the supplies they had down at the base. It is then that Vedoe discovers this coal seam, and all of a sudden they realize that their warmth problem is solved for the winter. Then it was just a matter of getting enough walrus and polar bear to survive the winter.

There was also a sign at Cape Flora for the Ermak, that's long gone, yes?

Forsberg: The story is one of the crew of Fiala expedition stole it and Fiala freaked out.

Capelotti: That is probably the first incidence of cultural resource protection in the islands. One of Fiala's crew members stole the sign, and Fiala ordered him to put it back.

Barr: It's the first and the last example.

What I dislike up there is the popping up of more and more signs. This memorial stone is historic, of course. There was a reason to put it there, because they couldn't find the people, they couldn't get much further, so they put the monument for these people who have deceased there.

But there are now so many new memorials, 'In Commemoration of the So-and-So Expedition, set up by the Italian Touring Club.' Things like that. Or the memorial at Cape Norvegia, set up in the 1990s—from a distance, it is the object which is most visible, more than the wintering shelter of Nansen. There is no need for such plates—all people happening to land

exactly at such a remote site, know that Nansen wintered there with Johansen, that is the reason why they visit the site.

Barr: Have you been to Beechey Island? You've got the historic Franklin memorial which is fantastic. But then on the little ridge behind it, there is a whole road of memorials to expeditions. There are two urns with ashes from people from the '80s or '90s who wanted to be buried at that site.

Forsberg: I can tell you one other reason why it is so dangerous, this use helicopters here and at the Nansen site, is that there are breeding colonies of birds. The pilots just go straight in, and you could see chicks just hatched that were swallowed in the wash from the propeller. We probably killed thousands that day at Cape Flora. Probably not very good for the polar bears or the fox. I had a long talk with the leaders but they ignored it.

Barr: We've had several seminars with the people who manage Svalbard and the ones who manage Franz Josef Land. We've been trying to convey some of the nature and cultural heritage philosophy, and telling about the regulations. And they've said, 'yeah, great, this is what we want.' But the people on the ships, the crews, the helicopter pilots, the guards. You can't get the message down to them. It's just another world for them. Nature? Conservation? There is also an interesting cultural heritage process, where originally, bones are just hidden in the moss, and then people come and start pulling them out. They make a pile of them, because this is interesting. Then the pile gets taken away in a storm. It's a process of what happens to signs like that. But you think they're just taken as souvenirs?

Capelotti: I was more of the impression that people had placed some of these bones there deliberately to bring tourists up there expected to see the remains of Nansen's hut. Because we recorded this funny little concentration of them that were there, and it would be interesting to see your pictures from 2005, and to see how far back you can trace that concentration, because it didn't seem to have any relation to the original site. The bones were all bleached and they had been out in the sun. It looked like somebody just piled them there to give them a tourist experience related directly to Nansen.

Barr: From '90 to '96, there was obviously a disturbance from helicopter wheels, walking and everything. But I was told at that time, they used to put markers around so people could not go right up to it. Since then, from what you've seen, and what a few others have saw, it seems to just be wide open.

I have not seen much damage by footprints. There's a track on the slope, but that is not on the cultural site. The vegetation here I think is very robust, can tolerate a lot. It's more that things are moved and taken.



Fig. 4. P.J. Capelotti surveys of the remains of Nansen's hut at Cape Norvegia in August, 2006. The concentration of bones placed at the site can be seen in the foreground (© Magnus Forsberg).

At Rudolf Island, I have been there three times so far, and only the first time we had acceptable weather. The other two times, conditions were so bad technically, that we couldn't get the passengers onshore. The first visit was with a helicopter; the second and third were done by zodiac.

My first visit was in 2004, and then again in 2011 and '12. What I have not managed yet, was to get to the site of the pioneer airstrip above, with the aircraft wreck. But what I was looking out for here, was my hope to see anything of the Italian and the Fiala expeditions. When I saw this dam around the lagoon, I first thought, "There can't be anything here, because the Russians used this as their landing site," and you see all the fuel drums up there. Here's the beach, then it comes down, and behind is the lagoon. At that time, when the pioneer expeditions were there, there was no lagoon, because it was all covered with ice. In fact, I think that most of the Italian expedition was built on the at that time permanent ice foot, which has melted away since, and that's why there's hardly anything left. Because when the ice melted away, it all went into the sea, ruined by breakers and scrapped by moving sea ice.

Capelotti: One of the things that the Fiala folks did, and talked about, is, after they had been there for about six months, they discovered the Abruzzi cache, and feasted off of it for a year and a half. It was a lot of stuff there. A lot of it was removed by the Americans. They took part of the Italian tent to enlarge the horse stable at the main camp, which they then subdivided into quarters when the ship sank, and they had to get everybody ashore, and find a place for them.

Barr: This Rudolf Island station isn't manned anymore, this station?

No, the last people left in '96.

Capelotti: You saw this station, yes?

Barr: Yes, when they were still there.



Fig. 5. The debris field at the site of the Anthony Fiala's 'Camp Abruzzi' at Teplitz Bay, Rudolf Island (© Andreas Umbreit).

The buildings are now full with snow.

Down at the lagoon, you see only a narrow dam between shoreline and lagoon. You see there's a caterpillar truck on top of the dam, so my hopes of finding things from the earlier expeditions were really low. You also see a lot of Russian rubbish on the dam. I think they have cleaned it up now in the last years. I think they removed also these fuel and grease barrels now to the Russian mainland.

There is a Russian cabin there on the beach. But then, after coming closer to that cabin, I got excited. That's probably one of the old boats from the original expeditions (see Figure 5). This area here, this is I think where Fiala's base was (see Figure 6).

Capelotti: That could very well be Henry Hartt's boat. The chief engineer of the America took part of Abruzzi's gas apparatus and reconfigured it as a steam engine. This guy was in tremendously bad physical condition, had all sorts of ailments. He was badly overweight, bad

knees, an extremely heavy drinker who had built a still at Teplitz Bay to make more alcohol. He spent the winter of 1903-04, he dug clay out of the side of the hill there, and made a mold in which to cast a propeller, and says in some detail about a kind of a summer cruise around Franz Josef Land in this makeshift steam launch in the summer of 1904. According to him, the makeshift steam launch was about to sink somewhere in the British Channel when he took the steam engine itself and threw it over the side, and that allowed him to row back to Teplitz Bay. His name was Henry Hartt, H.P. Hartt. He wrote a history of his trip and called it, "How I discovered H.P. Hartt Land, by H.P. Hartt."



Fig. 6. The remains of a boat or boats near the Fiala site at Teplitz Bay on Rudolf Island
(© Andreas Umbreit).

And here at Teplitz Bay is also a Swedish cooking stove. It seems unlikely that any of the Russians had Swedish equipment there, so I'm pretty sure that this is from the Fiala expedition.

Capelotti: I mean, if anybody was going to buy a Swedish stove in Stockholm, it would have been Evelyn Baldwin. That could've been moved north by Fiala. The other possibility is that this stove was onboard the America, and that it was put there by Baldwin. Then as the ship's about to sink during the Fiala expedition, and they're salvaging stuff off of it, and this is one of the things they got off the ship before it sank.

Did Baldwin get to Teplitz Bay?

Capelotti: No, but Baldwin had the America. He had stuffed it full of Swedish stuff. Then, of course, Fiala took over the ship. It's possible that the stove at Teplitz arrived there, indirectly, from Stockholm via Baldwin onto the America, the America was taken over by Fiala in 1903, he makes it to Teplitz Bay, where the ship sinks and the stove is dragged ashore... Because Baldwin

spent tens of thousands of 1901 dollars scouring the Swedish countryside for stuff. The lists are endless of the things he got there.

Forsberg: The most important thing is very unlikely that this is something that came through the Russians in the 1930s.

Capelotti: Anders, do you recognize this stove-maker?

Larsson: Yes. Bolinder.



Fig. 7. The remains of a Bolinder Nya No. 1 stove near the Fiala site at Teplitz Bay on Rudolf Island (© Andreas Umbreit).

Forsberg: I do not know if they are still in business. But if you will travel around Sweden, visiting old houses, you will find these old stoves in many, many houses.

Capelotti: This looks like a Bolinder No. 1? Presumably, there are records as to when the Bolinder No. 1 was made. If the number two came out in 1905, then this clearly could not be from a Russian expedition.¹⁹

Elzinga: An excellent idea for an article: how did this stove get here?

Capelotti: I think that again, seeing something like this, it means that I need to get back into Baldwin's records at the library of congress, and see. He has receipts. He saved his receipts for

¹⁹ Following the workshop, it was learned that the company once known as Bolinder was long ago absorbed in Volvo Construction Equipment, a division of the Volvo Group. See: <http://www.volvoce.com/constructionequipment/corporate/en-gb/AboutUs/history/founders/Carl%20Gerhard%20Bolinder/Pages/carl%20gerhard%20bolinder%20introduction.aspx>. Research on the Bolinder Nya No. 1 photographed at Teplitz Bay, continues.

everything. If he bought one of these—because no doubt it would have been expensive—he will have saved the receipt for it.

Forsberg: Can I say something also about this stove here? There is a picture of the stove from Alger Island, and it is much smaller than this. The interesting thing which seems to confirm your idea that this comes from the ship: no one would go to land with a stove like this, because it's such a big thing. You bring a small thing for your land camp, and this was something big to have aboard the ship.

Capelotti: That's a great point. This thing is the size of a grand piano.

It wouldn't be used then for a big group? Then they have lots of people here?

Forsberg: But onboard a ship, as the plan was not to have the whole ship's crew ashore. But when the ship was sinking, they made a huge effort. They off-loaded something like fifty tons of coal. They would have, after the sinking, to have provided for twice the number of men than they expected.

There is also the possibility of artifacts in the lagoon, since this would not have been here during the Fiala expedition. And from my 2012 visit, on top of the rise behind the site, you can see the remains of the astronomic observatory, and the cement and other smashed pieces were lying around.

Capelotti: This would have been the base of the Repsold Circle from the observatory at the University of Christiania. In Fiala's book there is a photo of Russell Porter at the instrument there, sitting there for hours measuring the transit of stars across the heavens.

Barr: And getting away from everyone else.

Capelotti: What kept him sane was that he was almost deaf, so all the constant bickering and chattering just went right over his head. How far would this be from where the stove is?

Hundred to two hundred meters.

Capelotti: Because there was a telephone rigged from the expedition hut to the observatory. Porter is always talking about them ringing up the hut, and him ignoring the phone call: "Just leave me alone."

There is also a scattering of wood and other artifacts near the observatory. An interesting thing is the years on the marble plate, because there's only one year so that the plate must have been fabricated before the expedition. Here on the base it says 1903 to 1904.



Fig. 8. The remains of Fiala's astronomical observatory at Teplitz Bay: the base that was constructed to hold the Repsold Circle loaned to the expedition by the University of Oslo (© Andreas Umbreit).

Capelotti: But if you look closely, you see someone's tried to scratch in the number five, to indicate the actual years of the expedition: 1903-1905.

Elzinga: This base is marble, is it?

Capelotti: Yes. They had to have a very stable base for the observatory. They had to go up there, and you see that they've cemented in the brick foundation into the rock, and then they've put this very heavy marble base down on top of it.

Forsberg: Does this instrument still exist here in Oslo? Because it was brought back.

Barr: It was from the university?

Capelotti: Yes. From the observatory.

Barr: The observatory was behind the national library. The big observatory building there, which is now part of the library.

Forsberg: It is clear that to properly explore this area, you really need a lot of time. It's a huge archaeology site for the history of polar exploration.

In that sense we were lucky, because we couldn't get the passengers ashore, so we had a lot time to look around ourselves. Thank you, everyone.



Figs. 9 and 10. On the left, a current photograph of a Repsold Circle received after the Oslo Workshop as a result of an inquiry by Susan Barr to Bjørn Johansen of the Museum for universitets- og vitenskapshistorie (MUV) in Oslo (photo courtesy of Anne Vaalund/Museum for universitets- og vitenskapshistorie (MUV)); on the right the artist and cartographer Russell Porter during the Ziegler Polar Expedition led by Anthony Fiala, at the Repsold Circle in the astronomical observatory at Camp Abruzzi (from Fiala 1906). It is likely that these instruments are one and the same. The remains of the base for the Repsold Circle, seen in the photo at right, still stand at Teplitz Bay on Rudolf Island in Franz Josef Land (see Figure 8).