

THE IMPERIAL TRANS-ANTARCTIC ‘ENDURANCE’ EXPEDITION

LIMITED EDITION PLATINUM PRINTS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK HURLEY
Official Expedition Photographer

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is home to a remarkable collection of original photographic glass and celluloid negatives captured by Frank Hurley, the official photographer of the ‘Endurance’ expedition, 1914-1917, and which made the perilous journey with Shackleton, Hurley and the Weddell Sea Party following the destruction of the ship in 1915.

A century later, this iconic collection which documents one of the greatest stories of human survival, has been digitally mastered by leading experts direct from negatives for the first time, using today’s most advanced custom-made technology.

The result: the highest quality of image achievable using every detail contained in Hurley’s original negatives, from which prints can now be produced, that surpass those made by Hurley’s own hand one hundred years ago.

To mark the importance of this moment the Society has collaborated with master printmaker Mr Georges Charlier and his team—based at Salto Ulbeek’s studio in Belgium—to create the first ever limited edition series of platinum prints from these images. Handmade on the finest cotton paper, the prints are available in three sizes with full supporting provenance documentation.

Salto Ulbeek creates museum-grade platinum prints to the highest possible production values. Through their skilled technical approach to the work of past photographers, they are able to preserve historic masterpieces for the enjoyment of collectors and future generations.

Each of these newly created platinum prints is testament to the skill and quality of Frank Hurley’s photography; they will stand the test of time and are a fitting tribute to the spirit of the ‘Endurance’.



Left: The Obelisk

Above: ‘Endurance’ in full sail

THE PLATINUM PRINTING PROCESS

One of the greatest masters of photography, Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), called the platinum printing process “the prince of all media”. It is one of the oldest, rarest, most-refined, and stable of all black & white photographic printing processes.

The platinum technique consists in coating specially made drawing paper with a light-sensitive emulsion containing platinum salts using a special brush. The paper is then carefully dried and exposed to UV light through one or more full size contact negatives. This is a costly and complicated procedure, each print taking almost eight hours to complete.

When compared to conventional black and white silver prints, platinum prints exhibit an expanded tonal range, three dimensionality, and a uniquely luminous, painterly quality. Unlike silver prints, where the image is floating, in a gelatin layer on top of the paper, a platinum image is part of the fine paper on which it is printed.

As well as their aesthetic quality, platinum prints are among the most permanent objects produced by man. The platinum metals are more stable than gold, and a platinum image, properly preserved, can last thousands of years.

“During the day I hacked through the thick walls of the refrigerator to retrieve the negatives stored therein. They were located beneath four feet of mushy ice and, by stripping to the waist and diving under, I hauled them out. Fortunately, they are soldered up in double tin linings, so I am hopeful they may not have suffered by their submersion.”

Frank Hurley's diary, 2 November 1915



Above: “The Spectre Ship”;
Left, top: Entering the Polar Sea;
Left, bottom: Dawn After Winter



Frank Worsley and Lionel Greenstreet Looking Across South Georgia Harbour

PRINT PRICES AND SIZES

Sizes available:

Small: paper (32.5cm x 26cm), image (26cm x 19.5cm)

Medium: paper (65cm x 53cm), image (50cm x 37.5cm)

Large: paper (95cm x 75cm, image (80cm x 60cm)

Selected images are also available in ‘giant’ format, please contact us for further information.

Prices start from £850.00+VAT

Due to the limited edition scale please contact us for latest pricing information.

Prices include limited edition certification.

Prices exclude P&P.

ENQUIRIES

For further information,
please contact:
images@rgs.org

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