

# Woman Thrills Scientific World by Penetrating Arctic Siberia

## Marie Czaplicka Encounters Tribes Resembling Stefanon's Blond Eskimo and Other Strange People in Unknown Regions

**M**ARIE ANTOINETTE CZAPLICKA is one of the most remarkable women now living. Author and traveller, she was in 1916-1917 appointed Mary Swart Lecturer in Ethnology at the Oxford School of Anthropology. She was born near Warsaw in Poland, educated in Poland and Russia and went to England in 1910 with the Mintawski Research Scholarship (Warsaw), studied in London and Oxford (Somerville College) and took a diploma in anthropology in 1912. Under the auspices of this Oxford school she made an anthropological expedition in 1914-1915 to the Yenisei valley in Siberia. She is expected to lecture this fall at Columbia University.

Such in brief and colorless words, shortened from the British "Who's Who," is the distinction of this still young woman. In truth, her life with all its honorary titles attached is far more romantic and in spots even thrilling. Some of these thrills came to her when she made the trip referred to Arctic Siberia.

The expedition came about when Miss Czaplicka decided to write a book on the subject of "aboriginal Siberia," and in consulting the data concerning the almost unknown races of the Siberian Arctic in the vast library of Oxford University she found to her dismay that these records were very scant. A few books only existed written by Russians and Poles who had penetrated merely to the border lands.

**Oxford Organizes Expedition.** That there were vast periods of history time to cover and real discoveries valuable to the subject of anthropology to be made in this unknown territory the woman lecturer felt certain, but there was only one way to secure the desired information and that was to go and get it. This Miss Czaplicka did. The Oxford University Committee for Anthropology lent her its support and organized the expedition placing Miss Czaplicka at its head. They invited the University of Pennsylvania Museum to join and that institution appointed Professor H. U. Hall to represent American science in the party. He joined the expedition in London.

The party journeyed to Petrograd and Moscow and thence to Krasnoyarsk, a considerable city of central Siberia, 2,700 miles east of Moscow. Here were purchased articles necessary to complete the outfitting of the party. A Siberian trader named Christensen who had voyaged through the wilderness which the party would traverse in the beginning of their journey gave them valuable knowledge of the country and many hints as to what was essential to take along.

It was agreed to locate the headquarters of the expedition at a point on the Yenisei River, on the parallel of 53 deg. 43 min. N., the same on which is situated Karschel Island, from and to which Stefanon has gone and returned when on his Arctic wanderings. In this region during May, June and July, for eighty days, the sun refuses to retreat behind the horizon, and in winter the temperature falls 80 deg. F. below zero.

At this point a small sullen stream called the Golchikha joins the Yenisei on its journey to the Arctic, and there live in solitary seclusion two Russian traders, visited only in the summer by people of the Dolgan, Yurak and Samoyed tribes, who come to fish.

**Steaming at Three Miles an Hour.** The expedition at Krasnoyarsk chartered the ancient Clyde-built sidewheeled midget craft Orvol, that was brought to the Yenisei River via the Kara Sea thirty years ago by an old viking named Wlgrim, who after two and a half centuries reopened the northern trade route to the Siberian northlands.

The water voyage of 1,500 miles, almost directly north, consumed three weeks, an average of about three miles an hour, giving ample time for visiting the native fisher settlements along the shore of the Yenisei-Ostyak, the most ancient of the peoples of the lower Yenisei Valley. All the races in this part of Siberia are of Samoyedic or Ural-Altaic stock and may be divided into main groups. These in-



YENISEI-OSTYAK, SHAMAN, MEDICINE MAN



MISS MARIE ANTOINETTE CZAPLICKA



OSTYAK SHAMAN'S WIFE

habiting the southern parts of the governments of Tomsk and Yeniseisk have been so much under Tatar influence that it is with much difficulty they are distinguished from the Tatars.

Prof. H. U. Hall says in commenting on the origin of these people that they are without doubt descendants of a fair-haired and blue-eyed stock who, as recently as 600 years B. C., continued to inhabit the upper, or southern Yenisei Valley, and who after that time became intermingled with people of Turkish blood.

There are many conjectures relating to the meaning of the word Samoyed as applied to this people. The Russian meaning of the word is "self-eaters"; Schrenk derived the name "Samoyedes" from "Syrnyadaty," or "raw-eaters," not a convincing definition. As with the Yenisei-Ostyaks, so also is the eating of raw meat a preferred custom with the Copper or misnamed Blood Eskimo of the Coronation Gulf and Victoria Land regions. They also, as are the Yenisei-Ostyaks, are very skilled in the making of bows, and hold the same reverence for their Shaman, who to them has a supreme command over the destiny of all mankind.

**Last Trees Disappear.** At the juncture of the Kureika River and the Yenisei the Arctic is entered, and at Dudinka, 400 miles south of Golchikha, the last vestige of stunted trees is lost, and the vast tundra, or rolling moss covered plain, spreads to the horizon in every direction.

At Golchikha, where the party arrived on a gray day in June, an old shack was converted into a house for their residence during their stay in the solitude of a vast Arctic wilderness.

As the fishing season was approaching the nomadic tribes of the Dolgan, Yurak and Samoyed began to scatter their tents and prepare for the quest of a supply of fish for their winter's need.

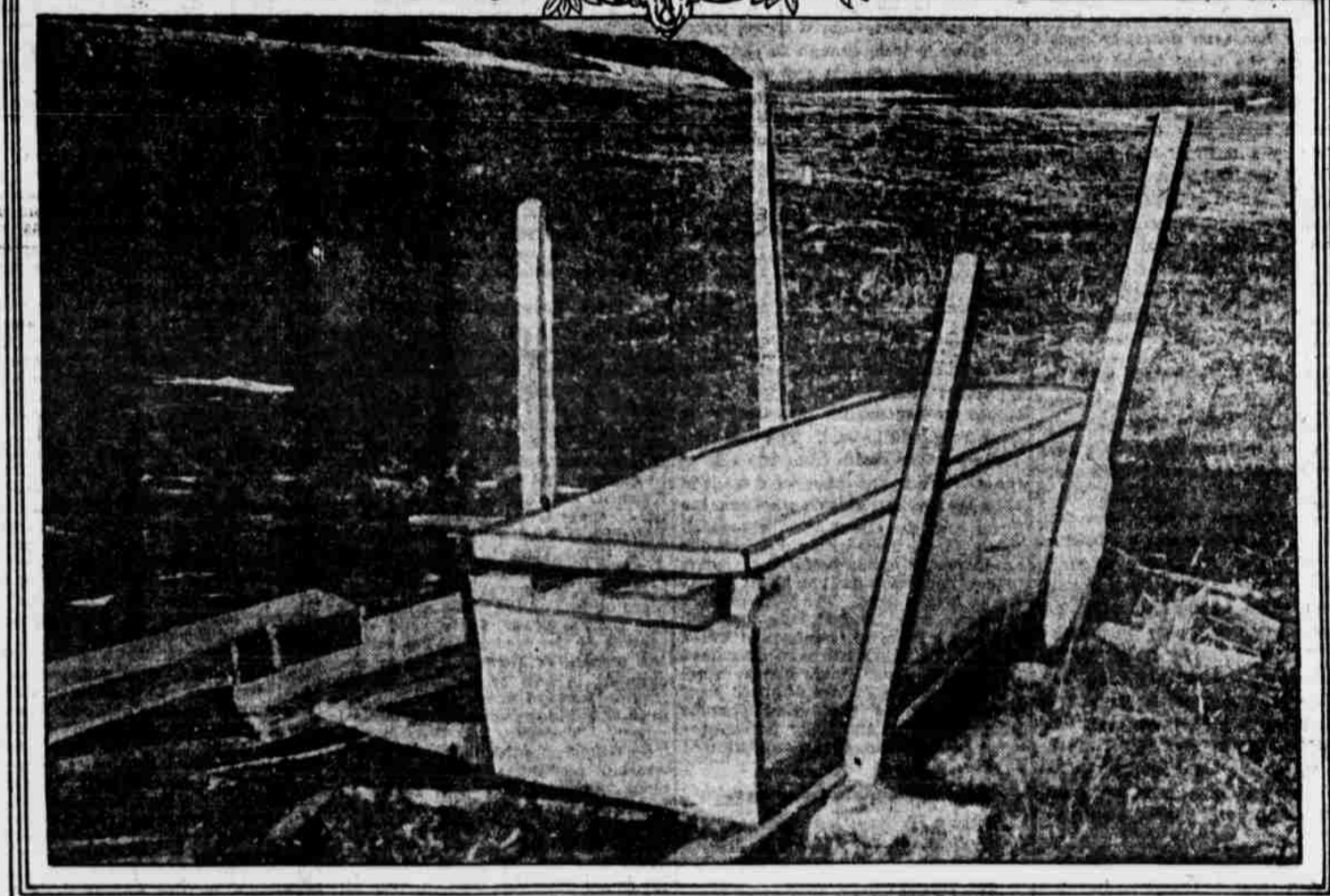
Long and short journeys were made from headquarters by sledge, there being ample snow and ice for the reindeer to make good progress, except in a few places where the water had drained in gullies. Then it was necessary to harness five deer, instead of two required for snow or ice travel.

There was found much similarity among the tribes frequenting the tundra, though with closer acquaintance it was possible to distinguish them readily by traits than by specific or marked physical differences.

Like the Eskimo of the Victoria Land and Dolphin Strait region of our own continent they have small hands and noses, and of a very similar shape. To them also medicine is a delectable

potion, and tablets or pills, no matter how bitter under the sugar coating, are as candy to a child.

Prof. Hall, contributing a sketch to the University of Pennsylvania Magazine Journal, says the medicine chest and the phonograph proved most absorbing attractions. The first application for medicine was made by a rich Samoyed who came in from the



SAMOYED TOMB at GOLCHICHA, SIBERIA.

Big Low Tundra to buy tea and tobacco from Kucherenko's agent and was told of the "tabloid equipment" that had so many mysterious healing charms.

**Wife Had a Heartache.** Without any preliminaries he demanded medicine. What did he want medicine for? His wife had a heartache. What was the matter with her heart? "It aches," was the Samoyed's reply, placing his hand over the region of his stomach. The husband of the afflicted one received a few harmless tablets and went his way to his tent far away in the tundra wilderness.

An epidemic of heartaches followed among the ladies of the tents along the river. The solicitous husbands received a goodly supply, which they no doubt, ate long before they reached the alleged source of the ailment.

The Yurak tent or wigwam is not unlike the lodge of the Indians of the Canadian Northwest. The half near the entrance is reserved for women and the other half for the men.

With the coming of the springtime comes the season of great happenings, one of the important functions being the making of new sledges for the gods, the old ones being abandoned. Their bows are placed so that they face the north. The Spiritman or Shaman always presides at this ceremony.

Miss Czaplicka consulted one of these spiritmen before the party set

## Oxford Bestows Honor for Discoveries Made Beyond Points Reached by Earlier Explorers—Expected to Lecture at Columbia

out on its long winter journey to the Tungus territory. The name of the Shaman was Bekobushka. On his visit he seated himself cross-legged in his tent while his valet, confidant and friend, one Yannasuo, covered him completely with a blanket. Silence ensued in which began the fermentation of the spirits. Then the Shaman intoned with great solemnity, alternately a shrill whine and a whisper. To both the attendant responded in kind. At length Bekobushka asked solemnly if any member of the party had a dark spot on the right arm. One person had such a mark. "Ah," said the Shaman, "then you are the one the spirits are after."

To Miss Czaplicka the medicine man prophesied thus: "Where you left me home you will find three homes made one."

In preparing for the journey to the Lämpik tundra it was necessary to return to Turukhansk from Oymyakon the least frequented trail to the lake country about the upper waters of the Khatonga River. This river is 500 miles west of the delta of the Lena where perished Commander De Long of the Jeannette. The journey to the tundra was made in "balchiks," Russian sleds made of canvas, fur lined and containing a stove.

**A Willful Interpreter.** A Tungus woman belonging to one of the most autocratic and distinguished families of that district and the wife of a criminal, called by the Russian Government was secured to act as interpreter, and by Hall is described as being a decidedly willful lady, in vigorous middle age, with opinions quite her own about the kind of questions that ought to be asked of one's native hosts, and the way such questions should be worded. Miss Czaplicka's knowledge of Russian and Tungus made casual disagreements more easily mastered than if the English language had been their only resource.

Miss Czaplicka is now English by adoption and education. The social restrictions of her native Poland made it impossible for her to realize her ambition for a scientific education, Oxford, surrounded by past traditions and a conservatism that few of her sex had ever been able to challenge successfully, appreciating her zeal and unusual gifts, bestowed upon her the highest honor within its gift.

Nansen visited parts of Arctic Siberia, but his reports are less authoritative and more limited than those of Miss Czaplicka, who, staying much longer than did Nansen, and remaining in the vicinity of the Yenisei River and passing the winter on the tundra near the mouth, came in very intimate contact with the Tungus tribes, a branch of whom established the Manchurian dynasty.

Miss Czaplicka has contributed much of value to ethnological lore descriptive of the little known people of remote Siberia. She has also revealed in her lectures before the Anthropological Committee of Oxford much that will be of value in the adjustment of political and economic questions that Russia and the world will be soon called upon to solve.

## The New Diamond Centre

A NEW enterprise is developing in Birmingham, England, which is bringing forth with a new race of craftsmen and is of special interest at the present time. Prior to the war the industry of cutting diamonds was confined almost exclusively to Holland and Belgium, but endeavors were made some years before the war to add diamond cutting to Birmingham's other industries. This was not prompted by the war, it preceded the war by some years and was already advancing steadily in 1914.

A factory specially designed for diamond cutting was erected on Hockley Hill and boys from the local schools were learning the craft there under the direction of competent workers from abroad. The factory is of ferroconcrete, so constructed as to give the maximum rigidity, as vibration is fatal to proficiency in diamond cutting. There is nothing very elaborate about the plant. The lighting is done by means of electrically operated red light, which is visible rapidly on the bench at the lapidary's sita. He will have four or five stones in hand at once. Each of them is held tight either in a mechanical holder or in a bed of lead alloy prepared by an attendant boy and secured to a tool heavy enough to keep the diamond in position on the revolving table. The friction grinds the facets—usually fifty-eight in number—on the stone, the process being assisted by emery powder and olive oil.

A preliminary operation and one which is not so simple as it looks is that of giving the rough stones to a circular shape. This is done on a diamond cut diamond principle. While a lathe gives rapid motion to one stone another stone is held in contact with it and manipulated by an operative till both are properly shaped.

The boy who aspires to be a diamond cutter has to serve into indentures of apprenticeship for seven years. He becomes a wage earner right away, however, as he progresses his earnings increase, and there are youths not out of their apprenticeship earning as much as \$19.45 and \$21.90 a week. The experienced craftsmen may earn anything up to \$45.00. The experiment of teaching discharged and disabled soldiers has been quite a success. The men are put on a wage earning basis at once, though for the first twelve months the value of their labor is practically negligible. Therefore, however, an apt learner will go ahead rapidly. There are fixed time rates, but a production bonus makes earnings mainly dependent on individual ability and industry.

## From a Provost Marshal's Notebook: The Women in Room 27

### Major Russell's War Narratives

This story of "The Women in Room 27" is the fifth in a series of ten entitled "Leaves From a Provost Marshal's Notebook With the A. E. F. in France," which will be published in Sunday issue of THE SUN. The author is Major C. E. Russell, who draws from his experiences in the Great War a wealth of dramatic material for his pen.

The other thrilling stories will appear successively, each based upon an actual experience of the Major's while serving in France as a Provost Marshal.

By C. E. RUSSELL.  
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ARCHEBON, a pretty French town situated on the inside of the hook that forms Archerchou Bay and about thirty miles west of Bordeaux, is a summer resort where in normal times the faster French set gathered and where even during war times quite a cosmopolitan crowd was to be seen. Many beautiful villas are there. Before the war the Casino was known as Grand Monte Carlo, although now used as a hospital, with

on the outskirts of the town was the racetrack. Near was Camp Hunt, one of the largest artillery training camps, where the new guns of our army were tested out and the men were trained in handling them.

As Archerchou was the only place near by where our men could go for recreation, naturally on Saturdays and Sundays the place was thronged with officers and soldiers. This town also was frequented by the American forces of Bordeaux who would go there for a swim and to spend a pleasant day. It was not an uncommon occurrence for a thousand Americans to be there on a Sunday. Consequently it was a place where information needed by the German High Command could be gathered easily and there some of the best German spies were sent to operate.

Germany when after information from the American army used women whenever and wherever possible. The Germans knew the well known trait of the American—that he always showed all women the same—friendly, easily and there some of the best German spies were sent to operate.

In Archerchou Germany had placed among other spies three very clever women. These women were busily engaged in gathering information and were in some manner getting it out of France and into Germany.

One day on the train to Bordeaux two officers were overheard by one of my men commenting on the fact that these women were entertaining them every time they came to Archerchou and that in every case the women paid the bills. These officers thought it a good joke. This was such an unusual occurrence, however, that it was investigated. It was found that these women were giving many parties to American officers, that all these parties ended with plenty of wine and that the women always paid the bill. In France, as well as elsewhere, when a woman pays a bill for a man's entertainment there is something singular about it, and if she is a real man he would be wise to watch out.

Additional suspicion was directed to this town from the fact that our intelligence department had discovered that the German High Command had detailed information on what was going on at Camp Hunt; the Germans knew much about our new guns, the strength of the batteries, their location and the number of guns to a battery. This was a very serious matter, and we were instructed to spare neither time nor expense in getting those who were responsible.

We first assigned to the case two of our women operatives to watch these women. They listened to the conversations between these women and our officers and noted that after the wine began to flow freely they carefully

brought the conversation around to the size of our guns, the number of men in a battery, the sailing of ships, the expected arrival of convoys and various other topics of interest to the German intelligence department. One night at one of these parties an officer told of the expected arrival of a convoy and bragged that he had driven the German submarine off the seas, that they didn't dare to try to sink any of our boats, and that this convoy was not even protected by submarine chasers.

**A Submarine Lay in Wait.** This convoy was bound for Bordeaux, Bordeaux does not lie on the coast, but is situated about thirty miles from the Gironde River. In order to get to the river the ships have to pass a bar that can only be crossed at high tide. When the convoy mentioned by the officer arrived at the mouth of the river a German submarine was lying in wait for it and succeeded in sinking two of the ships.

At another time these women entertained certain officers from one of the American transports that was unloading at Bordeaux. They won the friendship of these officers so cleverly that they succeeded in securing an invitation to visit them on board the ship and have luncheon with them. The invitation was gladly accepted, and after the luncheon these two officers showed the women over the boat. They were

shown the various instruments used to locate and to escape from a submarine; the officers even went so far as to explain to them the new instruments used in steering the ship in a zigzag course. The poor fools paid dearly for their folly, however, for the ship was met by a German submarine within 200 miles of the coast and sunk. There was no doubt in our minds but that these women had in some way succeeded in sending the information out to the submarine that sank the boat and that they were responsible for sending many good men to their death—men whom they had entertained and by whom they had been entertained.

We had no direct evidence, however, and we did not wish to arrest them until we knew just how they operated, who assisted them and who was the ringleader. It was necessary that we obtain sufficient evidence to convict them, as we wanted to make an example of the entire number. We could have arrested them as dangerous to the public welfare, but that was altogether different from a conviction. This was an offence that was punishable by shooting, and we wanted to be absolutely sure that we were not sending innocent people to their death. Then again, we wanted to get them all; so we decided to change our tactics and send one of our men on the case.

Attached to our department was a clean cut American officer who speaks French and German fluently—a man of the type that would attract the attention of women. This officer may have a sweetheart in the United States, so we will call him Jones. Jones was instructed to cultivate the acquaintance of these women and, if possible, to secure their story. He proceeded to the town, secured an adjoining room in the same hotel and gave out as his reason for stopping there so long that he had been gassed and sent there to recover. He was well supplied with money and was soon successful in becoming acquainted with these women. He installed a dictograph in their rooms, but if they ever talked over their work the conversations were not loud enough for the machine to register.

His first report, sent us a few days after his arrival, convinced us that we were shadowing the right people. He had found that they were signalling out of their room at night by flashlight. He also reported that at certain times they would hire a boat for a sail on the bay. He noted that they always hired the same boat, that they always went alone and that he never could obtain an invitation to accompany them. They would go for a sail, then land on the opposite shore of the bay, where we had a naval hydro-airplane station, and visit some of the officers there who they knew very well. After this report was received, we placed men in a boat out in the bay at

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