

In 1931 V. N. Andreev joined the Leningrad Institute of Reindeer Husbandry. The contacts with the eminent botanist Prof. B. N. Gorodkov, the founder of the Soviet school of complex tundra studies, played an important role in his formation as a scientist. Under the guidance of Prof. Gorodkov, V. N. Andreev and other young botanists began a wide and thorough exploration of reindeer ranges all over the Soviet North. Afterwards this collective work had been honoured with a high government award: the USSR State Prize. V. N. Andreev was one of these State Prize laureates.

The young scientist was proposed to work in Leningrad, at the USSR Academy of Sciences. But he refused the tempting career and left for the Far North. At first he worked as a director of the Nar'yan Mar reindeer station (the Nenets National region, Arkhangelsk district). Here he studied in details the lands of the Nenets, ranges and vegetation of the Pechora North.

Later on he moved to Norilsk where the former Institute of Reindeer Husbandry was transferred; it had obtained the name of the Far North Agricultural Institute. Professor Andreev had been at the head of the scientific work of this complex Institute. He guided wide and detailed geobotanical investigations of Taimyr tundras. Here V. N. Andreev had completed the methodical work on the reindeer ranges evaluation; these methods were used by scientists and practical workers in the Soviet North during many years. Under the guidance of V. N. Andreev a first aerial census of wild reindeer in Taimyr had taken place.

In 1965 V. N. Andreev moved to Yakutsk. Here he joined the Institute of Biology, the Yakut Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He became the head of the Laboratory of Geobotany and Cryptogamic Plants. In Yakutia V. N. Andreev worked for the remainder of his life. He summed up geobotanical investigations of European and Siberian tundras. He proposed classification schemes for the vegetation of tundra and forest-tundra. Professor Andreev played the most important role in the compiling of geobotanical maps of the Soviet North. At the close of his days he began the deep stationary investigations of productivity and dynamics of tundra vegetation communities. V. N. Andreev was the initiator of applying aerial methods for investigation of tundra vegetation and ranges in the USSR. He developed special aero-visual methods, widely used aerial photographs.

V. N. Andreev paid a great attention to the studies of flood-land vegetation in the valleys of Great Siberian Rivers, especially the Yenisey. His ideas on rational using the enormous meadow areas of northern river valleys begin to come true nowadays.

Professor Andreev was one of the first to pay attention to the urgent necessity of conservation and protection of northern ecosystems. He was one of the initiators of the movement for the Nature Protection in the Far North.

V. N. Andreev had more than 250 scientific and popular articles and books. He had a lot of disciples and followers, those whom he advised and inspired. V. N. Andreev founded a scientific school of geobotanical bases for northern reindeer husbandry which is recognized all over the world.

Professor Andreev was not an armchair scientist. He spent many months in tundra and forest-tundra, often in very hard conditions. He was a strong and courageous man. He was always independent and a man of principle in scientific discussions.

V. N. Andreev had great authority among scientists and public figures. He was a member of Bureau of the Council on North Problems (the USSR Academy of Agricultural Sciences), a member of the USSR Acad. Sci. Scientific Council on Vegetation Kingdom. V. N. Andreev was an Associated Member of the Botanic-Geographical Society of Sweden, a honorary citizen of Alaska.

For the remainder of his life Prof. Andreev refused to return to Leningrad. He was true to his love for the Nature of the North. He continued to work till the end. He deceased and was buried in Yakutsk.

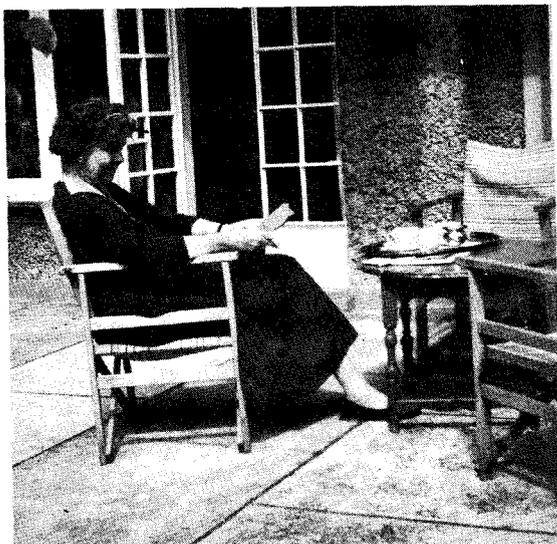
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Dr E. J. Lindgren-Utsi

It is sad to report the death of the anthropologist Dr Ethel John Lindgren, FRSA, who was for many years Honorary Secretary and, latterly, a Director of the Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom. She died on 23 March 1988, aged 83, at Reindeer House, in the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland, within sight of the herd of reindeer which she helped her late husband, Mikel Utsi, to establish. The Cairngorm herd, which today numbers about 100 animals, owes its existence to the far-sightedness and generosity of Mikel Utsi and the drive and determination of Dr Lindgren, his wife.

The suggestion that reindeer could thrive in the Scottish Highlands, and that some should be imported as an experiment, was first made in 1947. The Reindeer Council was founded two years later and Dr Lindgren was appointed its Honorary Secretary. The plan to re-introduce reindeer to Scotland was welcomed in the press but was viewed with caution and some scepticism by the authorities. Dr Lindgren, however, was indefatigable in



Dr. Ethel John Lindgren (1905-1988) in the garden at her home in Cambridge. Dr. Lindgren disliked being photographed. This rare picture of her, published with her son's permission, was provided with the help of The Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.

lobbying support. Permission to import reindeer was eventually granted and in 1952 Mr Utsi, Technical Adviser to the Council, supplied and supervised transport of eight animals from his own herd in Sweden.

The first years of the experiment were far from trouble free. Several reindeer died, from a variety of causes, and a second importation of animals was almost balked at the last minute by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in northern Europe. Nevertheless, the re-introduction eventually succeeded, for the herd now consists entirely of Scottish-born animals and is self-sustaining. A summary of its current status and a literature list can be found in *Proc. 2nd Int. Reindeer/Caribou Symp.*, Røros, Norway: 744 - 747.

Dr Lindgren was born in Illinois in 1905 into a Swedish-American family but became a British citizen in 1940. She was educated at Cambridge University where later, as a research fellow at Newnham College (1936 - 1939), she lectured in social anthropology. As an undergraduate she read Chinese and experimental psychology. She learned Russian and also spoke Swedish, French, German as well as some Dutch, Mongol and Tungu.

Her graduate studies at Cambridge (1928 - 1932) involved fieldwork in Mongolia and Manchuria, where she visited the Reindeer Tungus (Evenki) and Russian-speaking Cossacks. Among the Tungus she established a close relationship with a female

shaman, whose ritual and beliefs she studied and described in her PhD thesis.

It was a considerable achievement, for this was a politically tense period. She spent several months under virtual house arrest in Urga and, subsequently, was on the border of northwestern Manchuria when the Japanese invaded and besieged Harbin. Several of her colleagues in Mongolia and the Soviet Union were persecuted by their regimes in the 1930s and, for this reason, she was reluctant to publish her results, lest by doing so she jeopardize those who had helped her. Only in her scientific papers; they will now appear posthumously.

Dr Lindgren followed up her work in the Far East by visiting Swedish Lapland and studying Same reindeer herders at the invitation of Prof. K. B. Wiklund of Uppsala. She edited *The Study of Society: Methods and Problems*. During World War II she was editor in chief of the *Wartime Social Survey* and worked at the Royal Institute for International Affairs as liaison officer to allied governments in exile. She served on the council of the Royal Anthropological Institute in London for 28 years and edited its journal from 1938 to 1947. From that time on she became increasingly occupied with the reindeer project in Scotland.

Dr Lindgren was a formidable character, not easily forgotten by those who were privileged to have met her.

Nicholas Tyler

Erratum

Unfortunately one sentence was missing in the obituary of Dr. E.J.Lindgren-Utsi in *Rangifer* no. 1-1988, page 41, right column in the paragraph starting with «It was a considerable . . .». The complete paragraph shall be:

«It was a considerable achievement, for this was a politically tense period. She spent several months under virtual house arrest in Urga and, subsequently, was on the border of northwestern Manchuria when the Japanese invaded and besieged Harbin. Several of her colleagues in Mongolia and the Soviet Union were persecuted by their regimes in the 1930s and, for this reason, she was reluctant to publish her results lest by doing so she jeopardize those who had helped her. Only in her last months did she make arrangements for publications of her scientific papers; they will now appear posthumously».