A polar paradise: the glaciation of South Victoria Land, Antarctica
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1. Micromorphology has quietly revolutionised glacial sedimentology. This is because it has the unique ability to provide an in situ view of those processes acting upon and within glaciogenic sediments. Its lack of widespread use is due to the time and cost taken in thin section production as well as certain people’s qualms about qualitative analysis.

2. The assumption that cold-based glaciers are utterly inert and their landscapes completely unscathed should be abandoned.

3. The inter-relationship of overridden substrate (especially its clay and carbonate content, permeability and gradient), water availability and glacial ice thickness results in the complex character and ever-changing nature of the subglacial environment through time and space. This has implications for both regional environmental reconstructions from single site exposures and the ‘pigeon-holing’ of glacial sediments.

4. The Antarctic is the last pristine environment on Earth. How mankind treats it, is the real test of humanity’s adoption of ‘environmental sustainable development’.

5. Sound stewardship of the environment requires a holistic, internationally collaborative approach in which human health and welfare play an intrinsic part. In this way AIDS (especially in Africa) and education of women in the developing world are a higher and more urgent priority than, for example, national taxing of car emissions.

6. Amundsen was the greatest polar explorer of his time, Scott the faithful Imperialist and Shackleton the tenacious leader.

7. Gezelligheid (a sense of harmonious, social happiness) is the linchpin of Dutch culture around which the traits of ‘tolerance’, openness, consensus politics, business acumen and Calvinistic behaviour revolve.

8. Science does not disprove the existence of intelligent design.

9. Truth is stranger than fiction.

10. “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.” C.S. Lewis

11. The University has two crucial purposes. The first is research and the second is education. All funding, strategy and energy must be prioritised on these two essential pillars or management theory and wasteful bureaucracy will smother them.

12. The decline in the West of all manner of social, political and religious institutions, authentic community and family unity is primarily owed to the widespread watching of television.

13. The Euro is more of a political venture than an economic one.

14. Three ways to avoid poverty: (i) live in a democratic country; (ii) get a job, any job; (iii) if you get married, stay married.

15. Freedom is more important than equality, individual responsibility more precious than the state and the family unit more durable than welfare.

(Stellingen or propositions from the PhD Thesis: 'A Polar Paradise: The Glaciation of South Victoria Land, Antarctica' by Mark T. Lloyd Davies)