

Preface and Acknowledgements

Research and writing for this study has been spread over more than a decade. However, the main basis of it was done during 2006–08, much assisted by the Governing Body of Mansfield College, University of Oxford, granting me sabbatical leave from my teaching duties for part of the academic year 2006.

Many people have helped me in locating material. Although the study is written in the first instance from a British perspective, I have been able to incorporate a range of evidence from Norwegian sources, including a fine selection of images from the Norsk Folkemuseum and also valuable primary source material from the Wiborg papers at the Berg-Kragerø Museum. In the latter case, I am most grateful to Per Norseng and the late Jean Aase for their generous help. Jean also kindly provided English translation from a part of Christian Høy's memoir. The Wiborg papers include an historical account (written in 1943) of the story of the family's ice-exporting business, together with supporting tables. Norman Meyer, a Norwegian graduate student at Mansfield College, Oxford was invaluable in helping me to translate this material for incorporation into the study.

A highly rewarding episode in later work for this study was when I was invited to attend a conference on Norway's natural ice trade held at the Norsk Sjøfartsmuseum in Oslo in early November 2009. Organised by Per Norseng and Ola Teige, it offered an opportunity to meet with many others with knowledge of the trade and to hear the results of their labours. One day of the conference was spent visiting former ice farming, ice storage and ice export sites outside Oslo. The trip was led by Per Norseng and gave life to my long sequence of historical research. Since then, Per has proved an incredibly interested and helpful international colleague. Without his support and encouragement, the present study would not have reached the point of publication.

Research for this project would not have been possible without the amazing resources of the Bodleian Library in the University of Oxford. In particular, I have benefited from being able to consult the complete run of the monthly *Cold Storage and Ice Trades Review* (beginning April 1898) that is housed in the stack of the University's Radcliffe Science Library. These large weighty volumes afford a fascinating insight into the workings of the ice trade, both natural and artificial. I am most grateful to the library staff for their patience in almost endlessly making this publication available to me and also for dealing with my many requests for photocopying via the 'mediated service' (at a time when readers were not permitted to use their own digital cameras, smartphones or iPads for copying purposes).

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