

COMPARATIVE OBSERVATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF ANTARCTIC SCIENCE

J. Berguño

Chilean Antarctic Institute, Punta Arenas, Chile

A trend towards systematic comparative observations dominated early scientific approaches to the Antarctic realm. Astronomy had a cross-over effect due to bipolar observations of the 1874 Venus Transit which coincide with the 1st IPY. The impact of other disciplines hinged largely upon initiative of charismatic individuals: Maury, Murray, Neumayer, Weyprecht.

Such trend significantly diminished during the “Continental Penetration/Heroic Age” of Exploration, but the requirement for systematic comparative observations left its imprint on the intellectual construction of Antarctica as a privileged place for science and had a durable effect on the development of Antarctic scientific cooperation in the successive IPYS.