

SNAEFFELLSJÖKULL



MONOGRAPH

PATHFINDERS

in Science

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS AT THE VANGUARD OF DISCOVERY

Monograph coordinated by Josep Maria Camarasa

Any journey, even the most trivial beach-resort package tour, has an element of discovery, however dozy the traveller may be. For some, discovery may just mean getting to know new places and sharing new experiences, but there have been (and still are) certain travellers for whom discovery and the subsequent communication of their experiences represent the sole mission of their expeditions.

Some have been successful, others have not. Some have travelled alone, others in more or less good company. Many have had to depend on generous (or no so generous) patrons to cover expenses (always costly) to go where their passions led. Others have been recruited by patrons, institutions or organizations interested in acquiring the knowledge they could gather on their travels or even been trained to carry out special missions. But they all craved (or aspired) to gain knowledge, gather data impossible to obtain otherwise, be in the right place at the right time to study certain phenomena, and conquer remote targets.

This monograph takes a look at these travellers and the journeys they undertook.

Josep Maria Camarasa. Biologist and historian of science. Member of Fundació Carl Faust, Blanes (Girona, Spain).

Juan Olivares (Catarroja, Spain, 1973) has been commissioned to provide the artistic facet of this monograph. His work, based largely on Jules Verne's famous novel *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, conveys the sensations undoubtedly experienced by those early scientific travellers, which he expresses through explosive colour combinations and mysterious shapes that stir up our curiosity. Through the artist's paintings, the reader accompanies those pioneers who had the whole world to discover.

On the left, Juan Olivares. *Journey to the Centre of the Earth I*, 2013. Acrylic on paper, 21.5×28.5 cm.