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**Manifestations of the Arctic in Europe and Russia: Views from the Breitfuss Collection**

This paper sets out representations of the Arctic emerging from the international Arctic exploration of the 1920s and 30s. I focus in particular on such representations as they appear at the intersection of the Russian and European Arctic research traditions. My source is the Breitfuss collection, currently located at the Library of the Scott Polar Research Institute. The Russian-German marine biologist and polar explorer Leonid Breitfuss (1864 – 1950) amassed a comprehensive literature on international polar exploration. This little-known collection reveals the fervent dreams of Arctic exploration in the early twentieth century. It documents the extraordinary energy, ingenuity and imagination with which academics and entrepreneurs sought to probe the Arctic and harness its resources, as part of the modern era’s broader aim to create new worlds of human prosperity through technological development. It also reveals the twists and turns of the interrelations among Russian and European polar researchers, as they navigated the turbulent political events of their time. I suggest that the Breitfuss collection highlights the historical contingency of Arctic exploration, and the visions it generated.