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Objects from National Geographic exhibit Take *Everest: Ascent to Glory to New Heights*



George Mallory's Goggles, wristwatch with leather strap, altimeter and handkerchief ©Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

June 3, 2022 (Santa Ana, California) – From the Hubbard Medal awarded to members of the 1953 expedition, to tools and equipment found in 1999 when George Mallory's remains were discovered on Everest, Bowers Museum is thrilled to share the addition of 11 new objects to the current featured exhibition *Everest: Ascent to Glory*. Coming straight from display in National Geographic's *Once Upon a Climb* exhibition, these new objects enhance the already remarkable collection now on view through August 28.

This exciting exhibition now features more than 30 original objects and 60 stunning photographs of Everest's illustrious history. Many of the new pieces include original gear that belonged to English mountaineer George Mallory, who took part in the first three British expeditions to Mount Everest starting in 1921, before ultimately dying in what became his final attempt in 1924. Drawing visitors into Mallory's adventures, the exhibition now includes his wristwatch, goggles, pocketknife, boots, and more.

From climbing rope to one of the first oxygen sets ever employed in high-altitude climbing, stunning original photographs and more, this exhibition takes visitors on an epic journey reflective of the true triumphs and tragedies intertwined with Everest. Visitors will also become further immersed as they

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view a 3D model of Everest, on loan courtesy of National Geographic Society, Washington, DC; created by Solid Terrain Modeling, Inc. and sponsored by Edward P. Roski; and the beautifully remastered *Epic of Everest* (1924) film by John Noel.

Bowers is honored to present this exhibition as part of its ongoing partnership with another world-class institution, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), London, which has co-organize *Everest: Ascent to Glory*. Bowers is also honored to be working with the guest curator of *Everest*, Wade Davis, who is an ethnographer, writer, photographer, filmmaker, and former Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society.



Altimeter found on George Mallory's body
©Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Curator and Lynda Thomas Distinguished Lecturer Wade Davis will be delivering the final presentation in his three-part lecture series at the Bowers Museum in conjunction with this exhibition on Saturday, June 25 at 1:30 pm. This presentation, entitled ***Sherpas: Everest's Unsung Heroes***, will be delivered in the state-of-the-art Norma Kershaw auditorium and followed by a book signing by the world-renowned author. [Click here for details at bowers.org](#). His best-selling book *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest* is now on sale at Bowers Gallery Store at [shop.bowers.org](#).

About the Exhibition

The newest project from Bowers Museum's ongoing partnership with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), *Everest: Ascent to Glory* combines photographs, films, and artifacts from five expeditions leading up to and including the earliest successful attempt to climb the colossal mountain. Having marked the centennial of the first British reconnaissance expedition to Mount Everest (1921-2021), this holistic exhibition explores the history, resolute characters, unsung heroes – including Tibetan and Nepalese Sherpas – and changing technologies of the initial attempts to climb the tallest mountain on earth.



Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, 1953 ©Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

For Great Britain the early 20th century was marred by the Norwegian Roald Amundsen beating a British expedition to the South Pole and an unspeakable "Great War." To escape a country that felt unfamiliar to them after the horrors of France's trenches, the greatest explorers of England set their sights on reaching the summit of Mount Everest.

Each expedition built on the lessons and losses of those before it. The first 1921 reconnaissance of the mountain mapped a path to its summit. The introduction of oxygen the following year seemed promising until two fatal expeditions put efforts to climb Everest on ice. The advent of radio in 1933 made communication on the mountain possible for the first time. It was not until 1953 that Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary would crest the mountain's final dome to see the world in panorama.

Visit [bowers.org/everest](#) for a full calendar of exhibition-related events, tickets and more.

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