

## From the Institute's Photo Library

doi:10.1111/j.1751-8369.2008.00070.x

Geologist Adolf Hoel (left) and his assistant, non-commissioned officer Karl Jakob Haavimb, rest in camp in front of the glacier Blomstrandbreen in 1907. The men were part of the small Norwegian contingent that participated in the last of four expeditions to Svalbard funded by the Prince Albert I of Monaco, who had a strong and abiding interest in science and the polar regions. The Norwegians carried out geological and topographic studies of the coast and the glaciers in north-western Spitsbergen. Near Woodfjorden Hoel discovered a site rich in fossil fish. Norwegian involvement in Prince Albert I's 1906 and 1907 expeditions to Svalbard was the first step toward the establishment in 1928 of Norway's Svalbard and Arctic Ocean Survey, with Hoel as its founder. In 1948 this organization became the Norwegian Polar Institute.

Blomstrandbreen has retreated since this photograph was taken. What was regarded as the peninsula of Blomstrandhalvøya jutting out into Kongsfjorden, opposite the research settlement of Ny-Ålesund, has recently revealed itself to be an island.



The Norwegian Polar Institute's Photo Library preserves some 90 000 polar-related images captured during the last 135 years, including glass plates and slides, stereo images, print photographs and modern digital photographs. Images documenting Norwegian activities in the Arctic and Antarctic comprise the bulk of the collection. Scanning the older images and registering newer ones is an ongoing endeavour. To date, digital versions of 21 500 pictures are available in a searchable online database at <http://sivert.npolar.no/fotoweb/>. The online images are described mostly in the Norwegian language; please send an e-mail to [bildearkiv@npolar.no](mailto:bildearkiv@npolar.no) for assistance in searching the database.