

## From the institute's Photo Library

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This photograph of Longyearbyen, Svalbard, was taken in 1918, when the population of the town numbered just a couple of hundred and there were few women and children. Most residents worked for the mining company Store Norske (note the tracks for the tubs that carried coal down from the mine entrance high up the slope). The children pictured likely belonged to the families of the company's management; most miners were bachelors or did not have their families with them. The photographer, Gunnar Hansen Horn (1894–1946), was an authority on coal geology. He carried out investigations in Svalbard in the 1920s and then worked for Norway's Svalbard and Arctic Ocean Survey, the forerunner of the Norwegian Polar Institute, from 1928 until his death. In 1930 Horn led an expedition which succeeded in locating the last camp of the Swedish scientist–explorer Salomon August Andrée, who perished together with two other members of his party on the island of Kvitøya, north-westernmost Svalbard, in 1897.



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 digital ones is an ongoing endeavour. To date, digital versions of over 30 000 pictures are available in a searchable online database at <http://sivert.npolar.no/fotoweb/>. Search words associated with the online images are mostly in the Norwegian language; please send an e-mail to [bildearkiv@npolar.no](mailto:bildearkiv@npolar.no) for assistance in searching the database.

