

NEW *LEGACY* SHACKLETON EPIC LIMITED EDITION MARINE CHRONOMETER TO BE LAUNCHED AT SALON QP 2013

Media Information

For immediate Release

London, 7th November 2013

Thomas Mercer is very pleased to announce that the *Legacy* - its new marine chronometer - will be officially launched this evening at Salon QP, indisputably the most prestigious event in the British horological calendar.

The *Legacy* will debut an exclusive limited edition made in association with the Shackleton Epic, the official centenary expedition honouring Sir Ernest's 1916 voyage on the *James Caird*: considered the greatest small-boat journey of all time, it was successfully completed in January this year. Both the original voyage of 1916 and its re-enactment in 2013 are inextricably part of the brand history as they relied on Thomas Mercer chronometers for safely determining longitude across the treacherous Southern Ocean.

Guest of Honour of the evening will be the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of Sir Ernest and Patron of the re-enacted expedition: "The Shackleton Epic Expedition (S.E.E.) is a story of triumph." - she adds - "Tim Jarvis and his companions of the S.E.E. have successfully recreated my grandfather Ernest Shackleton's 1916 voyage in the tiny *James Caird* (6.9 metres long) crossing 800 nautical miles from Elephant Island to South Georgia over the stormiest seas in the world and subsequently climbing over the mountainous unmapped interior of South Georgia as he did."

To add authenticity, the instruments used during this truly heroic feat of navigation - namely the Thomas Mercer chronometer No 23654, the Sestrel sextant and the Dent compass - will be displayed at the Saatchi Gallery: furthermore, Shackleton Epic Sailor and Navigator Paul Larsen will attend the event.

Paul is an offshore sailor with 100,000+ miles to his credit, and, among his greatest achievements, the World Sailing Speed Record: his second-to-none background was key to the success of the S.E.E., particularly in determining longitude and latitude with 100-year-old technology. As S.E.E.'s leader Tim Jarvis says: "Without precise navigation, however, even the best team is rendered powerless. Thomas Mercer chronometers were used on both expeditions allowing both teams to safely navigate across the roughest ocean in the world to arrive at King

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Haakon Bay almost 100 years apart and it is in no small part down to Thomas Mercer that they were able to do so. Perhaps the famous words written of Shackleton at the time - *For speed across the ice give me Amundsen, for scientific research there is Scott, but in times of trouble pray God for Shackleton* - should have included the words *and his Thomas Mercer chronometer*”.

Alessandro Quintavalle, Thomas Mercer’s CEO, says: “This new exquisite timepiece is set to become the symbol of the reborn Thomas Mercer as it combines precision engineering and mechanical perfection with superb design and innovation. The name *Legacy* truly bears witness to a dashing heritage of more than 150 years, and we are honoured to share this important moment with Shackleton Epic and their unparalleled achievement: as the 1916 James Caird voyage is indissolubly linked with chronometer 5229, so by right shall the expedition perpetuating Sir Ernest’s legacy of leadership and heroic navigation be linked with the *Legacy*.”

THE *LEGACY*: MAIN FEATURES OF THE TIMEPIECE

The *Legacy* lovingly blends the most sophisticated and modern design with the attributes of Britishness and affinity with the sea - attributes that have set apart the name of Thomas Mercer from all others since 1858. Like every Thomas Mercer, the new chronometer embraces the best of British luxury values, painstaking design and craftsmanship, an incomparable style and a real appreciation for the finest things in life.

The rhodium plated dial, obtained through a bas-relief process and finished with a stunning *grené* effect, features the Southern Ocean map on which the 1916 original voyage of Sir Shackleton and its re-enactment in 2013 are both represented.

The case displays an unusual asymmetrical body of AISI 316 stainless steel with precious elements in high gloss finish Zircote adorned with fine metal settings which make this timepiece an incomparable fusion of advanced machining techniques and finest cabinet making. As a further touch of incomparability, the signature of the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton and Tim Jarvis AM FRGS - respectively patron and leader of the centenary expedition.

Synonymous with her exquisite casing, the *Legacy* contains the most beautiful of mechanisms. Visible from the dial, the escapement, the beating heart of the timekeeper, comes in its par excellence form, the Spring Detent. A unique feature of the *Legacy* chronometer is the gimbals suspension that allows the movement to remain horizontal regardless of the motion of the ship - ideal for achieving maximum accuracy. A specifically designed lever allows the movement case to be locked in its reverse position, so that the exquisite mechanism can be clearly seen and admired from the face of the timepiece.

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