**« THE MAN FROM THE MOON»**

**The film is offered to TV channels in English and Russian versions**

Country: Russia

**Genre**: Documentary

**Directed by:** N. Miklouho-Maclay

**Conceived by:** N. Miklouho-Maclay

**Written by:** E. Nupreychik

**Running time**: 36 minutes

**Director’s Script**

This is a documentary about the great Russian explorer, humanist and scholar Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay. The film narrates the story of his extraordinary discoveries in New Guinea, his life in Russia and Australia, and his legacy as an ethnographer and anthropologist.

The film about the adventures and research of the celebrated scholar in the 19th century has as its leitmotif a recent expedition to the Maclay Coast that, in the 21th century, was led by Miklouho-Maclay's descendant and namesake, Nikolay.

The viewers will be presented with fascinating facts about the great explorer’s life among indigenous people, rare photographs, quotations from the scientist’s diaries, and the drawings he sketched during his sojourn on the island.

Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay moored to the uncharted shores of New Guinea in 1871 and, as his fellow countrymen then believed, set out to meet ‘certain death’.

Owing to his tolerance and respect for the islanders, not only did Miklouho-Maclay manage to establish contact with the local population, but befriended them and made numerous discoveries of immense significance to the world. His travel journals, notes, and the book *Journey to the Maclay Coast* contain valuable information on New Guinea’s climate, its flora and fauna, and, most importantly, a description of the physical type of New Guinea Papuans. Miklouho-Maclay disproved the notion commonly held by scientists at the time that Papuan people have certain features of ‘inferior’ races: indigenous people were believed to have hair growing in ‘clumps’ and particularly tough skin. It beggars belief, but in the 19th century Papuans were not even considered human. Having spent over 2.5 years with local people, Miklouho-Maclay completely dispelled this myth.

The writer Leo Tolstoy later lavished praise on the Russian explorer’s work and achievements. According to him, Miklouho-Maclay demonstrated by his experience and through goodness alone, without resorting to any kind of violence, that all people are alike, they ‘love the good as much and are as reasonable’, ‘every people have their rules for living, their laws of life’.

Indigenous people used to call Miklouho-Maclay ‘the Man from the Moon’.

He formed close bonds with the local people, and the islanders have kept these events in their hearts and minds.

Almost a century and a half later, a Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay again set out for Papua New Guinea – an ancestor and namesake of the great explorer.

The first expedition to the Maclay Coast of Papua New Guinea in the contemporary history of Russia took place in September-October 2017, organized by the Miklouho-Maclay foundation with assistance from Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (the Kunstkamera) under the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

No such expeditions to this region had been organized for over 40 years.

Despite the challenges, Miklouho-Maclay Junior and his research expedition retraced the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather, visiting the same places where his distinguished ancestor had lived and worked.

Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay received an incredibly warm welcome from modern islanders. It emerged that, through all these years, stories about the Moon Man had been passed down through the generations in the local villages. Over three thousand local people, Papuans who had kept the memory of Miklouho-Maclay alive for almost 150 years, took part in various joint events.

The meeting of Miklouho-Maclay Junior with the descendant of Tui, Maclay’s first friend on the island, was particularly moving.

The main narrators in the film are Nikolay Miklouho-Maclay, the explorer’s descendant who heads the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation and also directed this documentary, and Asel-Tui, the Papuan descended from Miklouho-Maclay's first friend on the island.

Miklouho-Maclay's extraodinary life may serve as an example of treating people as equals regardless of where they live, of the colour of their skin or their social status. This idea was central for the scholar and explorer.

The film will appeal to all ages, and in particular to the younger generation, with their hunger for travelling, who need examples of courage and fighting for equality and justice.

Teaser trailers:

<https://youtu.be/i1n7TmR4VGs>

<https://youtu.be/rXLigQoiGLw>

The film may be viewed at request via a private link at the Miklouho-Maclay Foundation channel.

If you wish to broadcast the film on your channel, please contact Nickolay Miklouho-Maclay:

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