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www.headhuntrevisited.org

Mytinger Project, LLC

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Michele Westmorland, Karen Huntt, and Wings Trust present:

HEADHUNT REVISITED

Charting Cultural Change in Melanesia

An expedition to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, May and June 2005

Sponsored by Wings Trust

*Emmy award winning director signs on to produce documentary
Society of Woman Geographers invites Westmorland, Huntt to join
Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology to host exhibit's first venue*

SEATTLE, Wash.—Photographers Michele Westmorland and Karen Huntt, managers of The Mytinger Project LLC, proudly announce their affiliation with **Jeff Streich of First Light Films** in Portland, Oregon to produce and direct a documentary film based on their forthcoming expedition to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. “Headhunt Revisited” will retrace the 1926-30 route of artist Caroline Mytinger who painted and sketched portraits of the native peoples there. Employing digital photography and filmmaking, the expedition will bring Mytinger’s long-lost work to light, and will document current traditions of the native peoples in the region.

For “Headhunt Revisited,” Streich will act as producer/director, traveling with the team on their two-month expedition. Schooled by some of the best in the business, Streich learned documentary technique while on staff at National Geographic Television from 1985-1992. He won an Emmy for “Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft in News and Documentary Programming” for the documentary “Into the Volcano” aired on National Geographic Television.

Streich is the creative force behind First Light Films. He has traveled the globe for some of the biggest names in television, including National Geographic, Discovery Channel, PBS, BBC, MTV, Reader’s Digest, IMAX, and even the first season of “Survivor.” For more information on Jeff Streich, please visit: www.firstlightfilms.com, and www.headhuntrevisited.org.

The Society of Woman Geographers recently installed Westmorland and Huntt as full members, and has invited them to carry the Society’s flag on the expedition. Founded in 1925 by four recognized women explorers of the day, the organization is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and serves to “bring together women ‘explorers at heart’ whose work has involved extensive travel in the investigations of little-known or unique places,

peoples or things in the world.” Caroline Mytinger was herself a Society member in the early 1930s.

The Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, has committed to be the host venue for the “Headhunt” traveling exhibit, which will showcase Mytinger’s paintings and sketches along with photographs made on the upcoming expedition. Before she died in 1980, Mytinger gifted 23 oil paintings to the Hearst that she made while on her journey to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Her artwork lay hidden from public view for nearly 70 years until a fortuitous discovery by Michele Westmorland. Hearst director Dr. Douglas Sharon will lead the effort to coordinate, curate, and design the exhibit. The Hearst was founded in 1901 and Phoebe Hearst was its major patron. Its stated mission is “To collect, preserve, research, and interpret the global record of material culture, so as to promote the understanding of the history and diversity of human cultures.”

Caroline Mytinger, a famous portrait artist of high society patrons, and her companion, Margaret Warner, traveled throughout the South Pacific for nearly four years in pursuit of their dream. Today, veteran photographers Michele Westmorland, of Mill Creek, Washington, and Karen Hunt, of Bellevue, Washington, plan to follow in the footsteps of these intrepid women, to bring Caroline’s art to life, and to document the cultural changes that have since occurred in this remote area.

Westmorland and Hunt have spent five years researching Caroline Mytinger’s life and art. They plan a two-month trip through the Solomon Islands and coastal Papua New Guinea. The expedition, currently scheduled for May and June 2005, will stop in numerous locales, including Malaita, Marovo Lagoon, Rabaul, Rossel Island, Samarai, to name just a few, and will journey up the Fly River to Madiri, ending in Port Moresby. Captain Alan Raabe, owner of the MV FeBrina, will provide the 72 foot vessel for the entire expedition. The team will include local interpreters, anthropologists, and historians.

Through digital photography, writing and filmmaking, the project will bring Caroline’s story to a new audience, and raise awareness of Melanesian cultures. Articles, a book, a documentary film and a traveling exhibit are planned after the expedition.

Financial and in-kind contributions, tax-deductible under IRS regulations, are currently being solicited. The expedition must raise approximately \$500,000 for all anticipated expenses. Checks should be made out to “Wings Trust-Mytinger Project,” and mailed to: Wings Trust, c/o Milbry Polk, P.O. Box 52, 236 Route 9W, Palisades, NY 10964.

Wing’s Trust is a New York state non-profit organization. Wings Trust has received a letter of determination from the Internal Revenue Service stating that it is a not-for-profit organization under Internal Revenue code section 501(c) (3).

