

ROSEMARY J BROWN FRGS

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Nellie Bly in the Sky <http://nelliebly125.wordpress.com>

PROPOSAL FOR TALK - SUMMARY



Putting Nellie Bly Back on the Map

Celebrating the 125th anniversary of her record-breaking voyage around the world

No-one had ever circled the globe with such speed. Adventurer Nellie Bly, 25, stepped off the train in New York on January 25, 1890 ... and into history. She raced through a 'man's world' in 72 days -- alone and literally with the clothes on her back -- to beat the fictional record set by Jules Verne's Phileas Fogg. She was a global celebrity. To this day she is among the top 10 female adventurers.

125 years later, I followed in her footsteps.

We both travelled alone with one small case. She went by ocean liner and train. I flew. She raced, I didn't. She covered 28,000 miles in 72 days; I completed 22,500 miles in 32 days. She journeyed through the Victorian age, dashing conventions along the way. I travelled through the information age, blogging along the way. She started from New York. I started from **London**. We both finished with book-length memories and a profound appreciation for the kindness shown to us everywhere we went.

Nellie is best known for her record-breaking journey, but more importantly she pioneered investigative journalism and paved the way for female reporters. Her stories brought about sweeping reforms in asylums, sweatshops, orphanages and prisons. She was the first woman to report from the Eastern front in WWI and a true humanitarian.

But the story that made her name is the one I'd like to present to Members -- her race around the world. Nellie didn't take a camera, but I did ... so I would like to share the photo highlights of my Nellie Bly 125th Anniversary trip. Nellie travelled when the sun never set on the British Empire, so most of her stops were at colonial outposts. Her journey drew the attention of then RGS President Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff (see his quote below in image section). My expedition is registered with the Royal Geographical Society and endorsed by Women in Journalism.

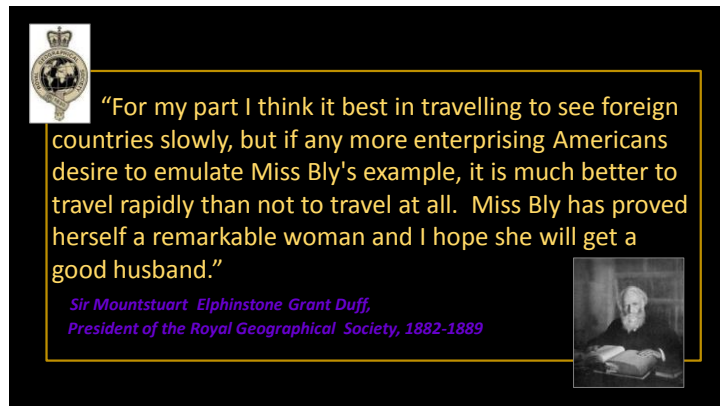
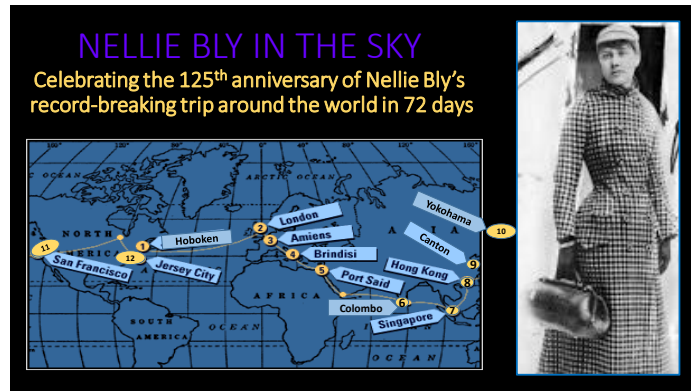
SHORT BIO: ROSEMARY J BROWN

- Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society
- Journalist with three nationalities – British, Canadian and American
- Communications manager for international NGOs including Save the Children, The Rainforest Foundation, Green America and The British Asian Trust. Chair of The Rights Practice promoting human rights, particularly in China.
- Expeditionist: 2014: Nellie Bly 125 anniversary world tour, Tour du Mont Blanc; cycling in Sicily, walking on Samos 2013: Inca Trail 2012: Kilimanjaro; Haute Route Swiss Alps. 2011: London to Paris cycle challenge.

AVAILABILITY:

Flexible. As 2015 is the 125th anniversary of Nellie Bly's record-breaking expedition, it would be ideal to present the lecture this year -- the sooner the better.

SAMPLE IMAGES:



LINKS:

Blog: [Nellie Bly in the Sky](http://nelliebly125.wordpress.com) <http://nelliebly125.wordpress.com>

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