



Antarctic scientists map penguins from space

Penguin guano stains, visible from space, have helped British scientists locate emperor penguin breeding colonies in Antarctica. Knowing their location provides a baseline for monitoring their response to environmental change.

In a new study, published in the journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, scientists from British Antarctic Survey (BAS) describe how they used satellite images to survey the sea-ice around 90 per cent of Antarctica's coast to search for emperor penguin colonies. The survey identified a total of 38. Ten of those were new. Of the previously known colonies six had re-located and six were not found.

Because emperor penguins breed on sea-ice during the Antarctic winter little is known about their colonies. Reddish brown patches of guano on the ice, visible in satellite images, provide a reliable indication of their location.

BAS mapping expert Peter Fretwell said: 'We can't see actual penguins on the satellite maps because the resolution isn't good enough. But during the breeding season the birds stay at a colony for eight months. The ice gets pretty dirty and it's the guano stains that we can see.'

Emperor penguins spend a large part of their lives at sea. During the Antarctic winter when temperatures drop to -50°C they return to their colonies to breed on sea-ice, but this is a time when it is most difficult for scientists to monitor them.

BAS penguin ecologist Dr Phil Trathan said: 'This is a very exciting development. Now we know exactly where the penguins are, the next step will be to count each colony so we can get a much better picture of population size. Using satellite images combined with counts of penguin numbers puts us in a much better position to monitor future population changes over time.'

This research builds on work by French scientists who extensively studied one colony and found the population was at significant risk from climate change. The six colonies not found in this study were at a similar latitude suggesting that emperor penguins may be at risk all around Antarctica.



Emperor penguins in Antarctica, photographed by Sue Flood (from ground level!)

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James Caird Society News

Beagle campaign pushes RGS to the vote

Earlier this year saw a commotion at the Royal Geographical Society when a group of high profile fellows forced a Special General Meeting with a resolution proposing that the RGS was failing to fulfil its charter in the matter of multi-disciplinary scientific field research.

The group of fellows, that includes James Caird Society President Alexandra Shackleton, are the people behind the Beagle Campaign, which has demanded change at the RGS. One of the Beagle founders, author Alistair Carr said: 'Although the Society has a rich history of mounting its own expeditions that is envisioned in its founding charter, it has not done so for over a decade. Yet this is a pivotal moment for mankind's relationship with the planet.'

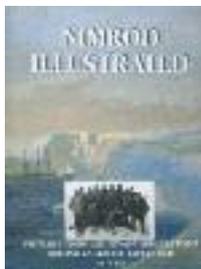
The resolution was voted down by the Society. However both sides claimed victory, as those voting for the motion represented a large minority of 38.1 per cent, considerably more than the percentage of the vote that allowed Tony Blair to form a Labour government in the 2005 General Election.

Empowered by the large share of the vote the Beaglers are sworn to continue. 'We are more determined than ever,' said Carr. 'This isn't the end.'

To find out more about the Beagle Campaign visit www.thebeaglecampaign.com

Nimrod Illustrated published

To celebrate the centenary of one of the most exciting expeditions of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration comes *Nimrod Illustrated* by D M Wilson. The book is a remarkable collage of expedition photos, paintings and ephemera laid out so as to recall the style of expedition scrap-books of the time. Produced by Reardon Publishing, it is part of a series that started with *Discovery Illustrated* and will be a worthy addition to any collection of literature on the Polar Regions.



The 9th Annual Shackleton Autumn School 23–26 October 2009

The Athy Heritage Centre has established the Ernest Shackleton Autumn Summer School to celebrate the life and work of the great Antarctic explorer in the area of his birth. Athy Heritage Centre holds the only permanent exhibition on Sir Ernest Shackleton in Ireland, which includes artefacts relating to his expeditions and a scale model of the ship *Endurance*. A variety of artistic, educational and musical events will take place over the duration of the Autumn School.

For more information visit:
www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie

For further information visit www.reardon.co.uk Arctic ice survey comes to an end

After 73 days on the frozen Arctic Ocean, the Catlin Arctic Survey ended with Pen Hadow, Ann Daniels and Martin Hartley being lifted off the ice in reasonable shape and looking forward to their first good night's sleep in more than eleven weeks. Two twin otter planes removed



them and their kit from their final position, 434km further north of their drop off point on February 28th.

The scientific expedition – in which the team measured the thickness of the floating sea-ice to help scientists studying the impacts of global warming in the region – ended slightly ahead of schedule to ensure a safe pick up.

Hadow said: 'It was a gruelling but successful expedition. In our time here we captured around 16,000 observations and have taken 1500 measurements of the thickness of the ice. That's a valuable set of data we've collected for scientists.'

Hadow revealed that over the length of the survey the average thickness of the sea ice was 1.774 metres.

Commenting on the end of the expedition, Peter Wadhams, Professor of Ocean Physics and Head of the Polar Ocean Physics Group in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, University of Cambridge, said: 'The data already sent back shows the team have been travelling on First Year Ice and provided an insight into its rate of growth this year. The rest of the data the team will provide on their return will help us

Next James Caird Society meeting

The next meeting of the James Caird Society and Annual General Meeting will be held on

6th November 2009 at Dulwich College.

Will Gow and Henry Worsley of the highly successful Matrix Shackleton Centenary Expedition will be lecturing on their experiences in Antarctica.

to process and interpret it further and make a valuable contribution to data available to sea-ice scientists.'



Mumm Cordon Rouge Club admits five new members



Last May 2009 saw the second annual meeting of the exclusive Champagne G.H. Mumm Cordon Rouge Club at which five more of the world's leading explorers and adventurers were admitted to the club, including Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston.

The Cordon Rouge Club was founded in 2008 to recognise exceptional people for their extraordinary achievements within the realms of exploration, sailing,

adventure and discovery. The members are recognised for showing immense courage and dedication in their particular fields, from conquering mountains to traversing oceans single-handedly. The Club is a way of celebrating the achievements of the members by bringing together like-minded, inspiring individuals on an annual basis. Each year a new Chairman is appointed and together with the existing members, they approve and induct new members.

'The Cordon Rouge Club brings together a wonderful collection of explorers, sports people and the odd barking mad adventurer who can share experiences, have some fun and drink amazing champagne,' said 2009 Club Chairman Neil Laughton.

This year, the Club met on the Isle of Wight where members competed against each other in a sea-kayaking race, which was supported by the RNI. The winning explorer was sailor Brian Thompson with Ben Fogle and Patrick Woodhead hot on his heels in second place.

The new members who have been inducted into the Club are: Sir Chris Bonington (mountaineer); Rune Gjeldnes (polar explorer); Sir Ranulph Fiennes (explorer); Colonel John Blashford-Snell (Founder of Operation Raleigh) and Polly Murray (mountaineer).

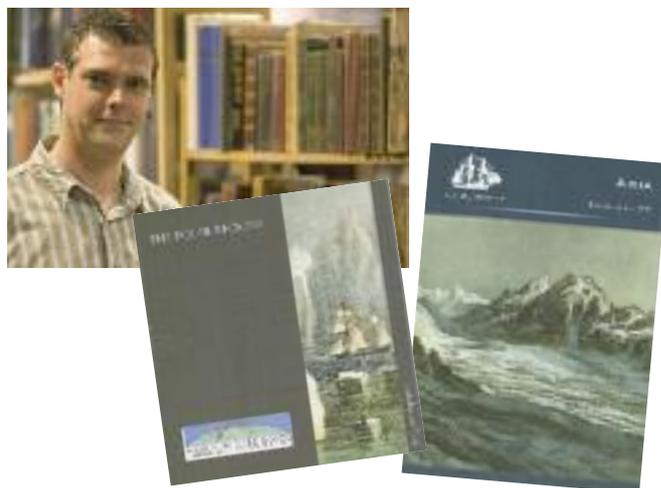
Polar literature at the London book fair

Antiquarian booksellers Stuart Leggatt and John Bonham were spotted at this year's PBFA book fair at London's Novotel.

Both James Caird Society members, Stuart (right) is the proprietor of Meridian Rare Books, specialising in fine and rare items of travel, exploration, scientific voyages, and science. His stock also includes related ephemera, manuscripts, autographs, photographs and artefacts.

John is the proprietor of J & SL Bonham Antiquarian Booksellers specialising in the fields of exploration, travel and mountaineering.

For further information or to order a catalogue visit:
www.meridianrarebooks.co.uk
www.bonbooks.dial.pipex.com



Christies of London Exploration & Travel Sale

Last year's sale took place on 25th September 2008 (Sale total £682,100 from 71 lots), especially strong in specimens from Australian naturalist Marian Ellis Rowan and manuscripts from T E Lawrence. For Shackleton *aficionados* there were four lots of particular interest, all of which reached the upper limit of the pre-sale estimate, and in two cases spectacularly beyond.

Lot 137 was the visitors' book used aboard the British Antarctic Expedition ship *Nimrod* and is described:

66 leaves of variously coloured paper, 55 leaves bearing one or more signatures and inscriptions, the first two leaves signed or inscribed by British Antarctic Expedition members and *Nimrod* crew and stamped with the expedition postal cancellation stamp, the first leaf with a mounted cancelled KING EDWARD VII LAND STAMP, the remaining leaves signed or inscribed by visitors to the ship ... Provenance: Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton (1874–1922).



This important record of *Nimrod*'s visitors starts on the day of departure from England for the southern hemisphere on 7 August 1907. The first two leaves bear the signatures of most of the expedition crew members including Shackleton, Joyce, Wild, Mawson, Marston and includes a King Edward VII island stamp. One hundred pounds worth of these overprinted 1d New Zealand stamps were issued to the expedition under the jurisdiction of the New Zealand government. Shackleton was sworn in as a Postmaster by authority of Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and a 'post-office' was opened in the territorial waters of King Edward VII Island with a subsequent branch office in McMurdo Sound.

General entries (starting on the third leaf) apparently include visitors from all the *Nimrod*'s ports of call (Cape Town, Sydney, Lyttelton, Christchurch), and demonstrate the enormous level of interest and goodwill that the expedition and Shackleton's genius for publicity had generated. All are represented here: harbour officials, civic dignitaries, naval men, the trainers of the doomed Manchurian ponies, friends and acquaintances. (Estimate £7,000–£10,000. Hammer price £20,000.)

Next up, lot 142, studio photographic portrait of Ernest Shackleton, taken in around 1910, signed and inscribed by the sitter 'E.H.Shackleton, 1910' to the lower right, with photographer's studio stamp 'Olive & Katharine Edis, Sheringham, Norfolk' on the mount 11 x 7 in. (29.8 x 19.7cm.). This portrait was offered with

a studio portrait photograph of Shackleton wearing the Dulwich College cornflower by 'J. Jas. Bayfield, Gipsy Hill, S.E. Photographer to Dulwich College' taken after his return from the *Nimrod* expedition, with presentation inscription 'Helen. [Ernest's sister] Xmas. 1909' on the reverse; a lock of Shackleton's hair wrapped in paper, inscribed 'Ernest's hair as a baby Bless him – I leave it to Emmie [Ernest's wife] by Henrietta [Ernest's mother]; and Shackleton's signature on a fragment of a card. The pre-lot text is simply 'the property of a lady', while the provenance is by descent from the sitter to the present owner. (Estimate £1,500–£2,500. Hammer price £2,500.)

Followed by lot 143, 'The South Pole' lecture poster, described in Christie's catalogue as:

A large lecture-tour poster, printed in red and black, and incorporating a half-tone portrait of Shackleton, [Burton-on-Trent: 1913], announcing 'Immense Attraction. Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent The Burton-on-Trent Municipal Officers' Guild has arranged with the Lecture Agency, Ltd., of London, for Sir Ernest Shackleton C.V.O., F.R.G.S. to give his lecture entitled: "The South Pole", Thursday, Nov. 21 at 8. In addition to giving a popular account of his own South Polar Expedition, Sir Ernest will describe and explain the Expeditions under Capt. Scott and Capt. Amundsen. The Lecture will be fully illustrated from Photographs and some very striking Kinematograph Films taken during the Expedition ... Reserved Seats, 3/- ... Late cars will be run to Ashby.

(Estimate £2,000–£3,000. Hammer price £6,875.)



Finally, lot 160, a drawing entitled 'The Modern Explorer' by George Edward Marston (1882–1940), described by Christie's as:

inscribed as titled above the image and signed by Wild, Worsley, Dobbs, Lees, Mackintosh, Bickerton, Marston, Brocklehurst and Shackleton (the latter signature possibly secretarial) – pen and ink and blue wash on paper – unframed – 6 x 8⁵/₈ in. (15.2 x 21.8cm.) – together with autograph letter signed by Frank Wild to Mrs Alec-Tweedie, 9 July 1914, on Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition headed paper, thanking her for the gift of a book to be taken on the expedition.

(Estimate £1,200–£1,800. Hammer price £1,750.)

The next Christie's Exploration & Travel Sale
will take place on 23rd September 2009.
For further information visit www.christies.com

North-West Passage exhibition reveals Arctic fascination

North-West Passage: An Arctic Obsession is now showing at the National Maritime Museum and is required viewing for all members of the James Caird Society whose interests in matters polar occasionally allow them into the northern latitudes.

Explorers sought the fabled North-West Passage, the sea route linking the North Atlantic with the North Pacific Ocean, for centuries as a lucrative short cut for trade between Europe and the East. In 1845 Sir John Franklin set out on a scientific expedition of unprecedented scale, in vessels equipped with the latest technological innovations. The voyage was to become one of the greatest disasters of Arctic exploration. Both ships and their entire crews vanished, and it was eventually discovered that all 129 men died of starvation, exposure and sickness.

Attempts to find Franklin and his missing men and ships, began in 1848 and for more than ten years some 40 expeditions – official and private, British and international – took up the search. The fate of Franklin and the course of the Passage were finally discovered in 1859, though it was not until 1903-06 that Roald Amundsen managed to sail through it.

The centuries-old British endeavour to find this ‘passage round the pole’ is the subject of the National Maritime Museum’s *North-West Passage: An Arctic Obsession*. The exhibition reveals the motivation of the numerous attempts by British explorers to cross the Arctic, and why the eyes of the world are turning to the region again today.



Captain Sir James Clark Ross, 1800–62, John R. Wildman

The exhibition looks at some of the extraordinary stories, feats of endurance and tragedies that surround famous attempts by Sir John Ross, Sir James Clarke Ross, Sir William Parry and Sir John Franklin. Key artefacts in the exhibition, including letters and relics recovered from



First Communication with the Natives of Prince Regents Bay, as Drawn by John Sackhouse, and presented to Capt Ross, Aug 10 1818

Franklin’s doomed voyage of 1845, provide a glimpse into the survival strategies used by nineteenth-century explorers to combat the Arctic’s harsh climate.

Over 120 objects – paintings, letters, maps and ethnographic items – from the Museum’s extensive polar collection highlight early British attempts to explore and map the Arctic. They include drawings that record early encounters with the Inuit, from John Ross’s 1829–33 expedition. Also on display is the flagstaff Sir James Clark Ross erected to mark his discovery of the North Magnetic Pole in 1831, one of the many scientific achievements of British explorers.

The exhibition also highlights the complexities and environmental concerns surrounding modern exploitation of the region’s rich natural resources. Such attempts are not new: samples from the large quantity of ‘fool’s gold’, brought back by Sir Martin Frobisher’s north-western voyages of the 1570s will be on display. It was believed to be so valuable that Elizabeth I ordered quadruple locks for the worthless cache in the Tower of London.

The harsh realities of climate change and its impact on the Arctic are also brought home by a film documenting Inuit observations of the depleting levels of sea-ice, and changes to the region’s wildlife. Interviews from the Catlin Arctic Survey, a pioneering expedition to measure the sea-ice thickness and predict the consequences of diminishing ice coverage, are also being shown.

A relic of Sir John Franklin’s last expedition 1845–8. A pocket chronometer number 980 found in an abandoned boat at Erebus Bay, King William Island, in May 1859 by the McClintock Search Expedition 1857–9.



The pictures on this page are all copyright © National Maritime Museum, London

North-West Passage: An Arctic Obsession is running at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, until 3rd January 2010. Admission is free. For further details visit www.nmm.ac.uk

Nimrod Centenary

A journey to my grandfather's hut

In late 2008 the President of the James Caird Society, ALEXANDRA SHACKLETON, travelled to Antarctica with Quark Expeditions to visit her Grandfather's hut at Cape Royds. Here she reminisces on a truly remarkable adventure...

On this day, a hundred years ago, my grandfather, Ernest Shackleton, took the historic decision to turn back 97 tantalising miles from the South Pole. This has been described as one of the great decisions of polar history and one of which I am personally very proud.

Shackleton and his three companions were all in a bad way physically. They might just have struggled to the Pole, but Shackleton knew that a safe return to their ship *Nimrod* was doubtful. So at 88°23 S he turned his back on possible glory in order to save life. This decision defined him as a leader. We are all defined by our priorities and his was his men.

The *Nimrod* Expedition (1907–09) achieved a lot (see sidebar). The first ascent of Mount Erebus, a live volcano over 12,000 feet, and the South Magnetic Pole was reached at 72° 15 S, after an epic unsupported sledge journey of 1260 miles. The South Magnetic Pole moves around six miles per year, so locating it was not easy. The Expedition was the first to publish a book in the Antarctic, *Aurora Australis*, and much valuable scientific work was carried out, especially in the fields of geology and marine biology. The first motor car was brought to the Antarctic – not a success, as was the use of ponies.

The tangible legacy of the Expedition is, of course, the iconic hut at Cape Royds. I was able to fulfill a long-held ambition to visit the hut thanks to New Zealand film-



Alexandra Shackleton aboard the *Kapitan Khlebnikov*

maker Mary-Jo Tohill, who is making a multi-media documentary film *My Grandfather's Hut*. This was made a reality by the generous support of Quark Expeditions.

Recently Quark have been marking the centenary of the *Nimrod* Expedition and also marking the International Polar Year (2007–09). Quark are outstandingly staunch supporters of the Antarctic Heritage Trust's conservation programme for the four historic Ross Sea huts.

Work on the *Nimrod* hut is virtually complete and Quark agreed to take Mary-Jo Tohill and me on the 2008 semi-circumnavigation voyage – Ushuaia to Lyttleton – that aimed to visit all the huts. We travelled in the mighty icebreaker, the *Kapitan Khlebnikov*.

Antarctica in all its amazing aspects produced too many wonderful experiences to list, and in the Bay of Whales I got further south by ship (78°36 S) than did my grandfather (77°51 S). However, I must mention our landing on the Ross Ice Shelf (in Shackleton's day the great ice barrier), the largest in the world. With blinding sun and ice it seemed surreal, not of this planet. And the helicopter ride to Cape Royds with Mount Erebus looking so clear and near, puffing its plumes of smoke in the blue and gold day.

Then there was the hut. I entered it and was instantly aware of the smell of wood and leather. Then I noticed that the hut was lit only by natural light and was full of the Expedition's possessions. There were socks hanging up, fur bedding, clothing, many, many tins of food, the sturdy Mrs Sam stove which produced three meals a day including bread. Huge hams were amongst the provisions. There was a carbide plant that produced lighting for the hut. There was equipment for bookbinding (the *Aurora Australis*), a darkroom/laboratory and Shackleton's tiny cabin.



Alexandra Shackleton is assisted by Bob Headland to unlock the door to the historic hut



An account of the President's voyage south as told to Nick Smith in the Daily Telegraph

It was as if the fifteen men had just gone out. I felt a great wave of sadness for the century that lay between us. Yet the hut is not a sad place. I came to the conclusion that that is because no one died on the *Nimrod* Expedition. Despite terrible ordeals they all returned safely to the hut, and now, in 2009, a new expedition, the 'Shackleton Centenary Expedition', has reached his furthest south and has proceeded to the Geographic Pole itself, which Shackleton regarded as unfinished business. They set off from that hut, that potent symbol of Ernest Shackleton's leadership. I feel privileged and grateful for the moving experience of visiting it.



For further information about Quark Expeditions visit www.quarkexpeditions.com

All photography by Sue Flood, www.sueflood.com

Nimrod Expedition in cold, hard facts

Party of 15 men wintered at Cape Royds on Ross Island; climbed Mount Erebus (3794 m), 10 March 1908; Shackleton and 3 others (Jameson Boyd Adams, Eric Stewart Marshall, and John Robert Francis [Frank] Wild), discovered and sledged up the Beardmore Glacier to the farthest south of 88·38°S (1·62° [180km] from the South Pole) where Shackleton took possession of the Polar Plateau for King Edward VII, 9 January 1909; insufficient supplies necessitated their return; discovered nearly 500km of the Transantarctic Mountains flanking the Ross Ice Shelf; discovered coal at Mount Buckley. Tannatt William Edgeworth David leading a party of three reached the region of the South Magnetic Pole (72·42°S, 155·27°E) and took possession for Britain of Victoria Land there, 16 January 1909, and at Cape Bernacchi, 17 October 1908. Dogs and ponies used for some sledge hauling. Visited Macquarie Island, searched for 'Dougherty's Island'. First experiments in motor transport in Antarctica, an Arrol Johnston motor car was used with limited success; ciné photographs of penguins and seals were made. The expedition used New Zealand postage stamps specially overprinted 'King Edward VII Land' and an expedition canceller; Shackleton was appointed Post-Master. Book *Aurora Australis*, printed at Cape Royds, 90 copies made. [To conserve coal, in January 1908, *Nimrod* was towed 2700km from Lyttleton to the ice edge by Koonya (reached 66·52°S) which visited Campbell Island during the return voyage. The hut at Cape Royds is now protected as a 'historic site']

Extracted with permission from *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration: a Synopsis of Events and Activities from the Earliest Times until the International Polar Years, 2007–09*, by Robert Keith Headland



Emperor penguins in Antarctica

Expedition news

Nimrod compass finally reaches 90° south

Earlier this year the Shackleton Centenary Expedition team of Antarctic adventurers reached the South Geographic Pole, completing Ernest Shackleton's 'unfinished business'. Expedition leader HENRY WORSLEY took with him the great explorer's original pocket compass...

It was as I was leaving school that I first became intrigued and gripped by stories of the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration. Amundsen's meticulous planning and Scott's tragic death were great and noble stories, but it was Shackleton's extraordinary *Endurance* escape and the journey of the *James Caird* that enthralled me most. But as time moved on I needed to feed an appetite that wanted to learn more about the man, his leadership skills, his triumph over adversity, what drove him on and his other passions.

I then started collecting anything about him and his expeditions I could lay my hands on. Books were of course not hard to find but I searched out signed copies, first editions and other artefacts that had any connection to Ernest Shackleton. My collection continues to grow and now includes the copy of *South* that he gave his parents, inscribed 'To Mother and Father for Christmas, with love from Ernest Xmas 1919'.

On 9th January this year I was standing on the Polar Plateau, with Will Gow and Henry Adams at South 88° 23 East 162 exactly one hundred years to the day that Shackleton, Wild, Marshall and Adams had stood there.

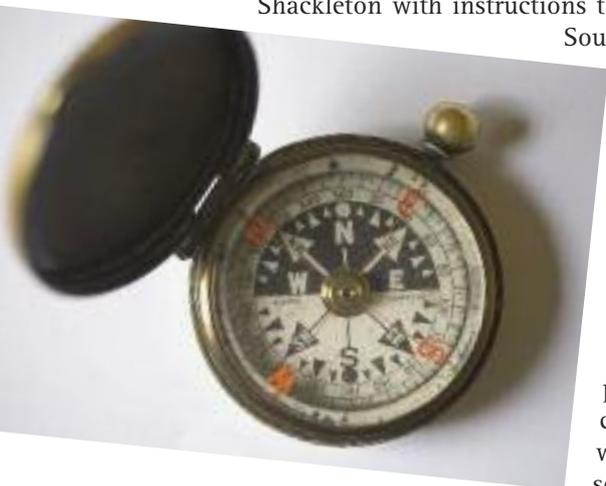
Will, Henry and I had been travelling for 56 days from the *Nimrod* hut at Cape Royds and had covered 820 miles – faithfully retracing the original journey across the Ross Ice Shelf, up the Beardmore glacier and onto the Polar Plateau.

For the duration of the journey I carried in my trouser pocket Shackleton's original compass from his expedition – shown below. I had been lent it by Alexandra

Shackleton with instructions to get it to the South Pole which

it never reached in 1909. Her grandfather regarded the Geographical South Pole as 'unfinished business'.

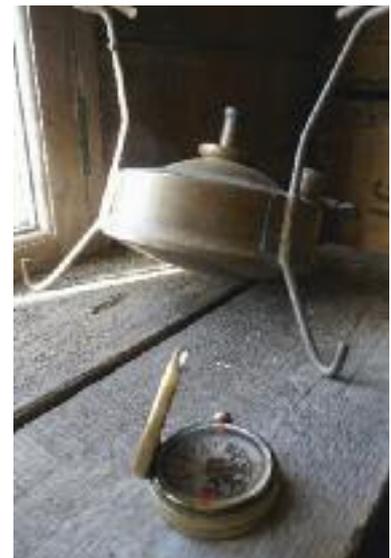
That small piece of machined brass, with 'EHS' scratched on



Shackleton's compass with Mt Erebus in the background (Henry Worsley)

the inside of the lid, proved to be a powerful talisman throughout the journey. Over the last two hundred miles when we were physically empty and struggling against the ferocious Southerly wind and vicious wind chill, I would take the compass from my pocket, hold it tight

for a moment and imagine Shackleton doing the same. The three of us drew huge inspiration from it over the course of the expedition, but none more so than when we needed it most – relentlessly battling on to honour their astonishing achievement and to stand where they did exactly one hundred years later. I may have had the compass in my pocket, but in the final stages it carried me.



Above: Shackleton's compass in the Nimrod hut at Cape Royds (Henry Worsley)

Opposite: Shackleton's compass (Nick Smith)

For more details about the successful Shackleton Centenary Expedition visit www.shackletoncentenary.org

James Caird epic voyage reconstruction on course

As the Shackleton Epic Expedition continues its preparations for departure in the 2010-11 austral summer, leader TIM JARVIS gives JCSN editor Nick Smith a brief update...

After what seems like a long year since the *Newsletter* announced that Shackleton Epic Expedition would be taking place, the expedition that will recreate the voyage of the *James Caird* has been officially launched at a reception at Dulwich College on 24th April 2009. This date is significant in that it marks the anniversary of the day Sir Ernest Shackleton and five companions embarked on the now legendary voyage of the *James Caird*, crossing 800 nautical miles of storm-tossed Southern Ocean from Elephant Island to South Georgia. There they climbed the unknown mountainous interior of the island in order to fetch relief for Shackleton's men who were eventually rescued from Elephant Island. Although the voyage has been replicated before, the Epic Expedition will be the first to complete the 'double' of both sea journey and trek across the island.

Expedition leader, Tim Jarvis, has confirmed that the reconstruction will take place during the austral summer of 2010-11, and it 'is a case of how close we can make the



Shackleton Epic Expedition co-patron, the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, flanked by expedition leader Tim Jarvis, and team member Adrian Rowe

journey happen to the date of the original, which is obviously April.' In terms of the team, confirmed members are Jarvis (as leader) and Adrian Rowe (boat builder and a Masters in nautical architecture). The appropriately named Rowe, who is a relative of Ernest Shackleton, will be joined by the Russian John Stoukelo, who accompanied Jarvis on his recent Mawson reconstruction in Antarctica. This core team will be will be joined by a polar photographer and filmmaker (to be confirmed) as well as naval personnel. 'We need a navy guy,' says Jarvis, 'because they can read sextants.' Announcements as to the rest of the six-man crew for the *James Caird* replica will be made in due course.

This comment is a reminder that the team will be making the journey with equipment that replicates that of Shackleton and his men as exactly as possible. There will be no GPS and their clothing will be based upon what Shackleton and his men wore and the food will be the same. 'We'll just make do with what they had,' says Jarvis. And of course the boat will be '95 per cent the same'. Jarvis says that they may not put loose rocks in as ballast and may go for something 'a little more stable' but the vessel, which is being built at the International Boatbuilding Training College in Lowestoft, will be essentially identical to the original at Dulwich College.

Jarvis has no illusions as to how unpleasant the voyage will be. 'My principle concern is not the condition of the ocean, the wetness or anything like that. It is simply the sedentary nature of the trip. We'll be sitting on a boat unable to do anything to generate warmth. On a polar expedition you rely on constant movement - it's the only thing that will keep you warm. In a boat you can't move and I worry that the cold will take a terrible toll.'

All photos by Nick Smith

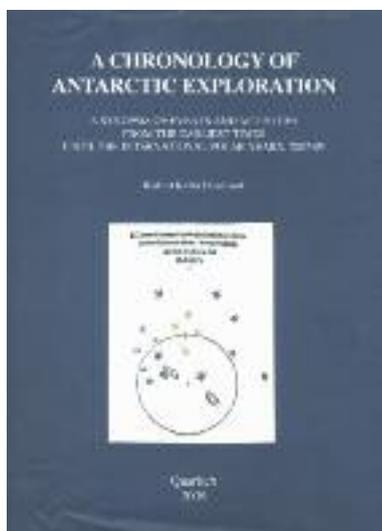


The James Caird at home at the North Cloister at Dulwich College

For more information about the Shackleton Epic Expedition contact Tim Jarvis on: 07884 122013, via email at tim@timjarvis.org or visit Tim's website www.timjarvis.org

Antarctica chronology

The editor has received a copy of *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration* by Robert Keith Headland, formerly of the Scott Polar Research Institute



Ever since Pythagoras postulated that the Earth was spherical the possibility of there being Polar Regions has intrigued philosophers and explorers alike. In the 8th century a Northumbrian monk conjectured that the poles were places of eternal cold: in the north he thought there was an ocean, while in the south a great land mass. The

Venerable Bede was of course entirely correct, but it was to be well over a thousand years before the likes of Robert Peary or Roald Amundsen would be able to see that for themselves by setting foot on the geographical poles. In 1366 pioneering travel writer Sir John Mandeville was the first to use the word 'Antartyk', while in 1487–88 a Portuguese naval expedition commanded by Bartholomeu Diaz de Novaes discovered the Cape of Good Hope. In 1516 the earliest printed description and illustration of the Southern Cross Antarctic constellation appeared in a work by Andrea Corsali, an image that adorns the front cover of Bob Headland's monolithic *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration*.

In the 1600s the southern seas were getting positively crowded, with Dutch, English, French and Spanish expeditions all contributing to the exploration and mapping of the region. In 1736 the lighting of London streets with whale oil lamps created 'great impetus to the whaling industry'. In 1762, John Harrison claimed the Board of Longitude's £20,000 prize for the invention of an accurate chronometer for the determination of longitude at sea. By the 1800s the sub-Antarctic islands were starting to see the slaughter of marine mammals on an industrialised scale, when barely a year went by without a whaling or a sealing voyage setting forth to plunder the biodiversity of the South.

But it is the 20th century – starting with the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration and ending with the dawn of an age of environmental responsibility – that forms the bulk of Headland's *Chronology*. In a tome of well over 700 pages, the 20th century begins on page 231. To express just how intense this surge in activity in the region is, the first two millennia of the *Chronology* are dealt with on just one page. Political issues such as territorial sovereignty, international accords and the Antarctic

Treaty weave their way through the latter part. These threads are supported by a wealth of scientific, expeditionary and tourism-related material that will be of inestimable value to researchers, academics and anyone with more than a casual interest in polar affairs.

One of the most curious effects of reading a linear chronology such as this is how dispassionate academic history can be compared with its so-called 'popular' counterpart, and as a consequence it is sometimes hard to gauge the relative importance of historical events. While the polar community celebrates the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's iconic British Antarctic Expedition of 1907–09 (otherwise known as the *Nimrod* Expedition), Headland allocates what seems to be a rather measly 22 lines to the subject (although in fairness he allocates fewer to the 1982 Argentine invasion of South Georgia, during which he was captured, and even fewer to the invasion of the Falkland Islands). And yet within those 22 lines salient points for the academic historian are rattled off in a prose style that has a taciturn beauty all of its own. Here's one sentence from the *Nimrod* entry:

Party of 15 men wintered at Cape Royds on Ross Island; climbed Mount Erebus (3794 m), 10 March 1908; Shackleton and 3 others (Jameson Boyd Adams, Eric Stewart Marshall, and John Robert Francis [Frank] Wild), discovered and sledged up the Beardmore Glacier to the farthest south of 88° 38' S (1·62° [180km] from the South Pole) where Shackleton took possession of the Polar Plateau for King Edward VII, 9 January 1909; insufficient supplies necessitated their return; discovered nearly 500km of the Transantarctic Mountains flanking the Ross Ice Shelf; discovered coal at Mount Buckley.

Somewhere in here is the human drama of Shackleton's decision to turn around a tantalising 97 nautical miles from glory. But this category of interpretive analysis is not what the *Chronology* is about – it is about cold, hard facts from the bottom of the world. There's even one for antiquarian bibliophiles: 'Book, *Aurora Australis*, printed at Cape Royds, 90 copies made.'

Bob Headland is of course a legend in polar circles, having held the post of Archivist and Curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge until late 2005. During his career he has spent much time in the Polar Regions. He spent two winters at Grytviken on South Georgia involved in biological research with the British Antarctic Survey in the late 1970s. In 1982, a third winter of study was cut short by the inconvenience of having to spend time detained at the Argentine forces' pleasure (a 'Galtieri: his part in my downfall' moment if ever there was one). South Georgia not only provided Headland with masses of field experience, but also resulted in studies on the biogeography of the peri-Antarctic islands and an interest in their history, which in turn led to his 1984 book *The Island of South Georgia* (CUP, last reprinted 2009).

In his introduction Headland admits that time may run out for printed editions of his *Chronology*. Improved access to the White Continent means that the sheer volume of data will become unmanageable in book form. As commercial flights and tourism cruises increase in frequency, the maintenance of such a project will become more difficult and will inevitably be handed over to the online environment. Which means that for those preferring their reference works to be made out of paper and board the time has come to invest. At first glance £110 might seem like a tall order, but for that you get the definitive work. Bob Headland has produced a monumental work of scholarship based on a lifetime's dedication to his subject, and if his *Chronology* does not become the final court of appeal for all factual matters to do with the events and activities in Antarctic exploration, then nothing ever will.



The Far East Shipping Company icebreaker Kapitan Khlebnikov docked in the pack-ice of the Ross Sea while landing passengers for Quark Expeditions

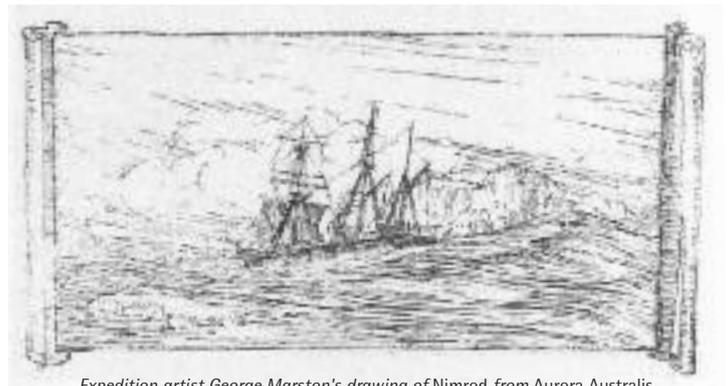
A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration by Robert K Headland is available from Quaritch, 722pp, hb, £110 ISBN 978-0955085284, www.quaritch.com

Polar Poetry

Erebus

Keeper of the Southern Gateway, grim, rugged, gloomy and grand;
 Warden of these wastes uncharted, as the years sweep on you stand.
 At your head the swinging smoke-cloud; at your feet the grinding floes;
 Racked and seared by the inner fires, gripped close by outer snows.
 Proud, unconquered and unyielding, whilst the untold æons passed,
 Inviolable through the ages, your ramparts spurning the blast,
 Till men impelled by a strong desire, broke through your icy bars;
 Fierce was the fight to gain that height where your stern peak dares the stars.
 You called your vassals to aid you, and the leaping blizzard rose,
 Driving in furious eddies, blinding, stifling, cruel snows.
 The grasp of the numbing frost clutched hard at their hands and faces,
 And the weird gloom made darker still dim seen perilous places.
 They, weary, wayworn, and sleepless, through the long withering night,
 Grimly clung to your iron sides till with laggard Dawn came the light:
 Bold heart and brain upheld them, till the long-drawn strain was o'er.
 Victors then on your crown they stood and gazed at the Western Shore;
 The distant glory of that land in broad splendour lay unrolled,
 With icefield, cape, and mountain height, flame rose in a sea of gold.
 Oh! Herald of returning Suns to the waiting lands below;
 Beacon to their home-seeking feet, far across the Southern snow,
 In the Northland in the years to be, pale Winter's first white sign
 Will turn again their thoughts to thee, and the glamour that is thine.

Writing under the pseudonym 'Nemo' (which is Latin for 'no one') Ernest Shackleton here takes on a heroic alliterative 15-syllable measure to describe his men's first ascent of Antarctica's only live volcano, Erebus. The poem was first published in *Aurora Australis*.



Expedition artist George Marston's drawing of Nimrod from *Aurora Australis*

Aurora Australis at the National Maritime Museum

As we celebrate the *Nimrod* centenary, the James Caird Society committee visited the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to view (among other things) their copy of *Aurora Australis*. By NICK SMITH, Newsletter editor.

Last September the committee of the James Caird Society accepted an invitation from the National Maritime Museum to a private view of a small exhibition of the Caird Library's collection of polar manuscripts, artefacts and printed books. Among the items on display was a wonderfully preserved copy of *Aurora Australis* along with a decidedly rickety *South Polar Times* bearing Rudyard Kipling's bookplate pasted onto the front endpaper. Both publications were of course edited by Sir Ernest Shackleton, the latter according to Bonham's catalogue, one of the 'scarcest and most desirable books of polar literature, with copies selling for many thousands of pounds on the rare occasions when a set comes on the market'. To those of us for whom such a sum is a prohibiting factor there are thankfully still sets of the Centenary Facsimile edition available, going for around £600.

Published a century ago in 1908, *Aurora* is fascinating. It's intrinsically no more important than the *South Polar Times*, but its romance lies in it being the first book to be printed and bound on the White Continent. I'm already on thin ice here, as Bernadette Hince's *Antarctic Dictionary* sternly disagrees with me, claiming that honour for the *Times*. The Royal Geographical Society's website describes the *Times* as the 'in-house magazine' of Captain Robert Scott's *Discovery* expedition, and while this may not be a very elegant way of describing the publication, it is an important reminder of its purpose.



Above: Title page of the *South Polar Times*.
This copy originally belonged to Rudyard Kipling

Left: Title page of *Aurora Australis*

While I accept the *Times* pre-dates Shackleton's *Nimrod* expedition during which *Aurora* was published at the 'Winter Quarters on the British Antarctic Expedition', I don't accept it is a printed book. I don't want to squabble with the *Antarctic Dictionary*, but Shackleton himself, in his Editor's Preface to *Aurora*, says that there were 'essential differences between the two efforts, for the *South Polar Times* was typewritten and only one copy could be issued, whereas *Aurora Australis* is actually printed, and therefore allows of a larger edition.'

This 'larger edition' has a different print run depending on who you talk to, but the most sensible estimates vary from on a conservative 55 (quoted by the National Maritime Museum) to 'about a hundred', a number traditionally bandied about by prospective buyers looking to drive down the price. It's usually accepted that the true figure lies somewhere in between.

The story of how *Aurora* was printed is a tale of publishing derring-do that is strangely in keeping with the spirit of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. In his 'Additional Preface' to *Aurora*, Sir Ernest writes: 'though I can see but little not up to usual standard in bookmaking, the printers are not satisfied that it is everything that it ought to be.' He goes on to explain that due to the sub-zero temperatures in the hut where the printing took place, the only way to keep the ink in 'fit state to use' was to have a candle burning under the inking plate. The men responsible for the printing were petty officers Ernest Joyce and Frank Wild who had taken a crash course in printing in London before heading south. They completed an apprenticeship that would normally occupy seven years in a mere three weeks at Sir Joseph Causton & Sons Ltd who, not content with supplying the know-how, also kitted out *Nimrod* with 'an entire printing and lithographic outfit', including paper.

The Caird Library is named after Sir James Caird of Glenfarquhar, shipowner and benefactor of the National Maritime Museum. This particular James Caird should not be confused with our Sir James Caird, jute baron and philanthropist, who was the main sponsor of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-16 (or *Endurance*, after the ship that sailed Shackleton and his men to the southern Polar Regions). The plucky little whaler that is currently at home in the North Cloister of Dulwich College was named after the philanthropist, not the shipowner. Prior to taking up residence at the college the *James Caird* was kept at the National Maritime Museum, where there is now a life-size replica that was commissioned especially for the 2002 film *Shackleton*, starring Kenneth Branagh.

The National Maritime Museum's copy of *Aurora Australis* is particularly

interesting because it has been disbound for 'conservation reasons'. What this means is that it can be seen in its two component parts: the text block, which is as clean as a whistle, and the binding, which is made of plywood from recycled packing cases and spare harness leather. The plywood is actually a brand called 'venesta' named after the London-based company that manufactured it, and clearly bears parts of the stencilled words 'British Antarctic'.

Constructed by crewman and motor expert Bernard Day, the binding gives a fascinating insight into how the book was stitched together, with three pairs of eyelets neatly drilled through the boards. A rather grand prelims page declares *Aurora* to have been: 'Printed at the sign of "The P e n g u i n s" ; by Joyce and Wild. Latitude 77° 32 South / Longitude 166° 12 East / Antarctica / (All rights reserved)'.

About a dozen copies of *Aurora* have come up for sale since the turn of the century, all of them at auction. The most recent fetched £43,200 at Bonham's in 2007 (it had been fantastically described in the catalogue as the 'Black



Tulip of any Antarctic collection'). This was by no means the most expensive, with one going in 2006 for £53,000. Compared with the decades leading up to the Millennium, today the market is awash although it is unlikely, as one of my sources tells me, we'll see a copy go for 'less than US\$100,000 again'.

The editor would like to express gratitude to Eleanor Gawne of the National Maritime Museum for permission to reproduce these photographs in the James Caird Society Newsletter.



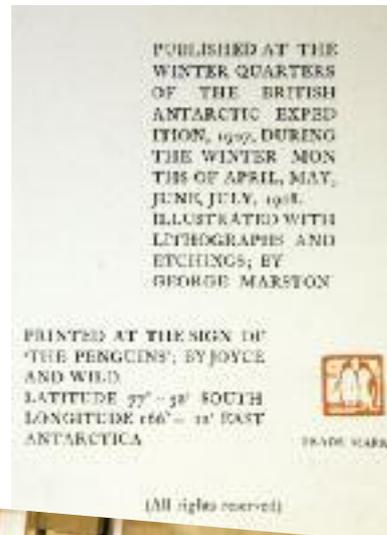
Above: Members of the James Caird Society inspect manuscript materials at the Caird Library, National Maritime Museum

Left: Medal commemorating the Nimrod Expedition, presented to Sir Ernest Shackleton by the Royal Geographical Society 'for Antarctic discovery'

Right: Prelims page of Aurora Australis

Below left: Expedition artist George Marston's illustration of the Nimrod members

Below right: Removed binding of the National Maritime Museum's copy of Aurora Australis made out of a recycled packing case.



Book reviews: Best reads of 2009

To the End of the Earth

By Tom Avery
Atlantic Books,
pp336, hb, £18.99

Tom Avery tells us at the start of *To the End of the Earth* that he was raised on tales of the Heroic Age of Exploration. He loved the noble stories of Scott and Amundsen's race to the South Pole, and yet was confused as to why the history of its northern counterpart should be such a litany of bitter controversy.

As we celebrate the centenary of Robert Peary's contested attainment of the North Pole, Avery relates the extraordinary narrative of how he replicated the US Naval commander's 37-day journey to the ultimate north, while also revisiting the endless debates that have snowballed into one of the enduring mysteries of exploration. The great Sir Wally Herbert always said that Peary couldn't have reached the pole in the time he said he had, and seeing what Herbert stood to gain by contesting Peary's claim, Avery set off to prove that it could be done. And he did it, with a few hours to spare.

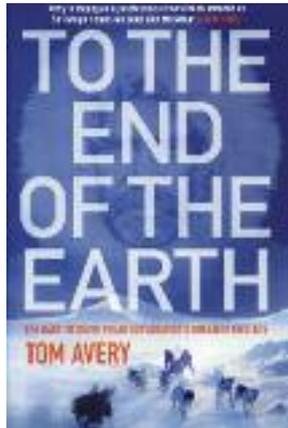
To the End of the Earth is well researched, logically argued and stylishly written. And if that weren't enough, Avery really gets inside the highs and lows of life on the ice – the brain-numbing hassle of expedition logistics, the agonising decisions of team selection, the fear of polar bears and the dread of pressure ridges. He also writes with undisguised respect and affection for the real stars of the show – the 16 fantastically loyal and strong Eskimo dogs, without whom Avery's success would have been impossible.

Face to Face: Polar Portraits

By Huw Lewis-Jones,
with new photography by Martin Hartley
Scott Polar Research Institute with Polarworld,
pp288, pb, £25

One of the most stunning books of polar photography in recent times has just been published by Polarworld. *Face to Face: Polar Portraits* is made up of a sequence of historical portraits taken from the Scott Polar Research Institute archive, alternating with contemporary portraiture by award-winning British photographer Martin Hartley.

With nearly twenty polar expeditions under his belt, Hartley 'more than most knows what it takes to be out in the wilderness', so says Ranulph Fiennes in his Foreword to *Face to Face*. According to Hartley, the classic portraits, taken by such master photographers as Frank



Hurley and Herbert Ponting, show how hard it was a century ago. 'They were out on the ice for so long,' says Hartley, 'and it was really tough for them. There was no contact with home, their gear wasn't so great and their diet was no good.' He thinks the hardship is revealed in their eyes: 'there are some real thousand-yard stares in those old photos.'

Hartley's portraiture is a lesson in just how far we have come as explorers. His pictures tell the story of super-fit ice athletes clad in 'smart' textiles and high-tech eyewear, geared up for much shorter higher-intensity dashes on the ice. His 'off-ice' portraits are, in terms of photographic reportage, about as good as it gets, with Borge Ousland resplendent in a three-piece suit, an unconventional profile of a smoking Anatoly Omelchenko wielding a welding torch, and a training shot of Rosie Stancer. They provide the perfect artistic counterbalance to the well-known iconography of the past. Hurley's extraordinary 1914 shot of Tom Crean, pipe clenched between his teeth, and Ponting's monumental 1912 portraits of Apsley Cherry-Garrard and Cecil Meares are works of genius.

In contrast to the century-old daguerreotypes, magic lantern slides and glass plate negatives, most of Hartley's photographs are shot on medium format transparency film, taken with his battered old Mamiya 645 Pro-TL (now on display at the Scott Polar Research Institute). Despite the huge technological advances in photographic equipment made over the past century, shooting film in temperatures as low as -30°C brings its own challenges. Film can freeze and it will snap if you don't wind on manually. Perhaps it was inevitable that Hartley made the move to digital, using a Nikon D2X for a handful of these shots. But the digital pictures are different and maybe they lack some of the magic of film. 'Sometimes in low light, you've got to use digital,' says Hartley, referring to a recent shot of Ben Saunders taken at Resolute Bay. So what's better, digital or film? 'You can't compare. How do you compare red wine with white wine?'



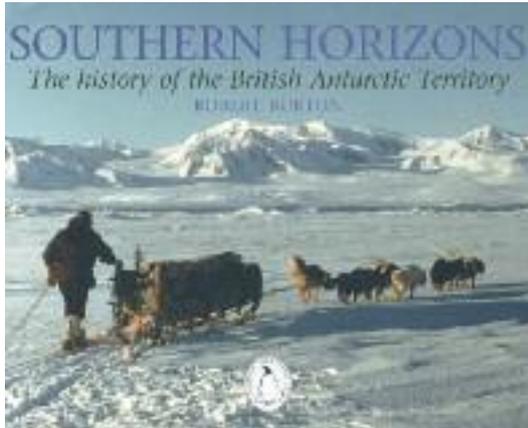
The portraits are flanked by terrific essays from Huw Lewis-Jones and Hugh Brody, offering insights on the state of photography in the pioneering days of polar exploration as well as how we photograph expeditions in the modern world. The images are thoughtfully edited, dovetailing polar heritage with today's icy adventures that are so different in character and 'wrapped around with media coverage.'

To order a copy of *Polar Portraits* visit:
www.polarworld.co.uk

Southern Horizons: The history of the British Antarctic Territory

By Robert Burton

UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, pp64, pb, £10



'From Cook's circumnavigation in 1772-75 until the present day, the United Kingdom has contributed significantly to Antarctic exploration and scientific knowledge.' So begins Robert Burton's fascinating account of the history of the British Antarctic Territory from the earliest voyages of discovery up to contemporary scientific research stations based on the White Continent.

With a forward by HRH The Princess Royal, *Southern Horizons* is divided into a dozen short and richly illustrated chapters that tell the tales of the explorers of the Heroic Age, as well as some of the pioneering flights that took place in Antarctica. And while we may well feel that the book is very general in its range and scope, there are nonetheless some fascinating details included, such as a list of anchorages for floating whale factories, and a list of commands to get huskies to turn left or right.

The main aim of this superb little book is to draw attention to the work of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, whose aims include helping to conserve selected early British Scientific bases on the Antarctic Peninsula, assisting the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust in conserving the historic huts in the Ross Sea area, promoting education and the acquisition of British historical Antarctic artefacts.

To order a copy visit www.heritage-antarctica.org or phone 01291 690305

Mawson: Life and Death in Antarctica

By Tim Jarvis

Miegunyah Press, pp240, pb, £25

One of the best tales to emerge from the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration is that of Douglas Mawson, the Yorkshire-born scientist, whose *The Home of the Blizzard* tells the story of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14. Both the expedition and the fate of its Far Eastern Sledging Party have been overshadowed by events elsewhere in the Polar Regions, as well as the impending Great War. In a nutshell: in 1912 Douglas Mawson and two colleagues – British army officer Belgrave Ninnis and Swiss doctor, Xavier Mertz – set off on a journey into

previously uncharted territory 'to fill a missing piece of the Antarctic jigsaw, a literal blank on the map.'

Mawson: Life and Death in Antarctica is Tim Jarvis' superb analysis of this passage of the expedition. It was to be a dangerous journey Mawson knew, but nothing could have prepared him for the ensuing catastrophe. Ninnis was first to go, victim of a crevasse fall, while Mertz died a horrible death, probably caused by eating dog liver, one of which has enough vitamin A in it to cause a fatal condition called hypervitaminosis. Although sources dispute whether Mawson was reduced to eating Mertz's remains in order to keep himself alive the fact remains that Mawson was left lonely and desolate, at the mercy of the White Continent.

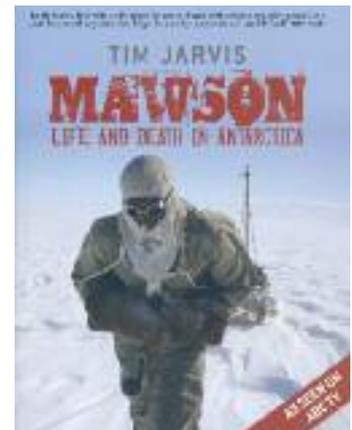
Such were the physical hardships he endured on his journey back to human contact, and so wraith-like became his appearance, that on being reunited with his incredulous colleagues at camp, he was greeted with the words: 'Which one are you?'

Tim Jarvis isn't the first to write about Mawson, but he is the first to get his hands dirty, by re-enacting the polar scientist's entire fateful journey. *Mawson* is Jarvis' account of how author and subject, divided by almost a century, pushed themselves beyond the conventional limits of human endurance and came back to tell the tale.

That we're reading this book at all means that Jarvis made it. But the key question is not so much *how* did he do it, but *what* have we learned? 'I'll never say I achieved,' says Jarvis, 'but I will say that, with the help of his diaries and other documents, I got as close as is possible to understanding what he went through,

without actually eating dogs or anyone dying.' He's got a point: Mawson reveals beyond any shadow of doubt that the original explorer suffered far more than his biographer a century later. But, given that Mawson was in much worse shape, Jarvis wonders, how did he keep going? Part of the answer may be that Mawson really did reach the end of the rope, with no hope of salvation. As his death became increasingly certain, he transferred his allegiance from faith in himself to faith in 'Providence'. Jarvis says: 'He seemed to derive strength from the powerful combination of belief in himself and a belief that he was destined to succeed with the assistance of some higher force. On their own they were powerful; together they were irrepressible.'

To order a copy email the author direct on tim@tim-jarvis.org



STOP PRESS: Peggy (née Shackleton) Larken, widow of Rear Admiral Tom Larken, and cousin of Sir Ernest, died peacefully on 24 June 2009 aged 101. She was probably the last living person to remember meeting Shackleton.



The James Caird Society

The James Caird Society was founded by Harding McGregor Dunnett in 1994 and is a registered charity. It is the only institution dedicated to preserving the memory, to honouring the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic, and to commending the qualities of leadership associated with the name of Sir Ernest Shackleton, KCV0 (especially during the ill-fated but glorious *Endurance* expedition). How Shackleton maintained his men's morale while stranded for months on the ice and when there seemed no hope of rescue, eventually bringing all of them home safe and sound, is now seen as an achievement unique in the history of exploration.

The *James Caird* is the 23 foot (8m) whaler in which



Shackleton and five men made the epic voyage of 800 miles (1,300km) from Elephant Island, 500 miles (800km) south of Cape Horn, to South Georgia during the Antarctic winter of 1916. She is now preserved at Dulwich College, Shackleton's old school in south London, as a memorial to an illustrious son.

Membership application form

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* A version of this Membership Application form will also be found there, and a form for UK Gift Aid Declaration. All UK Taxpayers are urged to take advantage of Gift Aid, which allows the Society tax relief on subscriptions.

From the Archives

Ernest Shackleton was honoured with membership to the Explorers Club in New York in 1912. In this intriguing picture the explorer is seen with his American counterpart Robert E Peary after the Explorers Club annual dinner, March 29, 1912. Called 'Farthest North, Farthest South' the ambitious headline that appeared with the picture overlooked the fact that Roald Amundsen had reached the South Geographic Pole on December 14, 1911, while Peary's claims to have reached the North Geomagnetic Pole were being hotly contested. The above photograph of Shackleton in his medals (with the Polar medal clearly visible) is reproduced by permission of the Explorers Club, where the original is in their archive.



The James Caird Society 2009

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