

THE
SOUTH POLAR TIMES

PROSPECTUS

1902 - 1911

CENTENARY EDITION

THREE VOLUMES

LONDON

ORSKEY - BONHAM - NINER

2002

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THE NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

"THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES."

PROSPECTUS.

During the Antarctic winter of 1902 and 1903, the officers of the National Antarctic Expedition on board the *Discovery*, among other diversions wherewith to lighten the long and dreary darkness, brought out at monthly intervals a periodical to which they gave the name of "The South Polar Times." In this they followed the example of the great national expeditions of past generations to the other end of the Earth; but it is no exaggeration to say that "The South Polar Times," in literary quality, in variety, and especially in its artistic features, has never been equalled in similar conditions. It was edited in the first year by Lieutenant Ernest Shackleton, and in the second year by Mr. Bernacchi, and was contributed to not only by Captain Scott and the officers and scientific staff, but also by the men.

The contents of "The South Polar Times" range over a wide field, grave and gay, scientific and humorous, prose and poetry. It contains a diary of the events of each month, a record of the proceedings of the local Debating Society, a monthly acrostic, humorous notes, besides articles of a more solid nature, as well as stories, sketches of various kinds, and poems of a standard considerably above the average.

But perhaps the most striking feature about "The South Polar Times" is the numerous artistic productions disseminated throughout the volumes, both in colour and in black and white. The coloured sketches by Dr. Wilson, of the animal life in this remote part of the Antarctic region, in artistic quality and in faithfulness to Nature would be difficult to surpass. The coloured sketches of penguin life in the text are of exquisite delicacy, while many of the black and white sketches are masterpieces in their way, not only in drawing but often in humour. Another striking feature is the silhouettes of different members of the staff, while the coloured caricatures of the officers and scientific members of the Expedition, by the youngest officer on board, would do credit to the artists of "Vanity Fair."

But no amount of description could convey anything like an adequate idea of the many features which characterise this unique production. The eight volumes cover something like 400 quarto pages, scarcely one of which is without its illustration, coloured or uncoloured, in the text or as a separate plate, illustrating life on board, portraits, caricatures, interiors, scenery, animal life, plant life, instruments, flags, coats of arms, sledging, sport, and many other things. "The South Polar Times" is beautifully type-written on one side of the page.

It is proposed to issue this in special binding in two, three or four handsome quarto volumes (as is found most convenient), reproducing the original, type-writing and illustrations, both coloured and black and white, in absolute facsimile. The expense connected with the production of "The South Polar Times" in this style will necessarily be considerable. It is proposed to issue a limited number of copies, if there are subscribers sufficient to cover the expense. The

price to those who fill in and return the accompanying subscription form by June 1, 1905, will be five guineas, after which the price will be raised. Accompanying this prospectus are three specimen pages of "The South Polar Times" in facsimile.

Appended is a list of the principal contents, only the full-page illustrations being indicated.

VOL. I.

Frontispiece: A Sledging Experience.
Title Page. (Coloured design.)
List of Contents.¹
Editorial.¹
An Arctic Sledge Journey. (With full-page Map.)
Horticultural Notes. (Humorous.)
Coloured Caricature: "Our Junior Scientist."
Arms and the Man.¹ (Mock Heraldry.)
Told at One Bell. No. I.
Polar Plant Life. (1st Paper.)
Acrostic.¹
Sledging Flags.² (In colours.)
Some of My Messmates.
Watering Ship.
"Observations." (Verses.)
Silhouette: Dr. Koettlitz.
Events of the Month.¹
A Seal Chase.
Editor's Notes.¹
Meteorological Notes.¹
Tail Piece. (Coloured.)¹

VOL. II.

Frontispiece: Trip to Meteorological Observatory in Blizzard.
Sledging at -40° F.
Coloured Caricature: "The Parssenger."
Told at One Bell. No. II.
The Debating Club.
Silhouette: C. Royds.
Bird-catching at Sea.
"Shove Half-penny." (With full-page Illustration.)
Silhouette: M. Barne.
Ode to a Penguin.
The Eschenhagen Magnetic Instruments.
Coloured Caricature: "Cutlets."
Antarctic Seals.

VOL. III.

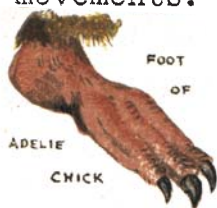
Frontispiece: Aurora Australis. Scene showing *Discovery* in winter quarters.
Ballooning in the Antarctic.
Coloured Caricature: "A Petal of the Plum(p) Tree."
To a Reversible Thermometer. (Verses.)
Silhouette: Captain Scott.
The Mariner's Compass. (1st Paper.)
Draughts Tournament.
David and Goliath. (Full-page black and white Illustration.)

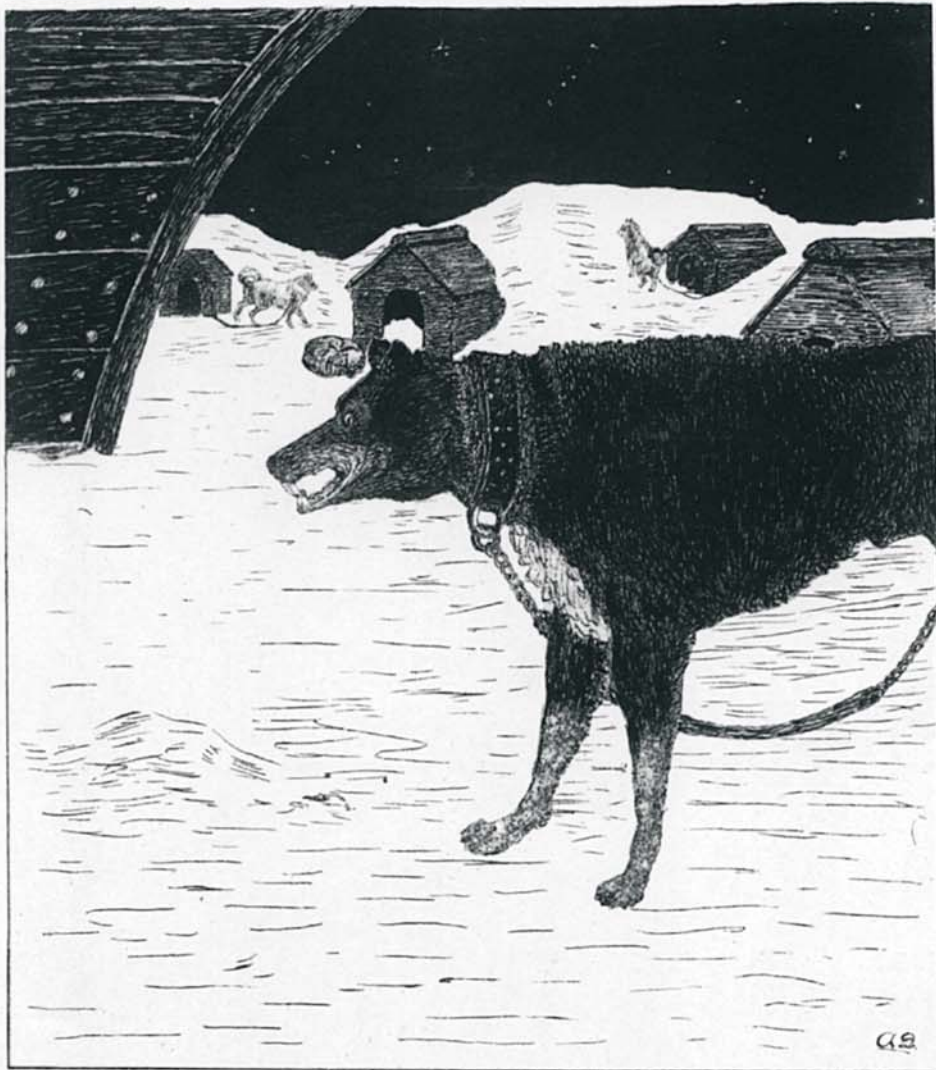
Albatrosses, and Petrels even now? It appears to be the only possible explanation for a seemingly purposeless and troublesome habit entailing endless waste of time and energy and considerable risk to themselves and to their young.

A word about their food. Apart from pebbles and an occasional small fish, the food of the Adelie Penguin consists entirely of a shrimp-like Euphausia. The Emperor on the other hand lives principally on fish, and cuttlefish, and pebbles. Why these birds swallow pebbles habitually is unknown. It may help them with their food, though the stomach is in no sense a muscular gizzard such as one finds in the homely fowl.

It is still a moot point whether the Emperor migrates as definitely as does the Adelie. We have perhaps seen more of their movements than any other expeditions, but our observations are inconclusive. Since we have been frozen in we have seen Emperors on six occasions, once to the number of thirty or forty on April 8th, some of which are the biggest that have been recorded. One scaled ninety pounds, two scaled eighty seven, and one eighty, and in a series of thirty birds the range was from sixty two to ninety pounds. In the middle of January we came across ten Emperors moulting in Lady Newnes Bay, and the "Southern Cross" found two moulting in the pack in the same month. In November twenty Emperors were seen to enter Robertson Bay, and these on dissection were found to contain well developed ovaries.

It is unwise to generalize on such scattered facts as these, but they all help one to form some idea of the birds' movements. We must be content to wait for the Spring which may bring some of our party in contact with them at their breeding places. Every detail should be noted, even to the meeting of a single bird, and the direction of any footmarks. Above all if a group of Emperors is met and some of them seem disinclined to move, they should be treated gently





King "Nigger" Smiles.

THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES

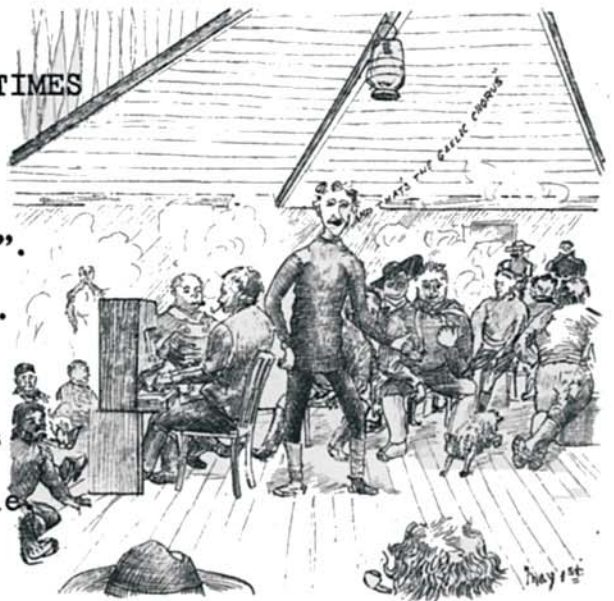
April 23rd First number of "South Polar Times" issued. Sun went.
 April 26th Debate on "Great Ice Barrier".
 May 1st "The Blizzard" first number appeared. Concert at Gregory Villa.
 May 2nd Mess deck measurements.



May 2nd
 Debate on "Womens Rights"
 May 2nd Heavy gale

May 2nd Windmill collapses.

May 2nd Cow Pow drifts away.



May 1st

May 6th Debate on "Whether the Commercial Supremacy of the British Empire is being maintained or not?"

May 5th Great Penguin chase by Dr.K., "Skelly", and the Boatswain.

May 5th Dr.Koettlitz discovers Bacteria in a seal's intestines.

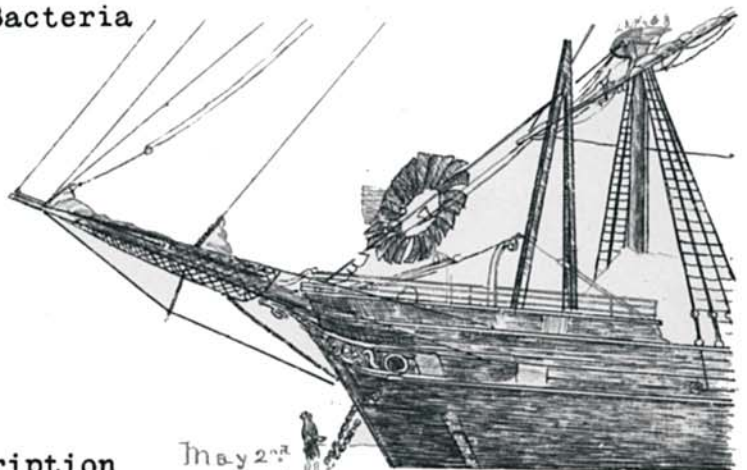
May 6th The "Pilot" walks a mile.

May 8th Ascension Day.

May 13th Debate on "The probable Weather Conditions during the Winter at our Winter Quarters".

May 18th Whit Sunday.

May 20th Debate on "Would Conscription be beneficial to the British Empire or not?"



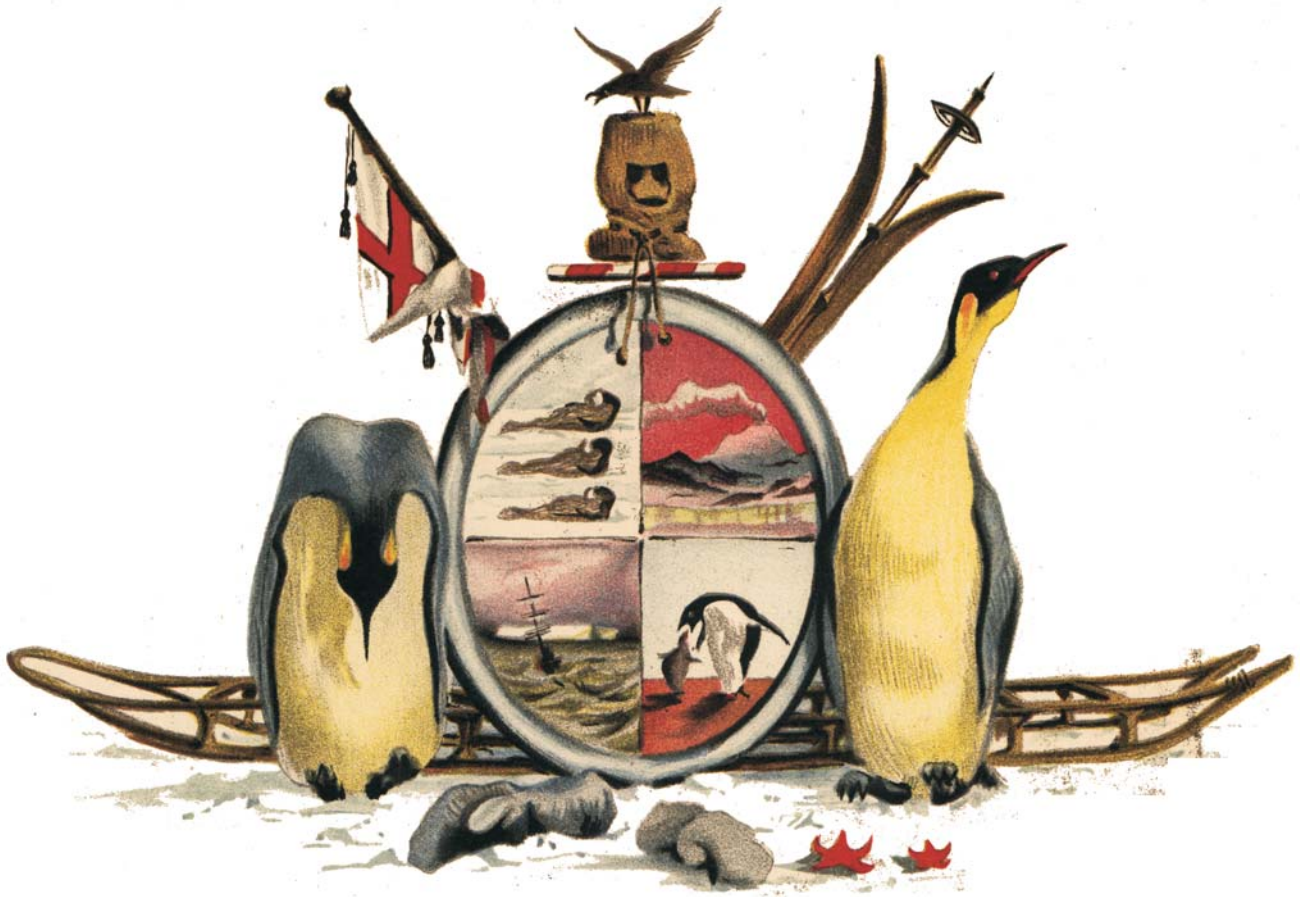
May 5th

May 21st Heavy gale.

May 22nd The new Cow Pow roofed in.

May 25th Trinity Sunday.

"DISCOVERY"



THE
SOUTH POLAR TIMES.

APRIL • 1902

Geology of the Neighbourhood.
Coloured Caricature: "Mr. Frostbites."
Bioloreria. (Verses.)
Silhouette: R. W. Skelton.
Told at One Bell. No. III.
Letters to the Editor.

VOL. IV.

Frontispiece: Crater Hill by moonlight in midwinter.
Some Notes on Penguins.
The King of the Sledge Pack. (Verses; with full-page black and white
Silhouette: E. A. Wilson. [Drawing.]
An Old Document. (Found in 2198 A.D.)
Coloured Caricature: "Our Charlie."
New Verses to an Old Tune.
Farewell to Lyttelton. (Full-page Painting.)
The Mariner's Compass. (2nd Paper.)
Dawn. (Verses.)
Coloured Caricature: "Muggins."
On Sledge Cookers.
Silhouette: E. H. Shackleton.

VOL. V.

Frontispiece: From the Hut to the Ship in a Blizzard.
Polar Plant Life. (2nd Paper.)
Silhouette: A. B. Armitage.
The Spook of Ski Slope. (Verses; with two full-page black and white
Coloured Caricature: "Billy." [Illustrations.]
Sea Ice.
Dishcover Minstrelsy. (Topical Conundrums.)
Silhouette: L. Bernacchi.
The Ballad of the Seal and the Whale.
Discovery leaving London. (Full-page Painting.)
A South Polar Aquarium.
In Futuro. (Imaginary Interview.)
Coloured Caricature: "Skelly."
The Great Ice Barrier. (Verses.)
Whales.
L'Envoi. (Verses.)

VOL. VI. (Second year).

Frontispiece: Sledging Camp during a Blizzard.
Title Page. (Coloured design.)
Editorial.¹
Meteorology.
Told at One Bell.
Silhouette: T. V. Hodgson.
"South Pole Volunteers." (Verses.)
Coloured Caricature: "The Pilot."
Arms and the Man.
"When one goes forth a-voyaging." (Humorous.)
Illustrated Interviews: Lieut. Royds, R.N.
Departure of the Morning. (Full-page Painting.)
The King's Birthday. (Antarctic Sports.)
Silhouette: H. T. Ferrar.
"Blackwall and Poplar." (Full-page black and white Illustration.)

VOL. VII.

Frontispiece: The Observation Huts (Winter).
The Southern Sledge Journey. (With full-page Illustration.)
Map (showing route and new coast line).
Leaves from an Ancient Papyrus. (Humorous.)
Poem: "Welcome, then good-bye."
Illustrated Interviews: Dr. Koettlitz.
Caricature: "Little Peterkin."
"The Flying Scud." (Full-page black and white Illustration.)
"The Wraith of the Blizzard." (Verses.)
Jonah Medal Competition.

VOL. VIII.

Frontispiece: The Bridge of the *Discovery* (Winter).
The *Discovery*, Past and Present. (Full-page Illustration.)
A Winter Day.
"Sunshine." (Verses.)
Silhouette: Lieut. Mulock.
On Igneous Rocks.
"Answering a Nation's Call." (Verses.)
Hieroglyphic Record.
Western Glacier. (Full-page Painting.)
Some Physical Observations. (Full-page black and white Illustration.)
"Vox Asini" on Summer Sledging. (Verses.)
Notes on some Antarctic Birds.

¹ A feature of each volume.

² A feature of first four volumes; in the fifth appear coloured drawings of the *Discovery's* flags.

Shackleton's Antarctic newspaper comes in from the cold

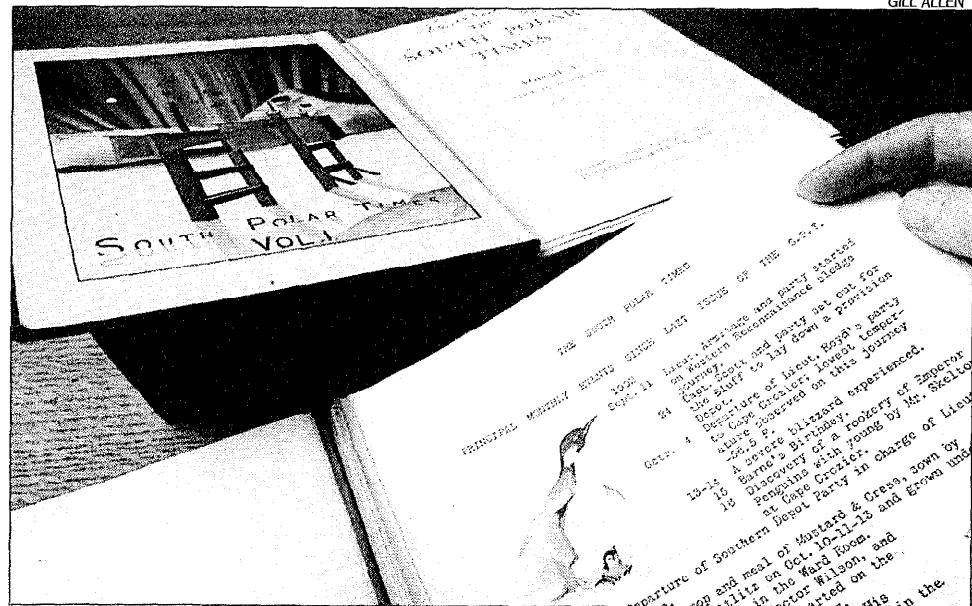
By Adam Fresco

THREE large volumes of a newspaper created on trips led by Captain Robert Scott to the Antarctic are being republished for the first time in 100 years.

The South Polar Times, created on a typewriter in 1902, featured water colours and poems about penguins and life in the Antarctic.

In the autumn of that year, knowing that the sun was about to go down for four months, Captain Scott decided that his crew should produce a newspaper to fill the long, dark hours. The first editor was Sir Ernest Shackleton, who accompanied Scott on his first trip on Discovery in 1902.

Each monthly 30-page to 50-page edition, put together in the ship's hold, described life on the ice and included pictures of penguins, seals and huskies, crew caricatures and scientific observations. With only one copy of each edition the crew would crowd around to read it. Some of Shackleton's verse was printed under



GILL ALLEN

Pages from the South Polar Times, reproduced in book form, recording the weather, bird sightings and birthdays, was first edited by Sir Ernest Shackleton, pictured centre with his team

the name Nemo. Scott observed: "He is also printer, manager, typesetter and office boy . . . at slacker seasons he conducts experiments to determine the salinity of sea ice."

When Shackleton returned

to London after the first expedition, he reprinted the first batch of newspapers in book form.

They were first published in 1907, four years after the Discovery expedition ended in

1903, but only 250 copies were printed. Scott writes in the introduction to the first volume, which chronicles the days between April and August of 1902: "I can see again a row of beads bent over a fresh month-

ly number to scan the latest efforts of our artists."

For the second edition which recorded events between April and August 1903, Louis Bernacci, a Tasmanian physicist, took over as editor

as Shackleton was sent home, having become ill.

Bernacci was then replaced for the final expedition aboard Terra Nova in 1911 by Apsley Cherry-Garrard from Suffolk, who edited the newspaper be-

tween April and October 1911. John Bonham, an antiquarian bookseller, who has put together the editions of the newspaper in book form, said yesterday: "'As it is coming up for 100 years since Scott set



NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS

out we thought it would be a good time to republish the newspapers. It is an intimate journal of a once-in-a-lifetime journey of very brave men."

Only 350 copies of the books are being published, at £600 each. An original set of the three volumes will be sold at Christie's in May and Mr Bonham expects it to fetch at least £15,000. He added: "Scott and Shackleton are English heroes and we thought they should be republished. The ship was ice-bound for months and they wanted to amuse and entertain themselves.

"They are well-written, funny and poignant as they were written before the tragic Antarctic expedition of 1912. We had some trouble finding someone to reprint it as it is so complex," he said.

Bob Headland, archivist at the South Polar Research Institute, said: "This is an exciting republication because it shows a different, lighter side of the expedition rather than the scientific side. It shows the men relaxed rather than at work 100 years ago."

