

## Antarctic Sites in and around Dundee

### IN DUNDEE:

#### RRS *Discovery*

Discovery Point, Dundee.

Some of the items on display during earlier visits (what's on display may have changed over time):

- Model scale 1:48 of SY *Discovery* 1901. Model by Kenneth Britten, 1981. National Maritime Museum.
- Beginning of exhibit, a portion called "The Adventure Begins." Featured are: Richard Patterson, ship yard manager; Captain Scott; Sir Clements Markham; William Smith; Harry Mackay. Push a button and a video starts.
- Exhibit showing a mockup of the thickness of *Discovery's* hull with the various types of wood used. Quite good.
- Very nicely done large scale cut-away model of the stern of the *Discovery* showing the engine which is no longer in the ship. A good model of the engine. Also a cut-away model of the bow showing the framing.
- In the same room a display case with various. There's a silver fish serving knife and fork, a large soup spoon and fork; there's a hip flask that belonged to Lt Skelton, a soup dish with the *Discovery* seal on it, a plate with a scallop edging, a large coffee mug with the seal, a coffee cup and saucer (tag says: 'selection of crockery and cutlery decorated with the *Discovery* crest. These would have been used by the officers and scientists in the wardroom. The utensils provided for the crew in the messdeck were of a much plainer design.) There's also a tall thin bottle that has something engraved on the silver top, unsure what it is, maybe a vinegar bottle. Also a pewter plate, metal cup and pannikin. It says: 'cups and plates like these were used on sledging journeys. They were made of metal or aluminum which was lighter and more hard-wearing than traditional crockery. Pannikin: The men ate and drank from pannikins on sledging journeys. At the end of each day sledging a hot meal known as hoosh would be cooked and divided up among the men. Hoosh was made from a number of ingredients including pemmican and biscuits.' There is also a slab of Bovril.
- A very nice diorama showing the men building the keel and the ribs.
- There's a case with other items displayed: A snow hood and smock, a black felt hat with ties and earflaps, green tinted glass snow goggles; there's a snow goggle in tin carrying case, there are leather mittens that belonged to Captain Colbeck, there are wooden snow goggles, sheath knife engraved on one side "Captain R. F. Scott,

Discovery 1902” and on the other a penguin part of the expedition crest. There’s a button from Captain Scott’s dress uniform. A dagger that had belonged to Lt Royds, his initials and name can be seen on the leather sheath and the end of the handle. There’s a pair of woolen socks on loan from Carolyn Irvine of the Colbeck family. There’s a canvas overshoe, a snow boot, a pair of crampons.

- Another display case with a rifle that belonged to Captain Scott, a brass pistol, a metal match box, a pipe belonging to Captain Scott, a silver match box, leather belt pouch which was worn by Lt Skelton. There’s a label about tobacco: “1300 pounds of tobacco were taken on board *Discovery*. Nearly all of the men smoked and Captain Scott ignored normal Naval restrictions saying that he could not see how anything would be gained by limiting the practice as long as no one was inconvenienced by it.” There’s a woodcarving showing a dog, man, *Discovery*, Mt Erebus probably, a sledge. Has a brass plaque: “Carving wood was a popular leisure activity on the mess deck. This beautiful carving was made by one of the crew members in his spare time.” There is a battledores (look like ping pong paddles). “The men of *Discovery* played a variety of games. These two racquets are called battledores.” Two copies of the *South Polar Times*. Silver sports medal awarded to Lt Royds. [Insert: In the theatre they show a 10 minute film which is a dramatization, not bad. There’s also a diorama in the theatre showing the *Discovery*, hut point, Discovery hut. Spiral puzzle called ‘Wahuma the Hindu’, a game of some sort. Dominoes. Copy of Gulliver’s *Travels*. “Sir Clements Markham gave this miniature copy of Gulliver’s *Travels* to Captain Scott for his journey aboard *Discovery*.” Inside the front cover it’s inscribed: “C.R. Markham. This book went with me to the Arctic regions in 1850. Present to Robert F. Scott with all good wishes July 1901.” Also greeting cards and letters. Concert for the *Discovery*: “Complimentary concert attended by the officers and crew of the H.M.S. *Ringarooma*. The officers and crew of the *Discovery*...” Next to the display case is a pair of skis. No label.

- Harmonium from the wardroom. “Presented to the Discovery expedition by the people of Christchurch, New Zealand. It was used for entertainment and was played by Lt Royds. It was also used for hymns at Sunday services. Each of the pedals is marked as being ‘mouse proof’.”

- Also a five-minute film show. You push a button.

- There’s a life ring inside a plexiglas case with *Discovery* written below.

- There is a number of exhibits meant for kids that have interactive things. There’s one on fishing in Antarctica. There are various handsets that you put up to your ear to listen about various things. Videos going. Mannequins in polar clothes doing various things.

- In a case in that room there’s Skelton’s sledge flag; there’s a flensing knife, a balance scale and box of weights, various mineral specimens, various penguin eggs,

a stuffed Adelie penguin, binoculars belonging to William Colbeck, a microscope, a chronometer, a brass scale that was used for cartography, a copy [in the blue covers] of Mulock's charts on loan from Carolyn Irvine, Colbeck family; drawing instruments belonging to Captain Colbeck, a station pointer (has three pointers, a navigational instrument), two candles, a man's sledging harness.

- In another case, there's a silver globe loving cup on loan from Carolyn Irvine, Colbeck family. It was presented to Colbeck by the Royal Geographical Society. Photograph showing Captains Scott and Colbeck. Telescope that belonged to Colbeck. It's engraved with details with two of the expeditions on which he served, the *Southern Cross* and the *Morning*. A collection of medals belonging to Thomas Whitfield one of the stokers on *Discovery*: Polar medal, RGS medal. Purchased by the lottery fund. Total of six medals. Some British Antarctic Territory stamps. There's a piece of the Discovery NASA shuttle.

Panels on the conservation and restoration of the *Discovery*. Showing it at St Katherine's Docks; showing it on the motorized drydock.

Outdoors they have what looks like a big box. It's wheelchair accessible. In it is a guided film tour of the ship.

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### **Queen's Hotel [LLAG 601]**

"Immediately after the launch a luncheon was given in the Queen's Hotel to a very large company, including most, if not all, of the arctic whaling captains at present in Dundee."

The hotel still exists, now part of the Best Western chain. It's located at 160 Nethergate not too far from Discovery Point. Although the management is aware of the *Discovery* connection nothing at the moment commemorates the luncheon. The hotel is undertaking some renovations and perhaps something appropriate in the way of a plaque or exhibit will be result. [Tel: 01382 322515. Fax: 01382 202668. Email: enquiries@queenshotel-dundee.com]

160 Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DU, Scotland, UK.

My visits of 28 April and 5 May, 2001: The Queen's Hotel is a little worse for wear but is now undergoing renovation. It is part of a chain, Best Western I think. It's about 1/2 mile from Discovery Point, to the west.

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### **House of James Caird [LLAG 158]**

65A or 67 Magdalen Yard Road, Dundee, Scotland, UK.

Ian Cumming believes that one or the other of these houses was at one time lived in by Sir James Caird. Ian gave me a postcard of a painting showing the front yard and a view of the Tay Bridge painted by James McIntosh Patrick (b 1907) in 1948. Title of painting:

‘The Tay Bridge from my Studio Window.’ Its in the collections of the Dundee Art Galleries and Museums.

Number 65A, because of the wall, looks the best bet of the two.

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#### **“Caird Rest” [LLAG 159]**

This building is just west of the Queen’s Hotel on the Perth Road. The building was donated by James Caird. Caird lived nearby at one time. Building is now called Caird House and is part of the University.

The plaque on front stairway reads: “Caird Rest.” | This Building and the Grounds | adjoining were gifted to the | Community | by | James K. Caird, Esq., LL.D. | 1911 | and were dedicated for the purposes | of a place of rest and recreation | for aged persons. | Opened | 17th May 1912.

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#### **Caird and Marryat Halls [LLAG 599]**

##### Angus and City of Dundee Tourist Board

The City Square complex comprising the Caird and Marryat Halls, the Council Chambers and various offices and commercial properties, was Dundee’s first piece of formal civic planning. Just before the First World War, local jute baron Sir James Key Caird of Ashton Jute Works offered to fund a new City Hall and Concert hall for Dundee. Construction of the Caird Hall began in 1914 and was completed in 1922. The colonnade was gifted by Caird’s sister, Mrs Marryat, supposedly to compensate the city for the loss of The Pillars. the two wings either side of the hall were erected in 1930-1, with the city chambers on the western side and offices on the eastern.

##### SCOTGAZ

Sir James Caird 1837 - 1916

Jute Baron. Born in Dundee, he was one of the city’s most successful entrepreneurs, who used the latest technology in his Ashton and Craigie Mills. He made a substantial fortune, and gifted both the Caird Hall, which dominates City Square, and Caird Park in the north of the city. The Marryat Hall, gifted by his sister Mrs Marryat, links to the Caird Hall.

City Square, Dundee, Scotland, UK.

This is a very impressive building. Concerts are given here and other events.

In the front vestibule is a bronze bust of Caird as well as an oil painting of himself and his sister. “Bronze bust of James Caird in the entranceway. On either side are paintings. On the right is Mrs Emma Grace Marryat (sister), painted in 1929. On other side is painting of Caird, same date. Bronze plaque under bust reads: “The Caird Hall | was gifted to the citizens | by Sir James K. Caird Bart LL.D. | and his sister Mrs Emma Grace

Marryat | The foundation stone was laid by | King George and Queen Mary | 10th July 1914. | Lord Provost Sir James Urquhart LL.D. | Work carried on during 1914-1920 | Lord Provost Sir William Don K.B.E. | The hall was formally opened | on October 26th 1923 | by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales | Lord Provost Alexander Spence, Lord Lieutenant | Jas.Thomson FRIBA, Architect | Wm. H. Blyth Martin D.L. Town Clerk.”

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### **McManus Galleries, Dundee [LLAG 609]**

The McManus Galleries contain the story of Dundee through exhibitions, a costume gallery, the Victorian gallery, and more. It is also home to the city’s art gallery. Open: Mondays 11 am to 5 pm. Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. The Galleries may hold the diary of James Duncan, Shipwright, who was a Dundee man on the *Discovery* expedition.

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### **Ashton Jute Works [LLAG 603]**

Annfield Road, Dundee, Scotland, UK.

This is the site of one of Caird’s jute works. It is now used for other purposes. It’s in the western section of Dundee quite close to Perth Road and the Shaftesbury Hotel.

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### **Caird Park [LLAG 600]**

The park is named for Caird who donated it. It’s north of Discovery Point on the northern edge of the city. On the city map it shows it as having a castle, stadium, tennis courts, a field, two golf courses (18-hole and 9), and a cricket ground. It is bounded by Kingsway, Forfar Road, Claverhouse Road, and Old Glamis Road.

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### **Panmure Shipyard [LLAG 602]**

The Panmure Shipyard where *Discovery* was built in 1900 is part of the City Quay only minutes by car from here and would be worth a walk round. Stewart (Hackle Makers) occupy what where the Panmure Shipyard offices.

A side street at South Victoria Dock Road, City Quay, Dundee, Scotland, UK. The site is just a few hundred yards east of Discovery Point, on the other side of the Tay car bridge. Derelict at the moment although nearby has been redeveloped.

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## NEARBY TO DUNDEE

### **Scott/Wilson Memorial at Glen Prosen [LLAG 128]**

Like Glen Clova, Glen Prosen has a narrow, twisty road on the western side. And like Clova, the eastern road is a real drivers' road - sweeping from bend to bend. As you approach the end of the Glen at Dykehead, look out for the cairn to Edward Adrian Wilson and Robert Falcon Scott—the Antarctic explorers. Wilson lived in Glen Prosen, and it was there that Captain Scott planned his Antarctic expeditions. The cairn is in remembrance of the two men who died together on the “great ice barrier”, March 1912. “Glen Prosen; And the Memory of an Antarctic Tragedy” by Duncan Fraser, reprinted from “Guide of Angus and Mearns.”

According to this article, the cairn is (or was) a memorial foundation. Doesn't appear to be the same. Article says that the widow of Reginald Smith (Smith-Elder) commissioned Mrs Watts to design the fountain. It was carved in red sandstone. The inscription reads: “Given into the care | of the people of Cortachy | for them to hold in remembrance | Robert Falcon Scott and | Edward Adrian Wilson | who knew this glen. They reached | the South Pole on 17th January, | 1912, and died together on the | Great Ice Barrier, March 1912. | “For the journey is done and the summit | attained and the barriers fall.”

### Angus and City of Dundee Tourist Board

Like Glen Clova, Glen Prosen has a narrow, twisty road on the western side. And like Clova, the eastern road is a real drivers' road—sweeping from bend to bend. As you approach the end of the Glen at Dykehead, look out for the cairn to Edward Adrian Wilson and Robert Falcon Scott—the Antarctic explorers. Wilson lived in Glen Prosen, and it was there that Captain Scott planned his Antarctic expeditions. The cairn is in remembrance of the two men who died together on the “great ice barrier”, March 1912.

Just west of Dykehead near Cortachy in Glen Prosen, Angus, Scotland, UK. Situated beside the road.

The cairn which has been rebuilt (originally a fountain) is within feet of the paved road. Difficult to miss. The inscription above has been installed in the upper portion of the cairn. In the lower portion is a newer carved stone inscription that reads: This cairn was erected in 1981 | on the site of the memorial fountain | built in 1919 | and accidentally destroyed in 1979

[And has since been replaced by a carved stone sculpture.]

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### **Bungalow associated with Scott and Wilson. [LLAG 575]**

Glen Prosen, Angus, Scotland.

According to this article Scott and Wilson planned the 2nd expedition at this bungalow owned by the publisher Reginald Smith.

There's also a Cherry-Garrard connection: This is where he first met Dr. Wilson. Just beyond the hotel at Dykehead, you leave the Clova road and branch left for Glen Prosen. The Bungalow comes in sight almost immediately afterwards.

Plaque inside the house. It reads: "Here in this house | Captain Robert Falcon Scott | and | Dr. Adrian Wilson | spent six months planning | their epic journey to the Antarctic. | They reached the South Pole | on 17th January 1912 | and died together | on the Great Ice Barrier | March 1912"

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**Broughty Ferry Castle Museum.** [LLAG 576]

Castle Approach, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2PE, Scotland, UK.

Tel: 01382 436916

Broughty Ferry is east of Dundee only 4 or so miles.

Some items on display:

There's a model of the *Terra Nova*. The model was made by Mr J. Allan Krcarnoustie. Roughly 30 inches long.

Certificate of discharge issued to Charles Simpson for a voyage on the *Terra Nova* 1895.

Large oil painting of the *Balaena* signed M.N.M. "The whaler *Balaena* was built by Jorgenson & Utson, Drammen, Norway in 1872 and joined the Dundee fleet in 1891."

There's a 1/8" to 1' scale *Terra Nova* plan of lower and upper deck and section (576g.JPG), presented by Mr Ian Calder.

Watercolor by Wilson entitled *Discovery* in the Antarctic. Painting was given by the artist to Mr J. Duncan who served aboard the *Discovery* in 1901 Scott's first polar expedition.

There's the polar medal in bronze awarded to J. Duncan, Dundee, on Captain Scott's *Discovery* expedition.

Letter written by Scott dated 8 December 1904 thanking Baxter Brothers, Dundee, for their excellent sail cloth which he used aboard the *Discovery*.

A copy of 'The Blizzard' *Discovery* expedition newsheet. Concert and sports program.

Large painting entitled: "In the Antarctic 1892, 3. *Active*, Captain Robertson, *Balaena*, Captain Fairweather, *Diana*, Captain Davidson, by Burn Murdoch"

A Certificate of Discharge issued to Mr I. McCallum for service aboard the *Balaena*, 1892-93.

"Polar medal in bronze awarded to Mr A. Sharp, Dundee for service as chief engineer aboard the *Terra Nova* on her voyage to the Antarctic in 1903 to relieve Captain Scott's *Discovery*."

"Bible presented to the crew of the *Terra Nova* by the Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Tasmania, during the *Discovery* Relief Expedition 1903-04"

There's additional information on the Dundee whaling fleet. Models, stain glass window, various harpoon guns.

They have some very nice what appear to be pen and ink drawings of the *Terra Nova* by Sythes. There's also a Sythes pen and ink drawing of the *Discovery*.

"The Museum at Broughty Ferry (on the outskirts of Dundee) has one or two bits

and pieces, including one of the seaman journals from—*Discovery*—but I have never found it open, so I am unsure exactly what is there but I am sure that we could find out.” D. Wilson

“There is little left from this successful voyage, apart from a few documents, photographs and the Polar Medal of the first engineer, Alexander Sharp, now preserved in the museum at Dundee.” p.171, A. G. E. Jones, *Polar Portraits*. No. 3890.

In A. G. E. Jones’ *Polar Portraits*, a model of the *Terra Nova* is pictured on page 169 with the following caption: “A model of the Dundee whaler *Terra Nova*, which sailed with the *Morning* in 1903-04 to the relief of Scott’s first expedition. She also took Scott’s last expedition to Antarctica. The photograph is by courtesy of the director of the museum.” [But it’s unclear as to what museum, but presumably Dundee.] (158)

#### Angus and City of Dundee Tourist Board:

Visitors will probably concentrate their efforts on the seafront and esplanade. For a peaceful moment or two, take a walk along the miles of sandy beach that runs north east from the town. Broughty Castle overlooks the entrance to the Firth of Tay—a strategic location in the days of naval conflict. The castle dates from the fifteenth century. By 1855 it was a ruin, and was bought by the government and restored to protect the Tay from Russian Warships. (The Crimean War was in progress.) The castle was adapted and enlarged over the years, the last major work being to add accommodation to the north-east of the fort to accommodate the Tay Division Submarine Miners in 1888—they were responsible for laying a minefield in the Tay!

Nowadays the castle houses a museum dedicated to the whaling industry and the military history of the area. The exhibits include arms and armour, and even a display of seashore life. The castle is in the care of the local authority, and admission is free.

Broughty Castle Museum in Broughty Ferry on the eastern side of the city holds a fine collection of artefacts with a nautical theme. The displays cover the whaling industry, seashore and—naturally—the military history associated with the castle.

Open: Mondays 11 am to 1 pm, 2pm to 5 pm. Tuesday to Thursday 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm. Friday Closed. Saturday 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm. Sundays (July to September only) 2 pm to 5 pm

At Broughty there is a small Wilson watercolour owned by Duncan (unsigned) painted on a packing case, a model of the *Terra Nova*, carpenter’s box from the *Terra Nova* (1910), some pictures etc of Harry MacKay, Duncan’s and Sharpe’s polar medal and maybe some other small items. Both museums are open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and Sundays from 12.30 to 4pm.

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**Harry Mackay’s grave, Tayport [LLAG 160]**

Captain Henry Duncan Mackay was master of the *Terra Nova* when sent out in 1903-04 to assist the Morning in relief of Scott's first expedition.

At the end of the 1890s he [Harry Mackay] moved from Dundee to Tayport, the new residential district on the other side of the Tay. There he lived for some years in a pleasant detached house overlooking the river where he could see the shipping arriving at the docks and sailing. He died on November 9, 1925, at the age of 71, and was buried at Tayport, where a grey polished granite stone marks his grave. (p. 171, A. G. E. Jones, *Polar Portraits*. No. 3890.)

Tayport Cemetery, Newport Road, Tayport, nr Dundee, Scotland, UK.

The grave is along the north boundary wall. Ian Cumming opines that the cemetery is new and that the older graves, including McKay's, were moved from the original graveyard in the village. The present cemetery is on the northside of the road that leads from the Tay Bridge to Tayport.

The McKay grave is against the north wall slightly to the right of the centerline down the cemetery. It reads:

“In | loving memory | of | Henry D. McKay, shipmaster | who died | 9th Nov. 1925, aged 71 years. | And his son | John Pitcairn | died at Johore Malay States, | 3rd July 1912 aged 29 years. | Also his daughter | Ethel Mary | who died in infancy. | Betsy Pitcairn | wife of the above | Henry D. McKay | died 8th April 1942, aged 82 years. | His son-in-law | Kenneth William Grant | died as the result of an accident | whilst climbing in the French Alps. | 2nd August 1949 aged 55 years.”

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**Belmont Castle** [LLAG 564]

Near Meigle, on the way to Glen Prosen, north of Dundee, Scotland, UK.  
Belmont Castle, once home of Sir James Caird.

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