

PUBLISH OR PERISH

Antarctic Publications

by Stephanie Sakson

they sleep in the winter, and for how many hours a day, is a problem full of interest. Now and again as we walk among the Weddell's Seals we find a Crab-eater, seldom more than one or two, asleep with the rest.

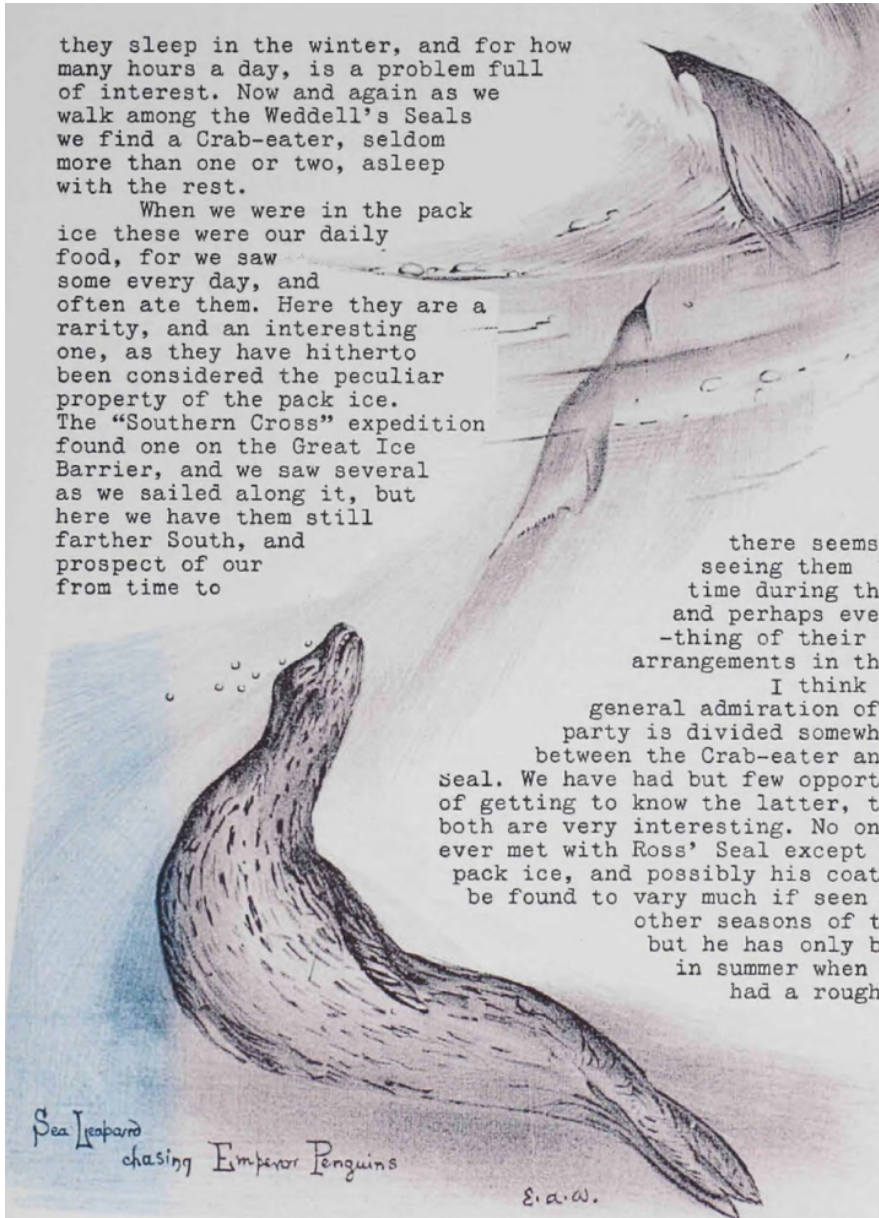
When we were in the pack ice these were our daily food, for we saw some every day, and often ate them. Here they are a rarity, and an interesting one, as they have hitherto been considered the peculiar property of the pack ice. The "Southern Cross" expedition found one on the Great Ice Barrier, and we saw several as we sailed along it, but here we have them still farther South, and the prospect of our from time to

there seems seeing them time during the and perhaps ever -thing of their f arrangements in the

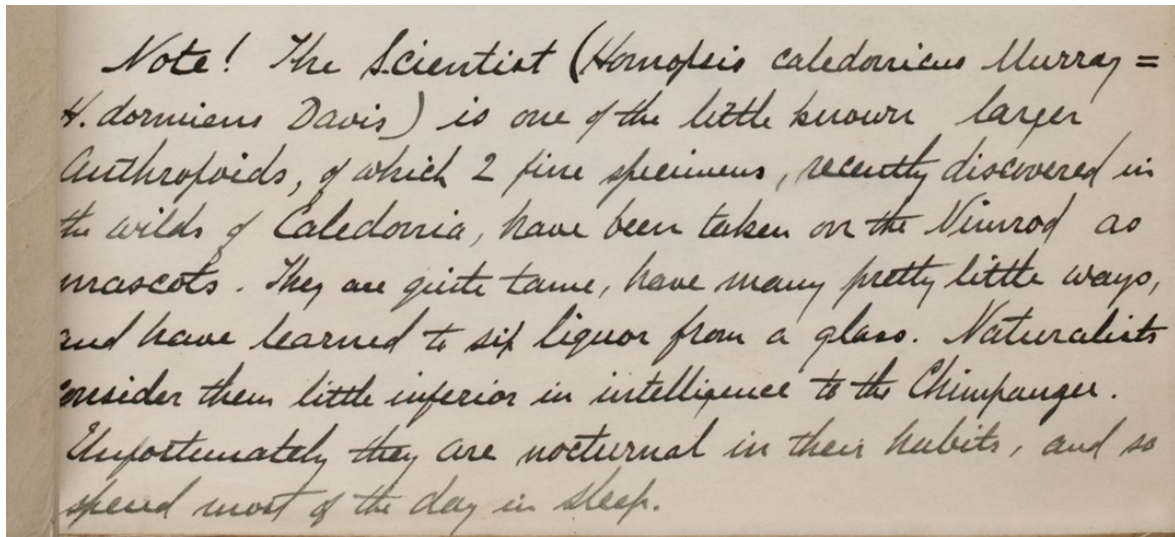
I think t general admiration of party is divided somewha between the Crab-eater and Seal. We have had but few opportu of getting to know the latter, th both are very interesting. No one ever met with Ross' Seal except i pack ice, and possibly his coat be found to vary much if seen a other seasons of th but he has only be in summer when a had a rough

Sea Leopard
chasing Emperor Penguins

E.A.W.

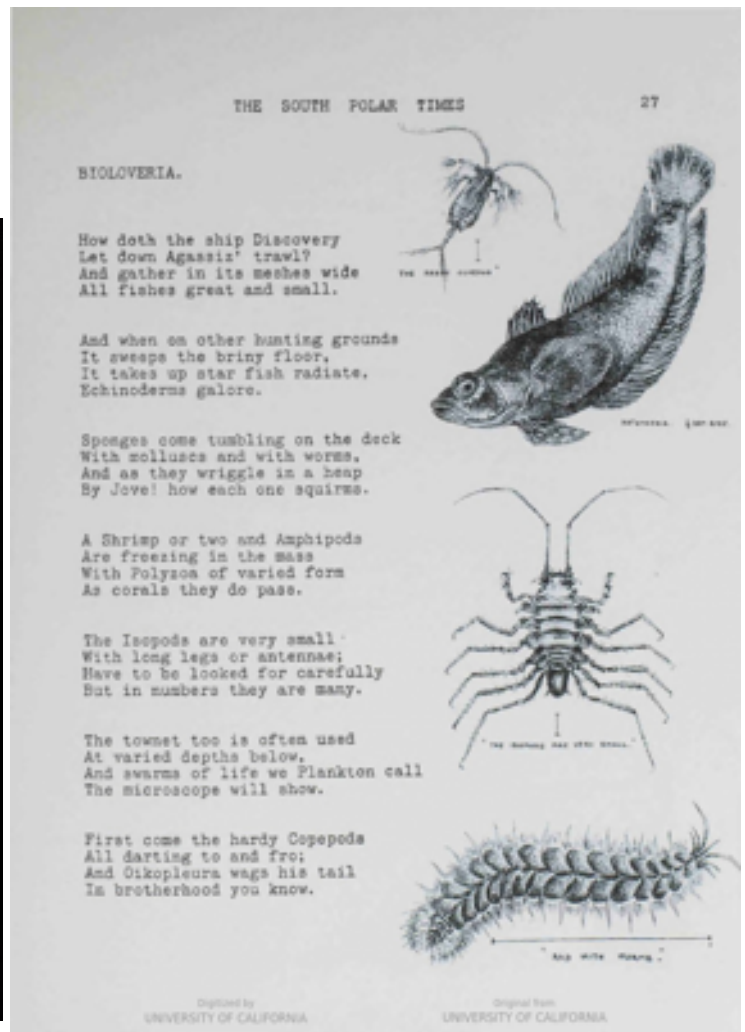
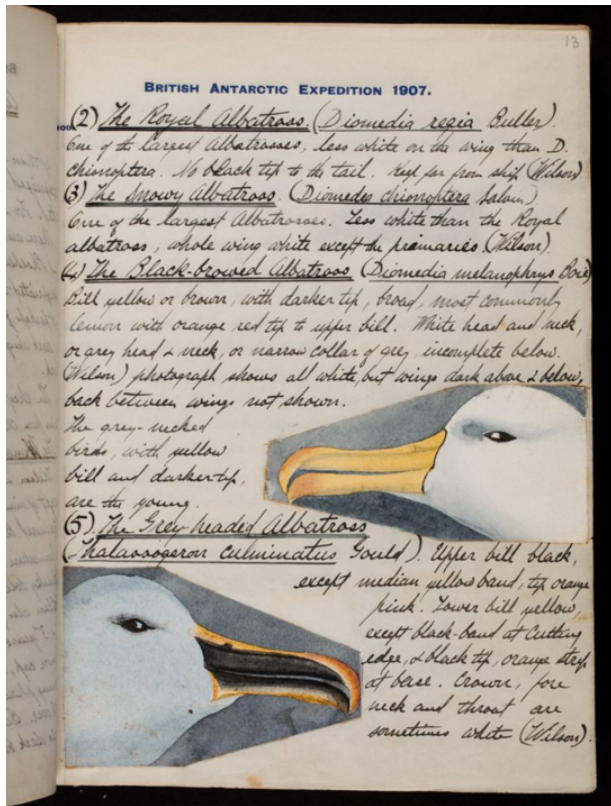


Polar publications provided an outlet for creativity, education, and to let off steam anonymously, as articles were signed with pen names.

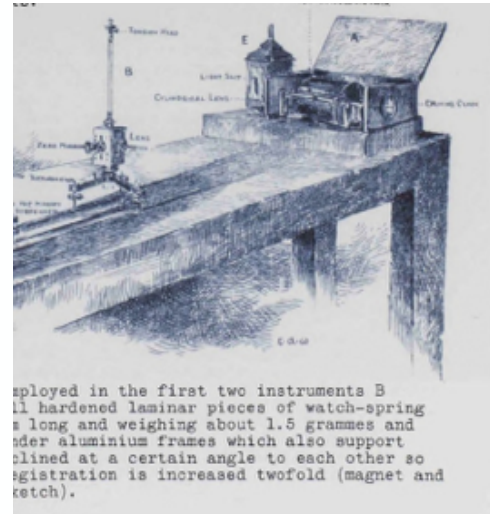


This excerpt from *The Antarctic Petrel* (1907 *Nimrod* expedition) pokes fun at scientists (“they are quite tame ... and have learned to sip liquor from a glass”).

Educational Articles

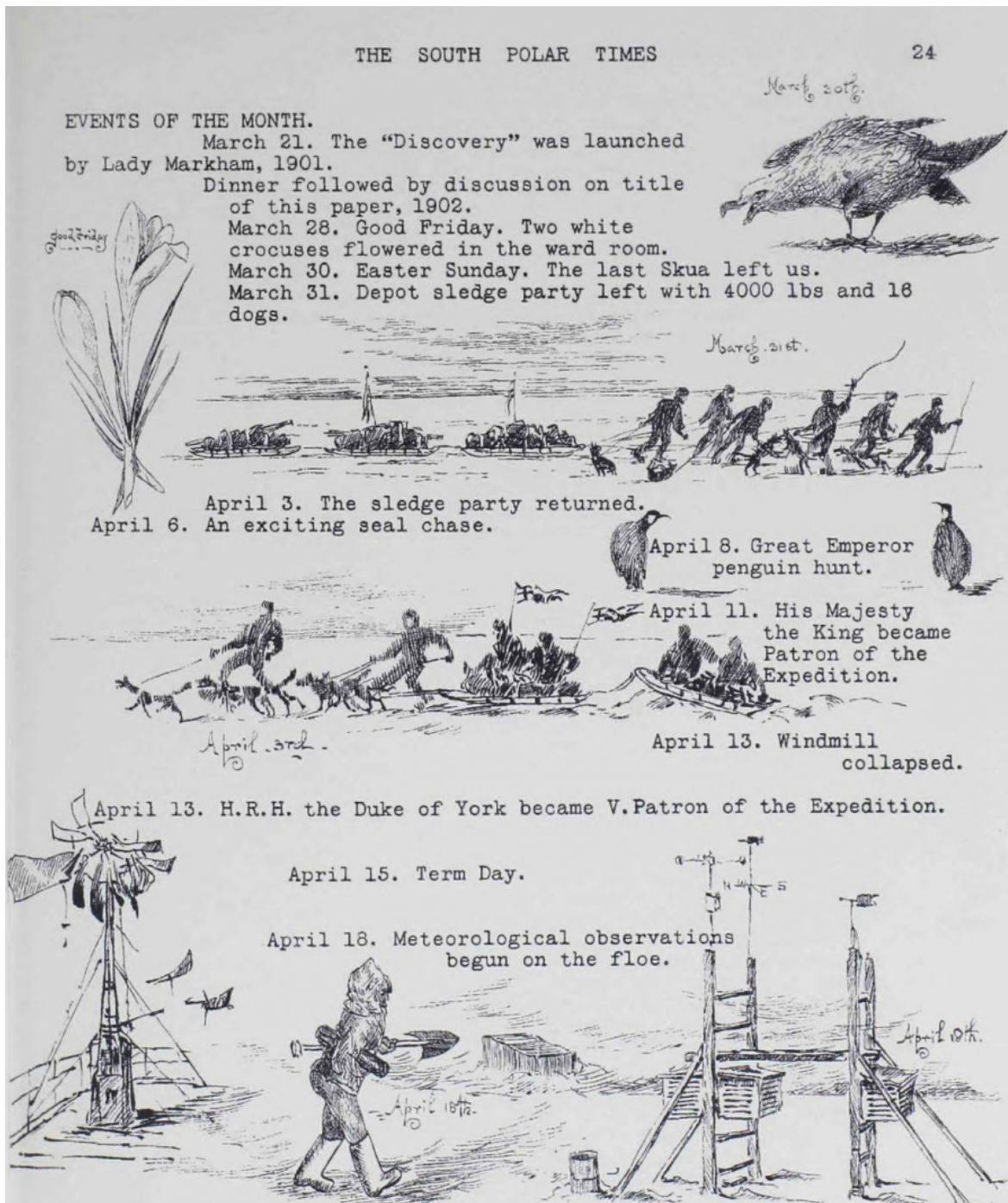


Left: from the *Petrel*; right: from the *South Polar Times* (vol. 1, Scott's *Discovery* expedition, 1901–1904, edited by Ernest Shackleton)

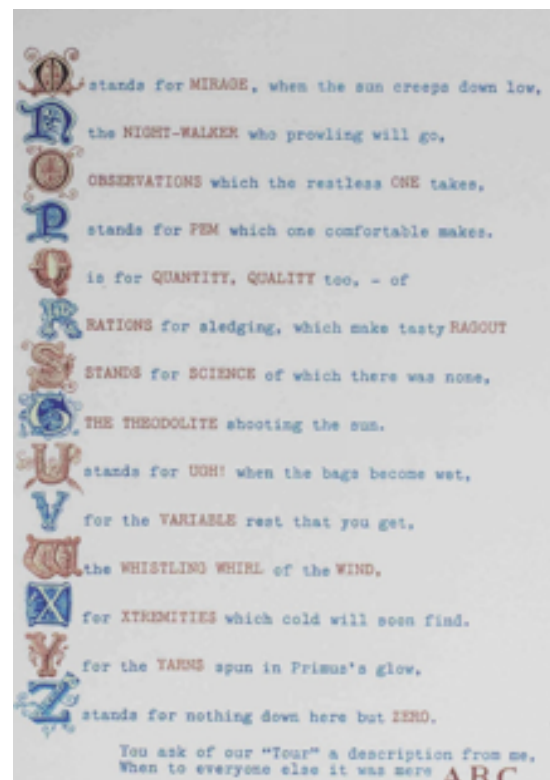
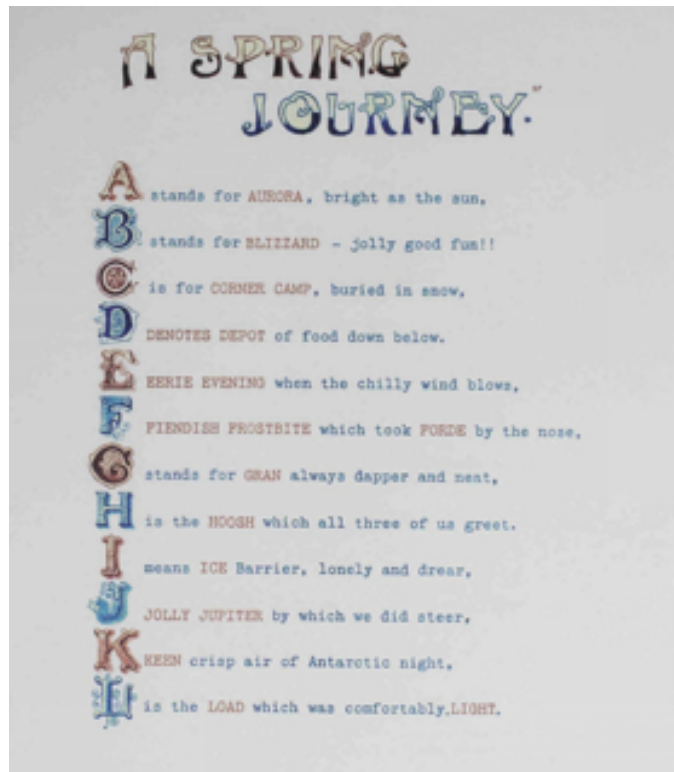


Many pages were devoted to how compasses work at the South Pole, to meteorological observations, cooking with stoves on sledges, sea ice, and even horticulture: Scott's men grew onion, radish, lettuce, turnips, mustard, and cress (the latter two were favorites and grew well).

Records of Daily Activities



Art and Poetry



THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES



There steals upon us day by day a change:
Stealthily creeping o'er the Antarctic world,
Three months of night in seeming endless range
Into a realm of twilight have unfurled.

Night's shadowy form, yet bending darkly o'er,
Her wings erstwhile outspread begins to fold,
And wakening Day proclaims his reign once more
Casting before him beam on beam of gold.

Now creeps upon the bright'ning Northern skies,
A glow of light, forerunner of the Dawn,
Gold, purple, red, in radiant order rise
Diffusing splendour o'er th' ethereal morn.

Now fades the silver crescent to the view
Isis, the goddess of our night is spurned;
Her beauty faded into opal hue,
Her glory overcome, to dulness turned.

Yon distant Western mountains' roseate sheen
 Seems touched with brush of painter, great, unknown;
 Above them Venus hangs, pale beauty's queen,
 As though in rapture drawn to Earthly throne.

Anon, with march triumphant, stately, sure,
 Vanquishing night with dignity sublime,
 The sun with pageant pompous, yet how pure,
 His Southern kingdom floods but for a time.

"How long," we cry "have Seasons yet to tread
 "The path of Time, will mortal man ne'er know it?"
 I must be balmy, going off my head!
 I'll grow long hair and call myself a poet.

FITZ-CLARENCE.



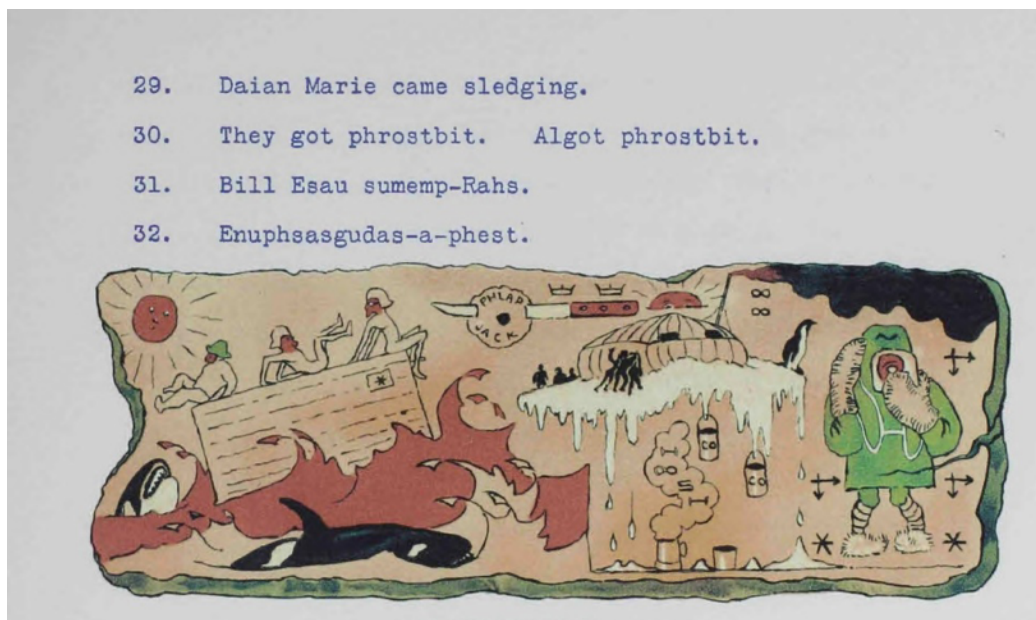
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 'SOUTH POLAR TIMES'

NAME	RANK	NOMS DE PLUME	CARDINALS
R. F. SCOTT	Captain	Acronica, Glimpses of Flora, Experts Credo, Jura, Ig- notus	—
A. B. ARMITAGE	Second in Command	Eggs and	The Pilot
C. W. R. ROYDS	1st Lieutenant	Lois, Meteorologist, Birds	Our Charlie
M. BARNE	2nd Lieutenant	Via Clarence	Mr. Frostbite
E. H. SHACKLETON	3rd Lieutenant	Editor, Nemo	The Passenger
G. F. A. MULLOCK	4th Lieutenant	—	Little Pecosito
R. W. SKELTON	Engineer	Hydrogen, Sledge Cook	Skelly
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E. A. WILSON	Director, Artist, Zoologist	Zingiber	Hilly
T. V. HODGSON	Biologist	Anon.	Muggins
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L. C. BERNACCHI	Physicist	Veritas, Leadstone	A Pearl of the Pumpkin Tree
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C. R. FORD	Ship Steward	C. R. F., Historian	—
J. CROSS	Petty Officer	Jumper	—
T. KENNAR	Petty Officer	Jacker	—
A. L. QUARTLEY	Leading Stoker	Sea Leopard	—
F. WILD	Able Seaman	Shell-back	—
C. CLARKE	Ship's Cook	Banana	—

Left: List of *noms de plume*, published in the *South Polar Times*



Top: Illustration by Edward Wilson for the *South Polar Times* (he did many);
bottom: silly hieroglyphic parody





Go ahead! Drop off your
article in the submissions box!

References

The Antarctic Petrel, vol. 1: [https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?](https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE2524747&dps_custom_att_1=emu)

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South Polar Times, vol. 3: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31822039258322&seq=10>

Anne Fadiman, “The World's Most Southerly Periodical,” <https://www.harvardreview.org/content/the-worlds-most-southerly-periodical-2/>

In addition, there is the *Blizzard* (1902) (Scott’s *Discovery* expedition), and the *Aurora Australis*, the “first book ever written, printed, illustrated and bound in the Antarctic.” Produced by members of the British Antarctic Expedition of 1907–1909, it was edited by Commander Ernest Shackleton. I like the handmade nature of the *Petrel* and the *South Polar Times*, the former of which was entirely handwritten in pen and ink and the latter of which was bound in seal skin! Many thanks to Naomi Boneham, archivist at the Scott Polar Research Institute.