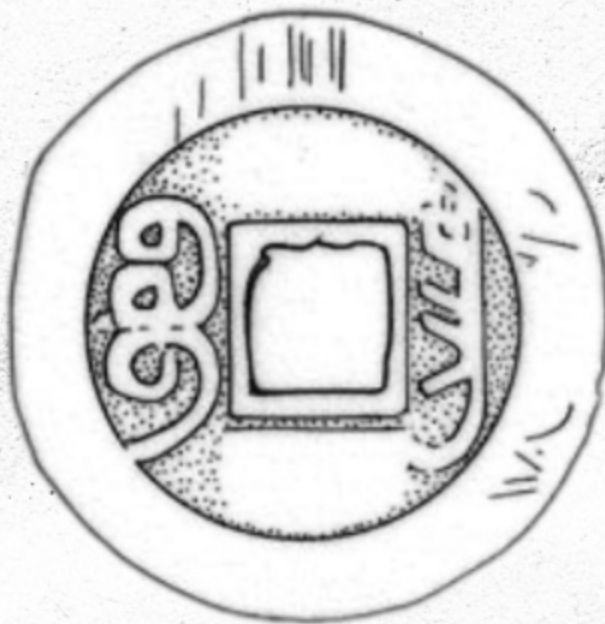
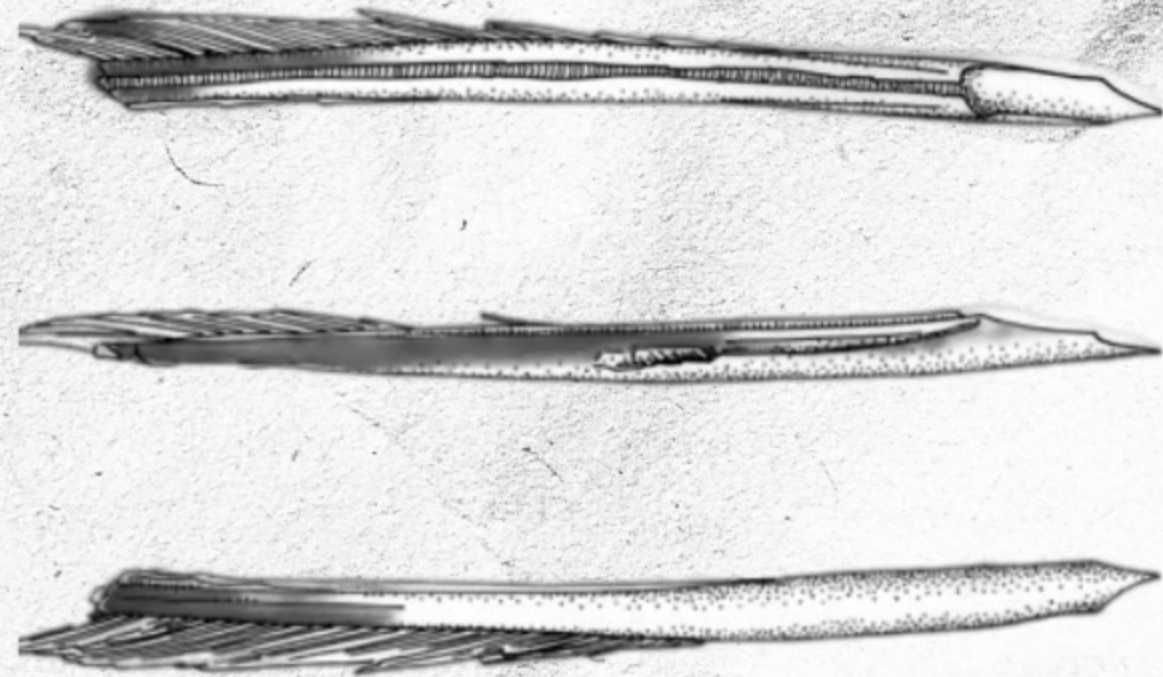
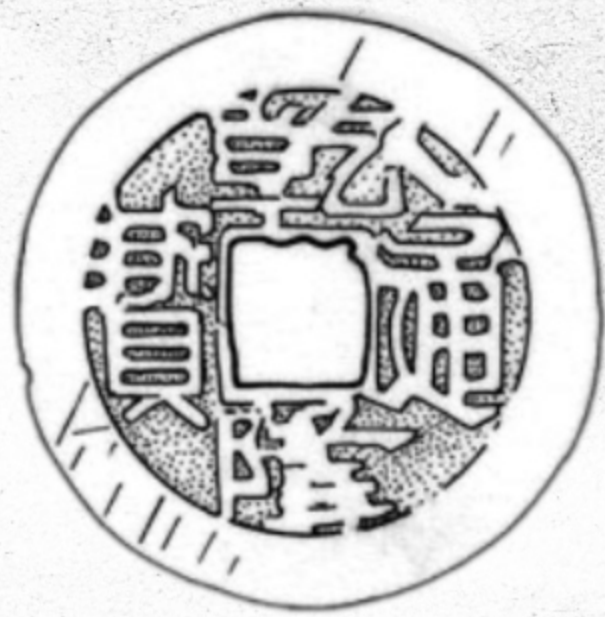


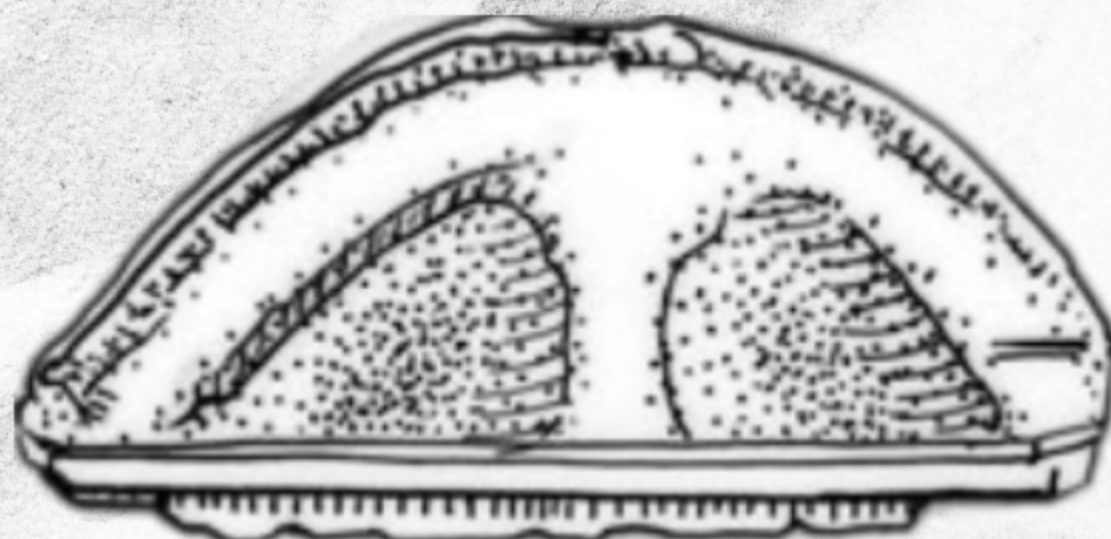
*HMS Erebus about 30 miles
distant from the Coast of
Greenland near Holsteinberg
1st July 1845*

**“I enclose a letter for Mrs.
Foster from Hoar. He
spoke of her yesterday to
me in a kind way &
expressed his hope that
she would remain with
you till our return.
He is a reliable & careful
servant.”**

John Franklin in his last^{}
letter to his wife, Jane*



Ed. Hoar
⚓

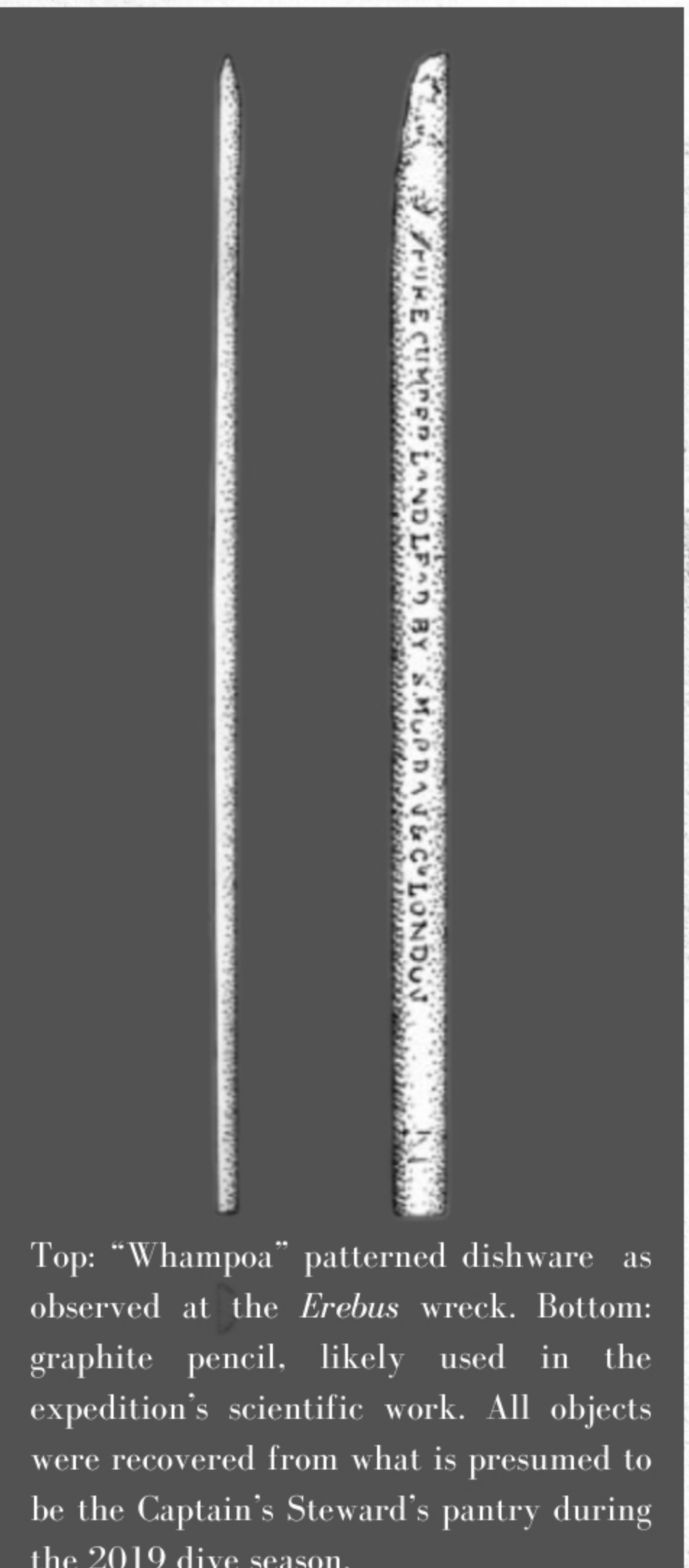


ORIGINAL IMAGES BY PARKS CANADA

Why Hoar?



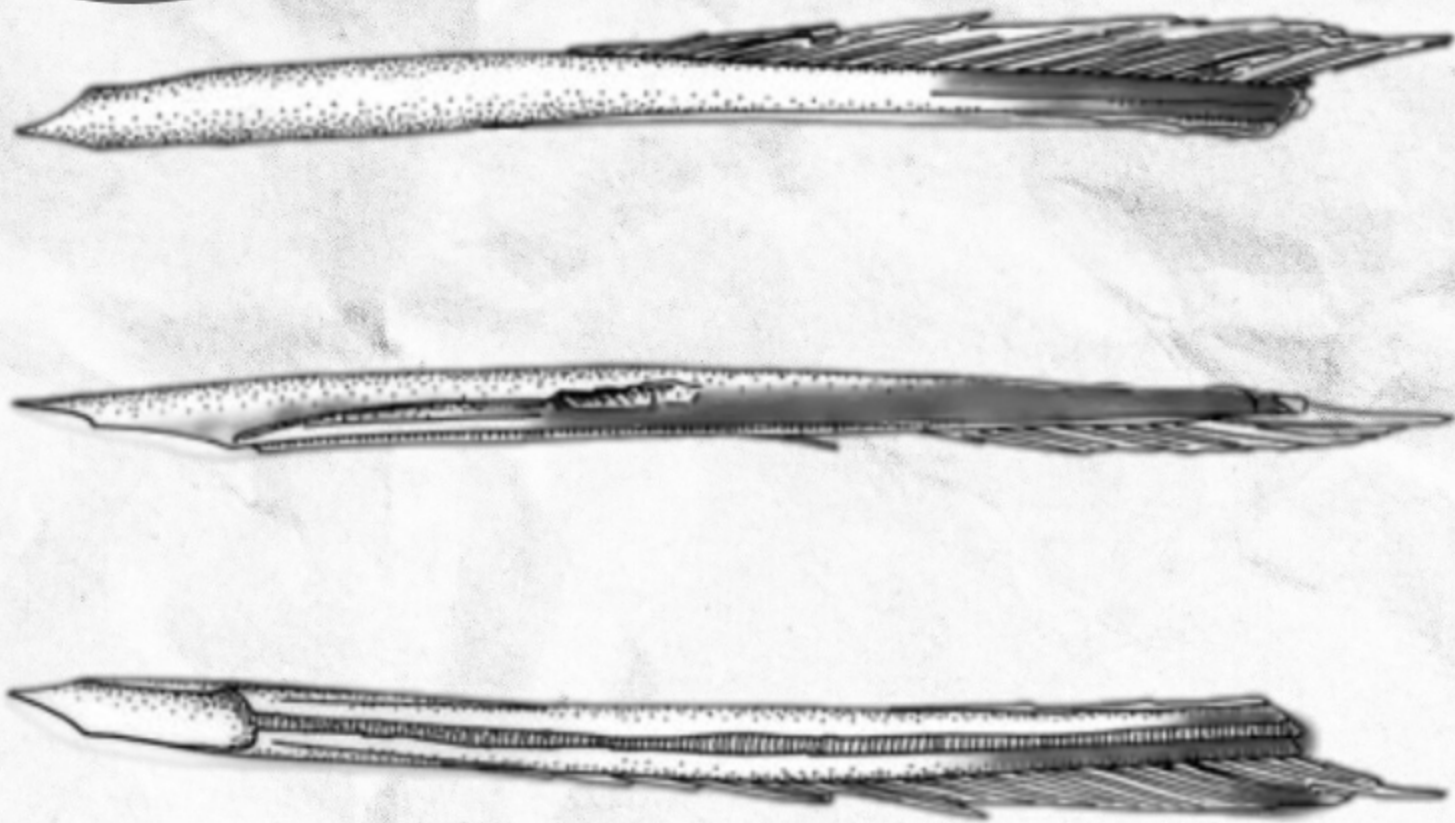
Coffee beans found on the floor
of the Captain's Steward's pantry.



After I began researching the real history behind *The Terror* (2018), I saw a series of posts about fans trying to track down surviving examples of the “Whampoa” dishware brought on the expedition. I was amazed by the passionate attention to detail — and I wondered, almost immediately, whose job it had been to wash these beautiful, fragile dishes in the Arctic temperatures.

Thanks to the television show, most fans are intimately familiar with the names Jopson, Bridgens, and Gibson. The show depicts not only the physical labors involved in a steward’s work, but the emotional labors, too: Jopson’s devoted service is the key to Crozier’s last-ditch attempt at sobriety, and the infamous “There will be poems” line is spoken by Bridgens at Fitzjames’ deathbed. After learning that the show’s line about Jopson serving with Crozier in Antarctica was true, I began to wonder about Franklin’s steward: who was he? What brought him to the Arctic — was it loyalty to his captain, like Jopson? Many of the men on the Franklin Expedition had crossed paths before, especially in China — could Franklin’s steward have been another thread in this globe-spanning web of platonic connections? Still thinking of the dishes, I turned to Parks Canada’s artifacts list. The very first artifact under their 2019 page was credited as being found in the “presumed Captain’s Steward’s pantry.” I was stunned: here was Franklin’s steward again, and here too were the tools of his labor.

Top: “Whampoa” patterned dishware as observed at the *Erebus* wreck. Bottom: graphite pencil, likely used in the expedition’s scientific work. All objects were recovered from what is presumed to be the Captain’s Steward’s pantry during the 2019 dive season.



EDMUND CHARLES HOAR

About a week or so after I had begun delving into the mystery of why there were so many artifacts from Hoar's pantry* that had been recovered, major news broke in the Franklin-verse: during the 2022 dive season, a leather folio had been recovered that "might have written materials inside." If the labs are able to pull any salvageable writing from these pages, it would be the first new writing from the expedition itself recovered in well over a century.

And it would have been written by a steward.

It is tempting to draw the obvious parallel between Hoar's papers and the Peglar Papers: the latter were, after all, discovered on the body of a man in a steward's uniform. Peglar, like Hoar, had previously traveled with other Franklin Expedition sailors. Peglar, like Hoar, was a working-class sailor who probably never expected his name to carry such fame. Unlike Peglar, however, Hoar was up close and personal with Sir John Franklin each and every day. He was close enough to be mentioned in the Captain's final letter to his wife, and close enough that he was sending his own letter to Lady Franklin's maid, Mrs. Foster. Even if the folio is just a list or laundry, it will give incredible insight into the daily life of both officers and their servants.

Left: assorted quills. Top right: leather book cover embossed with "Stoddard's Preparatory Latin Book." Bottom right: coffee beans. Objects recovered during the 2019 dive season; as of this conference, no objects from the 2022 dive season have been made available to the public.

*According to Simon Hoar, the plank above Edmund's pantry happened to be broken.



THE HOAR FAMILY

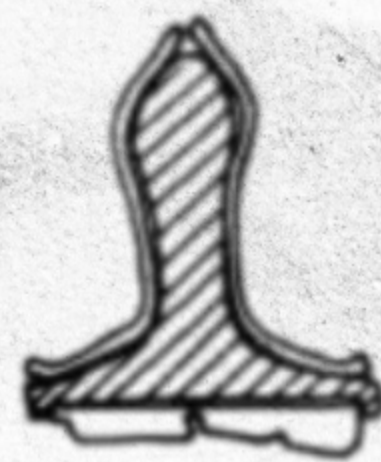
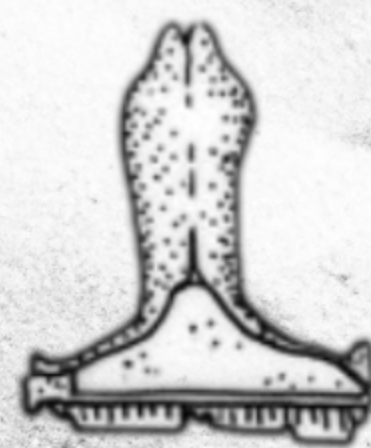
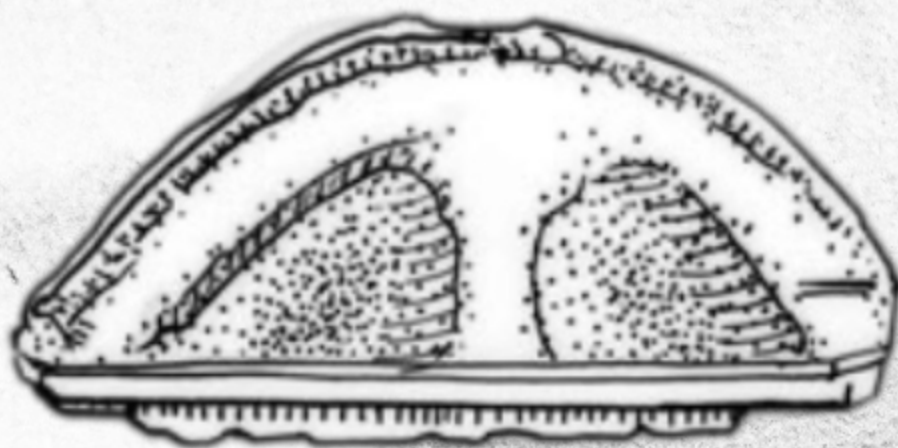
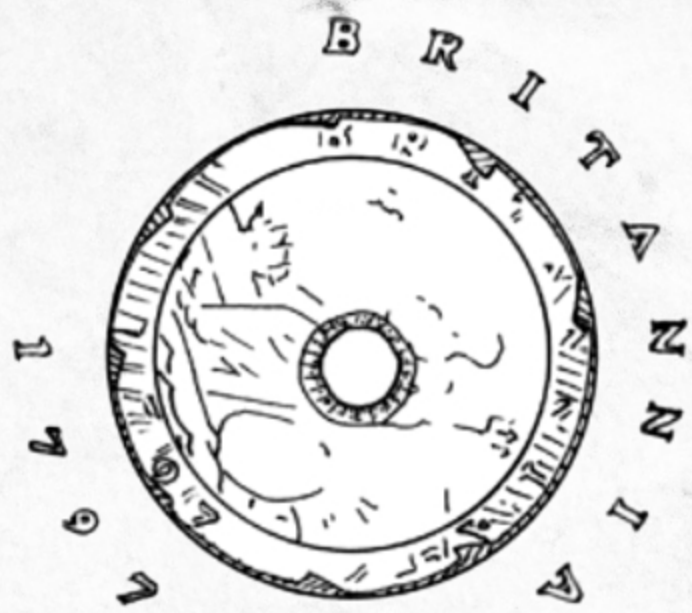
Edmund Charles was born in Portsea in 1822. He was the eldest son of shipwright John Hoar and his wife Susannah. Edmund's descendants suspect he was most likely educated until the age of 12 and then apprenticed to his father; as of today, no records confirming this theory have been located. Pictured above is Edmund's younger brother Henry, born 1825, who ran away to sea at age 13 and had a long career as a gunner in the Royal Navy. According to Henry's great-great-grandson, Simon Hoar, the Hoar family had been working as shipwrights in Portsea for many generations. This tradition continues today: Simon himself is a boatbuilder. Edmund and Henry had two younger sisters, Harriet Lucy, born 1827, and Ann Marie, born 1830. In 1860, when the Admiralty awarded Edmund's posthumous polar medal to his father, Ann named her son Edmund Charles in honor of her late brother.

Henry is wearing Edmund's polar medal (white) and China campaign medal (red) on his right-hand side.

According to Simon Hoar, the brothers had a great-uncle, James Gore, who partook in three rescue attempts aboard *HMS Enterprize* and *HMS Assistance*.

IMAGES & BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
COURTESY OF SIMON HOAR

Before Franklin



In 1841, Edmund Hoar, then 19 years old, enlisted in the Royal Navy as a shipboard domestic. His first entry, on *HMS Cornwallis*, lists him as being 5'11 1/2" tall and vaccinated against smallpox, with blue eyes, a fair complexion, light hair, and an anchor tattooed on his right arm.

Many other members of Franklin's expedition famously served on *HMS Cornwallis* during its time in Nanking: James Fitzjames, Charles Des Voeux, George Hodgson, and Stephen Stanley all overlapped with Hoar at the close of the First Opium War. On April 5, 1845, just over a month before the Franklin Expedition would set sail, Sir John Franklin mentioned both Hoar and Stanley in a letter to Fitzjames. Both men had visited his home that day; both, it appears, were already known by Fitzjames. From this letter, it seems likely that Hoar was recommended to the expedition by James Fitzjames.

Franklin mentions Hoar as having visited his home from the *HMS St. Vincent*, noting that his "discharge has not yet been sent" and that he himself would personally "enquire about it at the Admiralty." According to naval records, Hoar had enlisted on the *HMS St. Vincent* in 1844 as an able seaman — not as a domestic. As a low-rated AB, he wouldn't have qualified for the dangers of an Arctic voyage; as the Captain's Steward, hand-picked by one of his officers, however, Edmund was free to go.

Top: 1797 "Cartwheel" coin of British origin. Bottom: Qianlong Tongbao coin minted during the reign of the fifth Qing emperor. Both coins were found in the Captain's Steward's pantry aboard *Erebus*, and were likely collected by Edmund Hoar.

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Ed. Hoar
