

### **British Antarctic 'Terra Nova' Expedition**

Following his earlier *Discovery* expedition (1901–04), Captain Scott returned to Antarctica in 1910, leading the *Terra Nova* expedition. The organisers saw the expedition as primarily scientific and a great deal was collected, observed and recorded by Scott's team – research that is still quoted in modern scientific literature. But the desire to reach the South Pole first and claim that prize for Great Britain was never far from the party's mind – an ambition only heightened when Scott learnt in Australia on his way to Antarctica that the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, was also intent on claiming the same prize.

The story of how Scott journeyed to the pole only to find Amundsen had got there first, and how Scott and his four companions – Wilson, Bowers, Oates and Evans - died on the journey back, has become one of the great stories of British history. In this, the centenary year of his death, events and exhibitions across the world have examined and explained the enormous contribution Scott's party made to our understanding of Antarctica, as well as bringing inspiration to many with the courage shown in the pursuit of his goals.



### **Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge**

The Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) was founded in 1920 as a centre for research into both polar regions as a testament to Captain Scott. It is part of the University of Cambridge and is a sub-department of the Department of Geography. Today it continues Scott's commitment to science with world class research in polar science and exploration.

The Institute has several research groups investigating a range of issues in both the environmental sciences and social sciences of relevance to the Arctic and Antarctica. The polar library, which includes the Shackleton Memorial Library, has comprehensive holdings of scholarly books and journals on polar research, with exceptional archival collections from the exploration of the Antarctic and Arctic. SPRI also has extensive online resources, including bibliographic and other information.

Around 60 academic, library and support staff, together with postgraduate students, associates and fellows attached to its research programmes, are working in the Institute, providing a strong core of intellectual activity focused on the Arctic and Antarctic and their adjacent seas. SPRI offers two Graduate Degree courses; a one-year Master's Degree (M.Phil.) course in Polar Studies, and a three-year Doctoral Degree course, leading to a Ph.D. degree. Both courses are closely tied to the research activities of the Institute.



### **United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust**

Inspired by the need to recognise and conserve Britain's long and distinguished history of exploration and scientific research, the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust was set up as a charity in 1993.

The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust works to conserve Antarctic buildings and artefacts, and to promote and encourage the public's interest in their Antarctic heritage.

It achieves this by operating Port Lockroy Museum and Gift shop; undertaking conservation of historic sites on the Antarctic Peninsula and elsewhere; engaging in outreach and fund-raising; and running a grant giving programme to those that will promote and encourage the public's interest in their Antarctic heritage.

In recent years, the Trust's main activity has been a project to preserve Scott's hut and the three others which survive from those days in the Ross Sea area. An appeal was launched in 2002 by the Princess Royal. An initial £3.5 million was raised, partly for planning and preparations, and partly to complete all the work needed on the hut at Cape Royds used by Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1907-09 expedition. The focus then moved on to Scott's hut, for which a further £3.5million was needed. Donations and pledges for this sum were secured and the conservation work, which is being managed and carried out by the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, a sister organisation to the UKAHT, is nearing completion.