

## ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION SHIPS 1773 - 2020

### TREATMENT

This exhibit is about Expedition ships reaching Antarctica. It is shown in chronological order. Captain James Cook was the first to cross the Antarctic Circle 17th January 1773, in HMS Resolution, a sloop of war sail rigged ship, near 'Terra Australis Incognita' (Unknown Southern Land). By 1819, explorers inspired by Cook's Southern expedition, became ambitious and eager to venture into the unknown. The sourcing of ships suitable for expeditions, began in earnest.

Sail ships were re-fitted with steam engines, hulls were reinforced to withstand icy conditions, harsh weather and volatile oceans, in efforts to reach, discover, explore, survey and lay claim to this frozen continent for their respective countries. Advancement in steel strengthening and technology in modern day icebreakers, lessened the threat of being crushed in ice. However, being stranded and trapped in drifting ice floe remained a very real danger, as in the 1967 case of Australian icebreakers Nella Dan, Thala Dan (P61-4), 1985 British Southern Quest (P72-3) and Russian icebreaker Mikhail Somov (P76).

### PLAN

Displayed are a variety of Antarctic Expedition ships from different countries. Includes discoveries, maps, routes, countries departed, arrival dates and a variety of ship memorabilia by way of newspaper items, postal mail, letters, reproduced photos onto stamps, postcards and maximum cards.

SHIPS EXHIBITED		ERA	PAGE
Sail Rigged Ships:	HMS Resolution, Vostok, Jane, Tula, Astrolabe	1773 - 1840	2 - 5
Rigged Steamers:	Erebus, Terror, Challenger, Belgica, Gauss, Antarctica	1839 - 1904	6 - 14
Rigged Steel Hull Steam Rescue Ship:	Uruguay - Izibar	1903	15
Rigged Coal Steamers:	Discovery - Scott, Nimrod - Shackleton	1901 - 1909	16 - 20
Rigged Diesel Steamer:	Fram - Amundsen	1910 - 1912	21 - 24
Rigged Coal Steamer:	Terra Nova - Scott	1910 - 1913	25 - 28
Rigged Coal Steamer Steel Reinforced:	SY Aurora - Davis	1911 - 1914	29 - 32
Rigged Coal Steamer:	Endurance - Shackleton	1914 - 1916	33 - 36
Rigged Schooner Steamer:	Quest - Shackleton/Rowett Expedition	1921 - 1924	37
WW1 Steel Freighter:	Jacob Rupert - Byrd Expedition II	1928 - 1935	38 - 39
Rigged Freighter Steamer:	Bear of Oakland Support Ship - Byrd	1928 - 1935	40 - 41
Motorised Oak & Armour:	HMAS Wyatt Earp - Wilkins	1933 - 1948	42 - 44
W11 Steel Landing Ship Tank:	HMAS LABUAN Support Ship	1946 - 1951	45 - 46
British Diesel Wooden Support Ship:	MV Trepassy	1947 - 1964	47
Australian Ice Breakers:	Kista Dan, Thala Dan, Nella Dan,	1952 - 1987	48 - 50
WWII Military Supply and Transport:	U.S.S. Wyandot and Magga Dan	1956	51
Floating Research Laboratory:	USNS Eitanin	1957 - 1979	52
Icebreakers:	Kista Dan, Thala Dan, Nella Dan	1957 - 1982	53 - 59
Argentine Navy Transport Ship:	ARA Bahai Aguirre	1962	60
Japanese Icebreakers:	Fuji 5001, Shirase 5002	1965 - 2008	61 - 66
Australian Icebreakers:	Nella Dann, Thala Dann	1967 - 2017	67 - 69
German Oceanographic and Hydrographic Ships:	Polarqueen, Polarstern	1981 - 1984	70 - 71
British Trawler Oil Pollution Control	Southern Quest	1985 - 1986	72 - 73
Icebreaker:	Akademik Schokalsky	1983 - 2017	74 - 75
Icebreakers:	Mikhail Somov, Aurora Australia, L'Astrolabe, Nuyina	1985 - 2020	76 - 80

### SIGNIFICANT ITEMS OF INTEREST

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1907-09 Letter sent to a fictitious person on the Nimrod Expedition returned to N.Z	20
1910-12 South Pole Discoverer Roald Amundsen's signature on Fram postcard	24
1911-14 Loose Ships Letter Posted at Macquarie Island S.Y. Aurora - PMK Hobart 21 DE 11	30
1921-3 Sir Hubert Wilkins Polar Explorer and Aviator signature on cover	42
1939-48 Signature of last surviving crew member from 1948 expedition on HMAS Wyatt Earp	43
1946-51 First Director A.N.A.R.E. Phillip Law's signature on letter carried by HMAS Labuan	6
1954 Mail from USA to first Post Officer at Mawson Station carried by Kista Dan	50
1967 Letter detailing Thala Dan and Nella Dan life trapped in ice	61-64

**RESEARCH REFERENCES:** Stamp Catalogues - Campbell Paterson Ltd Cat. of N.Z. Stamps 1855 - 1982. Falkland Islands & Dependencies. B.A.T Postal History & Cancells 1800 - 2006 (Wilkins cover described as 'rarer item')  
 Websites - The Ships of Antarctic Explorers, [www.coolantarctic.com/history](http://www.coolantarctic.com/history), [www.antarctica.gov.au](http://www.antarctica.gov.au)