



## Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (1902-1904)

While "science" was the talisman of the expedition,  
"Scotland" was emblazoned on its flag.

### Background,

Bruce began his medical studies (never completed) in Edinburgh where he became friend with the geographer Hugh Robert Mill a Scotsman (Royal Geographical Society in London). Mill did unlock the door of polar exploration to Bruce:

- 1 - For the post of as naturalist/surgeon of the Dundee whaling expedition, Bruce sailed on *Balaena* to the Antarctic (1892 - 1893).
- 2 - In 1896 for the job as a zoologist he was a member of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition to the arctic on steamship *Windward*. When Bruce was at the winter quarters on Northbrook Island he met Fridtjof Nansen who the whole world community thought had been lost with *Fram*.
- 3 - In 1898 Bruce was asked to join the yacht *Blenckathra*, in charge of Meteorology and Deep Sounding, for an expedition to the Arctic. While in Tromsø Bruce met Prince Albert of Monaco. Bruce was delighted to join *Princess Alice*.

Few people in the British Isles at the beginning of the 20th century had the expertise of W.S. Bruce when it came to working in polar conditions. It's the reason why W.S. Bruce refused to be only an assistant scientist on *Discovery* Expedition led by R. F. Scott, as proposed by Sir Clement Markham. He choose to prepare the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition.

**My Purpose,** is to present a documented celebration of the under estimated polar scientist William Speirs Bruce.

The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition was led by William Speirs Bruce on the whaler *Scotia*. The expedition operated in the Weddel Sea area and wintered in the South Orkney Islands.

The expedition's main aims were scientific and included the mapping of the South Orkneys Islands and the installation of a scientific station, later manned by the Argentine government .

Before the homeward bound they discovered in Antarctica a new land called Coats Land.

Information about philately, cancellation and expedition strike are indicated in red. Red arrow: main information about documents.

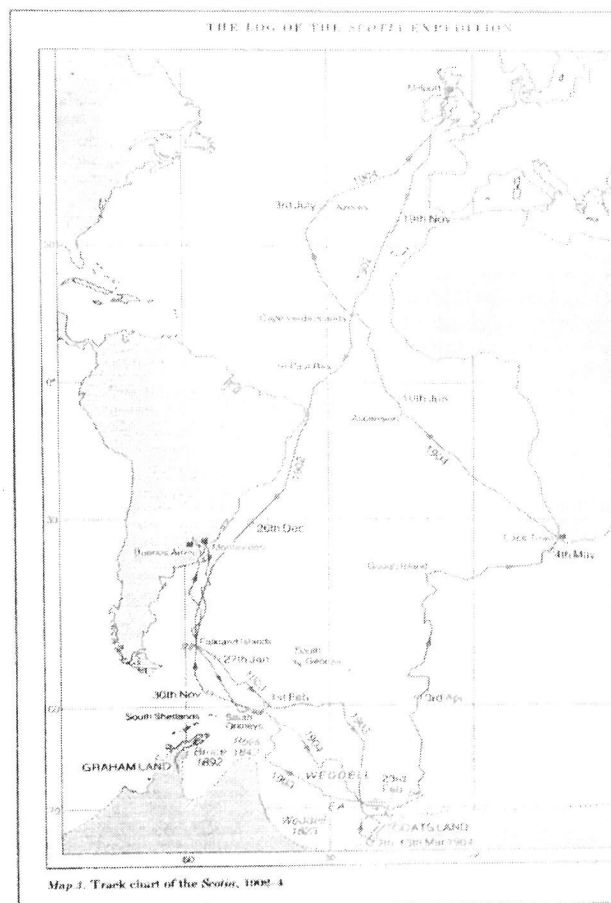
**Plan of the exhibit :** Following the track of *Scotia*

**References:** Essence of Polar Philately: Hal Vogel, 2008, (ASOPP).

The Voyage of *Scotia*: by three of the Staff, William Blackwood and Sons 1906  
A Naturalist to the Pole: D. W. S. Bruce by R.N. Rudmose Brown  
London Seeley 1923

Scotland & the Antarctic: James A. Goodlad, Royal Scottish Geographical Soc.2003  
Antarctic Posts: D. J. H. Harvey Pirie 1975.

The Log of the *Scotia* W.S. Bruce ed. Speak 1992.



Map 1. Track chart of the *Scotia*, 1902-4