

Notice

The Voyages of the “Discovery.” ANN SAVOURS. London: Virgin Publishing, 1992. Limpback edition, 1994. xvi, 384 pages, illus., maps. ISBN 0 86369 811 5.

The wooden auxiliary barque *Discovery* was for many years before and after World War II one of the landmarks of London, located beside the Thames Embankment. In 1956 she went “home” to Dundee, the Scottish port where she was built at the turn of the century for the National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1905, which was led by Captain R.F. Scott, on his first Antarctic voyage. The *Discovery* was bought by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1905. Until 1911 she was the annual supply ship, sailing from London to Hudson Bay, calling at York Factory and Charlton Island (for Moose Factory).

During World War I, the *Discovery* formed part of the fleet of merchant ships owned or chartered by the venerable company, which acted as purchasing agent for the French government. She was refitted to become the first Royal Research Ship (R.R.S.) of the Royal Navy and carried the *Discovery* (Oceanographic) Expedition, 1925-27, to the Southern Ocean and the British, Australian, and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition, led by Sir Douglas Mawson, 1929-31, to the Antarctic.

Perhaps the main interest to the Canadian archivist is the range of original sources for this “biography” of a sailing ship. Amongst these are logs and papers in the Royal Geographic Society; logs and correspondence in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg; official documents in the Public Record Office, Kew; and other manuscripts in the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and in Australian and New Zealand repositories, besides letters and diaries in private hands.

The result of thirteen years’ study, the book won a “Best Book of the Sea” Award on the publication of the hardback edition in 1992.

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