Ships: Hersilia, Frederick, Freegift, Express, and Hero Purpose: Sealing Bibliography: 8, 17, 43, 74, 75, 103, 107, 136, 224 Late in 1820 this fleet from Stonington, Connec-(11) 1822-1824 Great Britain Leaders: Capts. James Weddell and Matthew Brisbane Sponsor: Enderby Brothers Ships: Jane and Beaufoy

Purpose: Sealing

Bibliography: 51, 62, 119, 227, 231, 262

In February 1823, during a period when the

water was unusually free of highly pressured pack

ice, James Weddell, in the Jane, safely penetrated

the dangerous sea which was to bear his name. He

reached a record latitude of 74°15'S, but a strong

wind change apparently kept the ships from reach-

ing the Filchner Ice Shelf. During the voyage, Wed-

dell made notations of magnetic variations, the

nature and movement of the ice, and wind and

water currents. Brisbane in the Beaufoy roughly

charted the southern coasts of the South Orkney

Weddell had first visited the South Shetlands in

1820-1821 and again in 1821-1822 with Michael

McCloud in command of the Beaufoy. He is known

to have mapped part of the South Shetlands in

1821-1822. McCloud probably independently dis-

covered the South Orkneys in December 1821, six

days after Powell and Palmer. It is not certain that

Weddell was aboard. He added to the chart of the

Foster sailed beyond the South Shetland Islands,

landed upon and named Cape Possession of Hosea-

son Island, then sailed north to set up headquarters

at Deception Island. Here, in Port Foster, the party

stayed for two months. In order to further research

attempting to establish the true determination of the

earth's magnetic field, Foster made a series of mag-

netic observations. He measured the force of gravity

at that location by observing the swinging of a pen-

dulum. This was part of a general plan proposed by

the British Government to determine the earth's

A self-registering thermometer left on the island

was recovered in 1842 by an American sealer; the

minimum temperature recorded during the interval

United States

Sponsors: Edmund Fanning, Benjamin Pendleton, and

Purpose: Primarily sealing; some exploration and scientific

James Eights, naturalist aboard the Annawan,

made remarkably accurate observations on the ge-

ology of the South Shetland Islands and described

the first fossil recorded from the Antarctic, a piece

of carbonized wood. Eights also described new spe-

cies of crustaceans found in the coastal waters of

the South Shetlands. He recorded several species of

land plants, and described seals and dolphins,

though he did not know their scientific names. His

descriptions of birds included the King penguin,

which is now unknown in the South Shetlands.

Using observations of winds, currents, plant and

animal life, and ice-transported boulders, Eights

concluded that an extensive land area existed to the

south. The expedition brought back with it a great

number of natural history specimens, which were

given to various museums and scientific societies in

the United States. Eights subsequently published

several papers on his work in the South Shetlands—

the first scientific work on the Antarctic published

Male elephant seal

(from Folio 18, Antarctic

Map Folio Series)

Leader: Capt. Benjamin Pendleton

Ships: Seraph, Annawan, and Penguin

Bibliography: 8, 17, 41, 52, 69, 74, 137

South Shetlands in 1822–1823.

12 1828-1831 Great Britain

Leader: Capt. Henry Foster, RN

Purpose: Scientific investigation

Bibliography: 51, 143, 230, 262

Sponsor: British Government

Ship: Chanticleer

true shape.

3) 1829—1831

was 5° F(-15°C).

public subscription

by an American.

investigation

ticut anchored in the South Shetland Islands, probably in New Plymouth at the western end of Livingston Island. The seal population here had been greatly depleted, and Capt. Pendleton sent the commander of the Hero, Capt. Nathaniel Palmer, to look for new sealing grounds. Palmer sailed to Deception Island and, continuing south, probably saw and sailed along the western coast of the Antarctic Peninsula in November 1820. In January and February of 1821, and in the succeeding season, commanding the ship James Monroe, Palmer explored the coast of the Peninsula and the adjacent islands, now called the Palmer Archipelago. In February of 1821 Palmer met and talked with the Russian admiral, Bellingshausen, aboard his ship,

(7) 1820-1821 United States Leaders: Capts. John Davis and Christopher Burdick Ships: Huron, Huntress, and Cecilia Purpose: Sealing Bibliography: 8, 17, 224

Two American sealing ships, the Huntress, commanded by Christopher Burdick, and the Huron, commanded by John Davis, joined forces when they met in the Falkland Islands in October 1820. The three vessels set off to collect seals in the South Shetland Islands, after the Huron's crew finished assembling the shallop Cecilia. In February 1821 on an exploratory excursion, Davis commanded the Cecilia through Morton Strait and, on February 7, landed a small party of sealers on the continental coast of Hughes Bay. This was the first documented

8 1820-1822 Great Britain Leader: Capt. George Powell Ship: Dove Purpose: Sealing

Capt. Powell, on a joint cruise with N. B. Palmer

This expedition was unsuccessful in its search for profitable sealing grounds in the South Shetland Islands because of the indiscriminate slaughtering practices of preceding expeditions. The search for seals, however, led to extensive exploration of beaches on King George, Clarence, and Elephant Islands. The most important exploration of the expedition was probably that of Capt. Nathaniel Palmer in the James Monroe. Capt. Palmer cruised eastward with Capt. George Powell, whom he met in the South Shetlands. It was on this joint cruise that the South Orkney Islands were discovered (see preceding summary).

10 1822-1823 United States Leader: Capt. Benjamin Morrell Ship: Wasp Purpose: Sealing Bibliography: 8, 17, 74, 75, 96, 148, no map

course into Antarctic waters near 62°S, 60°W. (6) 1820-1821 United States The responsibility of his cargo kept him from risk-Leader: Capt. Benjamin Pendleton ing storm damage by exploring this area, so he con-Sponsors: Edmund and William Fanning, and others tinued on to his destination. His accounts of land were disbelieved; he was able to confirm his sightings, however, in October 1819 when he returned to the area and claimed for Great Britain the South Shetland Islands. In the Williams he cruised along the coast, landing only once on what is now known as King George Island. The international interest aroused by Smith's discovery encouraged succeeding explorations which were primarily focused on the commercial value of the rich sealing grounds of the new land. At least thirty American and twentyfive British vessels visited the South Shetlands in the austral summer of 1820-1821. The next year the number totaled forty-two. As a result of the sealers' activity the islands were thoroughly explored and roughly mapped in a period of three Great Britain

3) 1819—1820 Leader: Edward Bransfield, Sailing Master, RN Sponsor: British Admiralty in the person of Captain W. H. Shirreff, of H.M.S. Andromache, senior officer of the British naval forces stationed at Valparaiso, Chile Ship: Williams

Purpose: To investigate and claim new land for England Bibliography: 43, 51, 62, 106, 108, 175, 262

Upon returning from his voyage to the South Shetland Islands, William Smith (see preceding account) presented the charts and information of his discovery to Capt. W. H. Shirreff. Shirreff was very much interested in the strategic, commercial, and political possibilities of these new lands and contracted with William Smith, owner of the Williams, to use the ship for more extensive exploration in the Antarctic. Bransfield, sailing master of Shirreff's ship Andromache, was placed in command of the Williams, with Smith as the master and pilot. Bransfield reached the South Shetland Islands in January 1820; during this part of the voyage a rough chart was made of the South Shetlands. He continued southward, and probably saw Tower and Trinity Islands. Turning northeastward, he sailed parallel to the coast of the mainland, and is believed to have seen the northwest coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, which he named Trinity Land. Bransfield next sailed to Elephant and Clarence Islands, where he charted part of the coastlines. He then sailed southeastward, and was stopped by pack ice in the Weddell Sea at 64°50'S, 52°30'W.

4 1819-1820 United States Leader: Capt. James Sheffield Sponsors: Edmund and William Fanning, and others Ship: Hersilia Purpose: Sealing Bibliography: 17, 75, 147

The Hersilia, with James Sheffield commanding and N. B. Palmer on board as second mate, left Stonington, Connecticut with instructions to search for new seal rookeries south of Cape Horn. Somewhere en route the party learned of Smith's exploration, so the Hersilia proceeded directly to the South Shetland Islands. Here they found rich sealing grounds and returned with a highly profitable collection of skins. This news spurred international revival of the sealing industry.

(5) 1819—1821 Leader: Capt. Thaddeus Bellingshausen Sponsors: Tsar Alexander I, and Russian Navy Ships: Vostok and Mirnyy Purpose: Exploration (one of several Russian polar Bibliography: 12, 62, 143, 154, 260, 262

Bellingshausen was the first to circumnavigate Antarctica after Cook's voyage of 1772-1775. He discovered Traversay Islands of the South Sandwich group, Peter I and Alexander Islands, made charts of the South Shetland and South Sandwich Islands, and was the first to map the south coast of South Georgia. Bellingshausen was known as a cautious explorer and recorded as icebergs what may have been distant mountains; in January and February 1820, while sailing between longitudes 2°W and 45°E along the coast of Queen Maud Land, he was close enough to shore on at least two occasions so that sighting mountains would have been possible. Bellingshausen made observations of animal life, including the first clear descriptions of Arctic terns in their wintering quarters in the Antarctic, and also of marine luminescence and seaweeds. His meteorological observations added to the scant knowledge of the wind and current patthe Vostok.

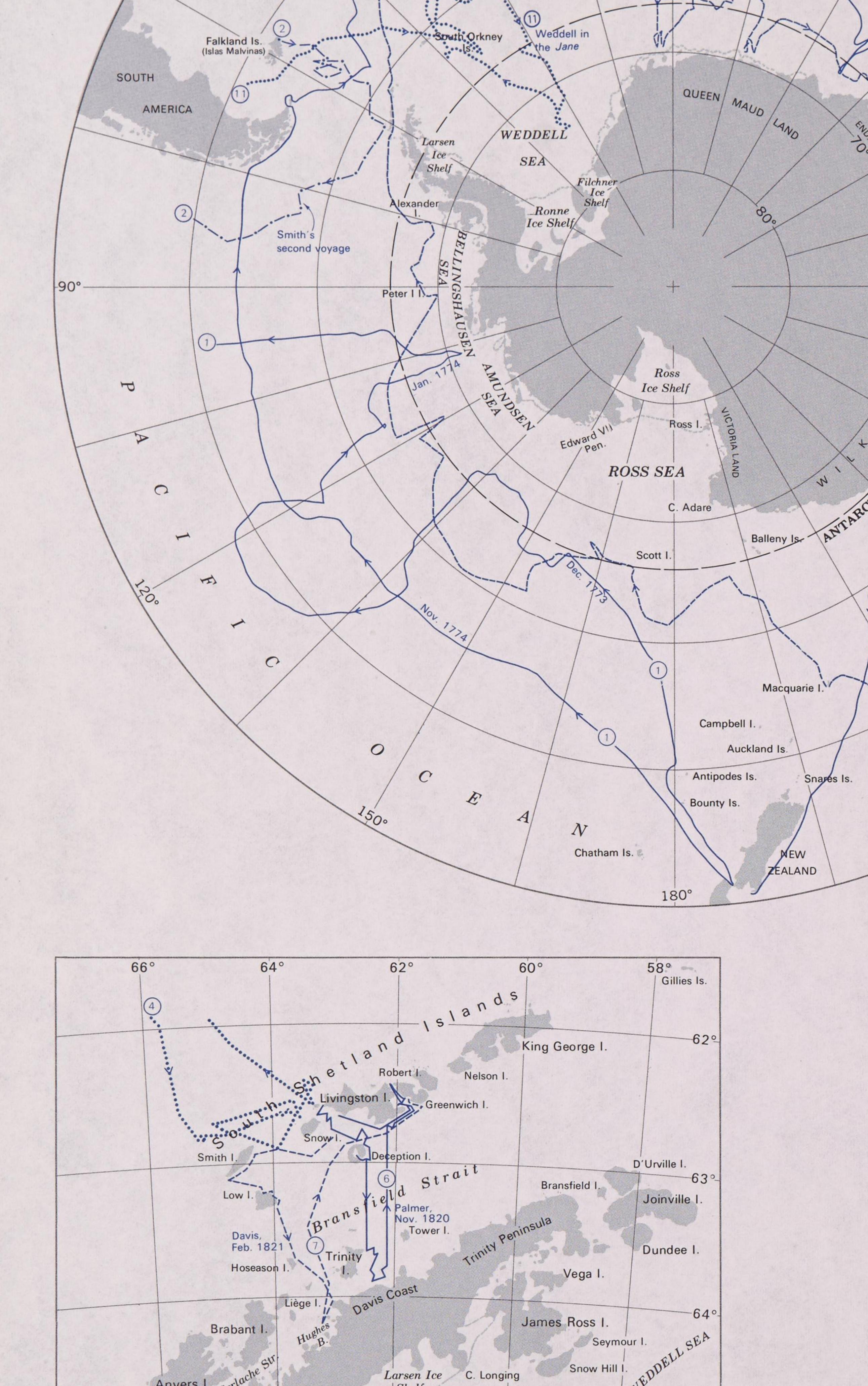
landing of man on the Antarctic mainland.

Bibliography: 8, 147, 262

(see following summary) discovered and charted the South Orkney Islands, which Powell claimed for Great Britain. The two captains also improved the existing maps of the South Shetland Islands, particularly the northern coasts. The names Powell assigned to the features explored by this expedition are more generally accepted than those of later explorers, because of the early publication and wide distribution of his maps.

(9) 1821-1822 United States Leader: Capt. Benjamin Pendleton Sponsors: Edmund and William Fanning, and Benjamin Pendleton Ships: Eight-vessel fleet Purpose: Sealing Bibliography: 8, 17, 62, 74, 75, 224

Morrell made the first landing on Bouvetøya, visited the Kerguelen and South Sandwich islands, probably penetrated the Weddell Sea to 70°14'S, and sighted a part of the coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. Morrell is thought to have stimulated considerable interest in the Antarctic by his controversial book, which is one of only three to be written by Americans who had been in the Antarctic in the first part of the 19th century, though the authenticity of many of his claims has been questioned.



Drake Passage

WEDDELL

EXPLORATORY EXPEDITIONS

(SHEET 1)

Gough I.

Bouvetøya

1 1772-1775 Great Britain Leader: Capt. James Cook Sponsor: British Admiralty Ships: Resolution and Adventure Purpose: Discovery and exploration Bibliography: 54, 55, 79, 188, 260, 262 In August 1768 Cook, then a Lieutenant in the

geographic names

TASMANIA

Prince Edward Is.

Îles Crozet

Îles Kerguelen

Royal Navy, set sail from Plymouth, England for the South Pacific with instructions from the Royal Society to observe the transit of Venus and from the Admiralty to sail south to 40°S in search of a continent and then to proceed westward to explore New Zealand. Cook obeyed his instructions to the letter and of course did not discover Antarctica. In 1772, Cook again set out, this time with instructions to explore as far south as he wished. During the three summers of his expedition, Cook made a nearly complete circumnavigation of Antarctica; during the two winters he cruised in the Pacific. On January 17, 1773 at 40°E he crossed the Antarctic Circle for the first time. In November he started out from New Zealand, and on December 15 the vessel reached 66°S. In January 1774 Cook reached a record south latitude of 71° 10' at 107°W. Though he did not prove the existence of Antarctica, Cook believed that there must be land near the South Pole to supply the huge icebergs he saw; but not a fertile

NOTE: See Plate 10 for additional

and potentially valuable continent. In January 1775, Cook made the first landing on South Georgia, which he named in honor of his sovereign, and charted the northern coast of the island. He also discovered the southern islands of the South Sandwich group.

Great Britain Leader: Capt. William Smith Ship: Williams Purpose: Commercial cargo voyage Bibliography: 51, 119, 142, 143, 260, 262

Bibliographic numerals given with

historical summaries refer to the

text section headed,"Bibliographi

Sources. Bold-face numerals

data given on the maps.

indicate sources of expedition

Sailing from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso in February, 1819, William Smith believed that he had sighted land when he was blown by a storm off