

The Creation of the Scott Memorial Medal of 1913

by Glenn M. Stein, FRGS, FRCGS

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In January 2012, as a quiet remembrance of the struggles of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's South Pole Party 100 years before, I started reading aloud daily entries from Scott's journal each day, with the view of running up to the grim finale of 29 March 1912 – the last date of entry, and his presumed date of death. However, an invitation from the Scott Polar Research Institute called for a change of course, and in company with naval historian, author and publisher Sim Comfort, I was pleased to attend the service to commemorate the centenary of the British Antarctic (*Terra Nova*) Expedition 1910-13, held on 29 March 2012 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

From the start of my personal observance, I took in photographic images from various sources of Scott's last, fatal expedition. During one such session – just shy of the midnight hour – the crisp outlines of four sledgers set against the featureless Antarctic backdrop catapulted me back to the reverse design of the Scott Memorial Medal of the Royal Geographical Society (RGS).



Terra Nova, by Herbert Ponting, 1911 (courtesy Christie's)

Toward Infinity

The attainment of the South Pole by Roald Amundsen, and then Scott, was the pinnacle of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration (1895-1922), but in the years before and after, man's reach exceeded his grasp across the seemingly boundless frozen continent.

After returning home in 1904 from his first Antarctic expedition, Commander Scott was promoted to captain. A primary aim of the expedition had been to reach as far south as possible, and Scott led a team that included Dr. Edward Wilson and Ernest Shackleton, whose final ski run probably did not go beyond 82° 12' S before turning back.¹ Though Scott continued with his naval career, he planned to return south one day.



Mount Erebus on Ross Island, by Dr. Edward A. Wilson (Scott, 2013, volume 1, facing p. 169)

That day came in January 1911, when the *Terra Nova* approached Cape Evans on Ross Island, dominated by Mount Erebus, the southernmost active volcano on Earth. As in his previous venture, Scott's program included exploration and science, along with a run south, this time utilizing mechanized sledges, ponies, dogs and man-hauling. Scott was determined to prove he could make it all the way, and surpass Ernest Shackleton's 1909 farthest record (88° 23' S), in which the latter came within 180 km (112 miles) from the Pole.

On 24 October 1911, the first of Scott's three southern elements departed, aiming for a rendezvous at 80° 32' S. The motor sledge team clanked out of camp, but the machines soon succumbed to mechanical failures, and the team reverted to man-hauling. Scott followed-up with ponies on 1 November, and afterward came two dog sledges. Everyone met up at the rendezvous

on 21 November, and one month later reached the top of the Beardmore Glacier, which gave way to the polar plateau; there were now only three sledge teams, and one more was sent back.

Finally, on 4 January 1912, the Pole Party of five men was set, one more than the original planned four. Scott chose Dr. Edward Wilson, Lieutenant Henry Bowers, Captain Lawrence Oates and Petty Officer Edgar Evans. Since Scott decided take an extra man (Bowers) along, this meant recalculations of food and weight, and a more crowded than usual tent on the trail. Five days later, Shackleton's farthest south was surpassed: but jubilant expectations were soon shattered. On 16 January the white landscape was interrupted by the marker flag left by Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. The following day Scott set down in his journal, "The Pole. Yes, but under very different circumstances from those expected." A tent and messages left by Amundsen greeted the British explorers.



At the South Pole on 17 January 1912. The five are Bowers (seated, left), Wilson (seated, right), Oates (standing, left), Scott (standing, center) and Evans (standing, right). Printed from a negative recovered when the bodies were found. (Lieutenant Henry R. Bowers; Scott, 1925, facing p. 424)

With a 1,287-kilometer trek (800 miles) back to Cape Evans, Scott left the Pole on 18 January. Initially the party made good progress, but as they approached the summit of the Beardmore, two of the men, Wilson and Evans, were suffering particularly badly, the latter having received a concussion during a bad fall. The weather and the limited sledge diet had taken their toll. Evans

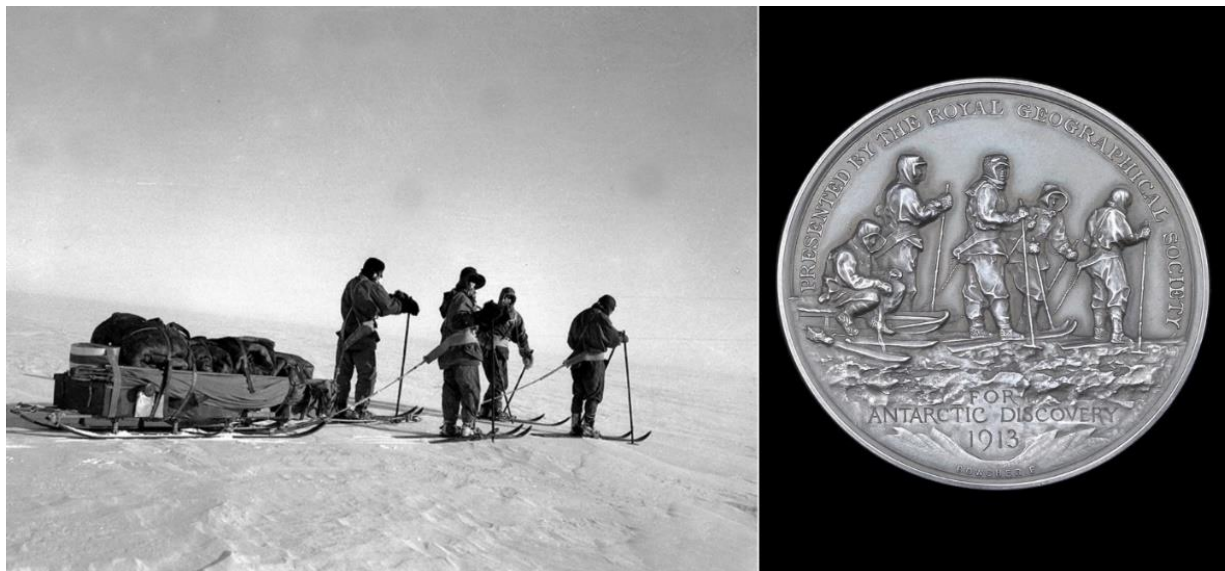
made it to the bottom of the glacier, but died in his sleep on 17 February. A month later, not wishing to continue to hinder his comrades' chances for survival, Oates sacrificed his life by walking out of the tent during a blizzard.

In the meantime, on 26 February, Assistant Zoologist Apsley Cherry-Garrard and Russian Dog Driver Dmitriy S. Girev departed from the coast with two dog teams to deposit extra rations for the Polar Party at One Ton Depot. They arrived on 4 March, but not finding Scott, waited six days, and then, amid deteriorating weather and diminishing supplies, made a turn for home – at this time the desperate Pole Party was fewer than 112 km (70 miles) away. One more attempt to reach Scott was made through the unsuccessful man-hauling trip of Surgeon Edward L. Atkinson and Petty Officer Patrick Keohane.

By 19 March, Scott, Wilson and Bowers had struggled to within 18 km (11 miles) of One Ton Depot – and safety – until a ferocious blizzard trapped them in their tent: Scott set down his last journal entry ten days later. That November, Atkinson led a sledge party which found the three men. Scott was frozen solid, sitting upright, eyes open, and journal in his lap, with Wilson and Bowers leaning against him. The swell of the Heroic Age had reached its peak.

A Medallic Memorial

On 10 February 1913, the *Terra Nova* reached Oamaru, New Zealand, and the world rapidly became aware of the tragedy. By the spring, bureaucratic wheels were well in motion for the creation of the Scott Memorial Medal. Edward Rigg, CB, superintendent of the Operative Department at the Royal Mint² spoke to RGS secretary Dr. John Scott Keltie about the latter's enquiry on having a medal struck for less cost than “through the ordinary channels”. Keltie in turn related this to the society's president (Lord Curzon), who was pleased if this could be done.³



“The Polar Party: On the Trail” and the Scott Memorial Medal (silver), reverse (Lieutenant Henry R. Bowers, Scott, 1925, p. 362; courtesy DNW)

Keltie's letter of 2 June 1913 further laid the groundwork for Rigg to move forward:

I understand if I sent you photographs for the obverse and reverse that you could have the design done and the Medals made from the beginning to end.

Do you think you could give me an estimate, even if only provisional, as to what the whole cost would be from start to finish for say 60 medals – probably about 20 would be silver and the rest bronze. The Medals would be the size of our Royal Medal a bronze replica of which I could send you.

I am sending you now a portrait of Scott which of course would go on the obverse, and I shall probably send you a photograph of a sledging party ready to start for the Pole which might be adapted for the reverse. Possibly the photo is too full faced for a Medal – if so, I might get one more in profile if required.⁴

Other medal designs associated with polar exploration also owe their origins to the camera's eye, with the reverses of the Arctic Medal 1875-76 and Polar Medal 1904 both being taken from photographs. The proposed RGS special medal would ultimately be 2.165 inches (55mm) and 0.15748 inches (4mm) thick, with the silver medals intended for the officers and scientific staff, while the crew would receive it in bronze. Both Poulson (1968) and Poulson and Myres (2000) incorrectly state the medal diameter to be $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches (2.375 inches/60.325mm) and 2.375 inches respectively. Both references also indicate it was also struck in gold (the assumed posthumous issue to Scott), but this was not the case. The assumption was based on prior special medals in gold awarded to expedition leaders, with silver and bronze copies of the same issued to other expedition members.⁵

Three days later, Keltie wrote to Francis Drake, the expedition's secretary and meteorologist in *Terra Nova*, and asked him about obtaining a copy of a slide of the sledge party starting for the Pole, or similar images. Captain Scott's widow, Kathleen Scott, also figured in these exchanges:

I believe Lady Scott has said something to you about giving an Antarctic Medal. The matter is not definitely settled and I should be glad if you would not say anything about it to anybody.⁶

Rigg then came back to Keltie, having spoken to the Deputy Master of the Royal Mint, but could only confirm that

... we are not allowed to do anything officially in the way of making medals except for other Government Departments and, of course, the King, but I shall be very glad if I can help you otherwise in any way.⁷

Rigg continued:

The obverse bearing a portrait of Captain Scott involves far more skilled work than the reverse which you foreshadow. It will be necessary to have a model by an artist from which to make a

*reduction and if you wish I will make enquiries as to the cost of such work: it would of course depend on the artist selected. ... I will leave the question of the reverse until you can let me have the photograph, but would add that the more figures it comprises the more likely it is that a model would be the most expeditious and perhaps even the cheapest method of proceeding. Am I right in assuming that you contemplate something on the lines of the present Polar Medal for the reverse?*⁸



Polar Medal 1904 (silver), reverse (courtesy DNW)

Keltie sent along a copy of a Royal medal to Rigg for the purpose of sizing, and he hoped to shortly send a photograph for the reverse. He also suggested

*... we shall probably have the following inscription: "Presented by the Royal Geographical Society for Antarctic Discovery", and on the obverse: "Captain Scott's British Antarctic Expedition, 1910 – 1913".*⁹

The Medallist

Enquiries were made by Rigg, and estimates obtained from two medallists, Frank Bowcher and John Brownlie, as follows:¹⁰

Frank Bowcher

- (a) making designs and supplying plaster models of the obverse and reverse – £45
- (b) supply the dies (ready for striking) 2½ inches diameter [53.975mm] – £25 extra
- (c) silver medals weighing 3 ounces in cases at 18/6 per medal
- (d) bronze medals in cases at 6/6 per medal

John Brownlie

- (a) silver and bronze medals $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter [53.975mm]
- (b) striking silver medals weighing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces – 3/- per medal
- (c) silver medals – 12/- each in case
- (d) bronze medals – 4/6 each in case
- (e) Morocco cases – 2/- each



An early version of the plaster model, which features a few minor differences from the final medal: 1) the rough, icy terrain does not extend further down and closer to the wording below, 2) there is a comma after the word DISCOVERY, and 3) the sprays of laurel leaves below the wording and date are different from the final medal, which are muted in the latter (courtesy Spink & Son)



CPO Frank V. Browning's Scott Memorial Medal (bronze) (courtesy DNW)

Frank Bowcher (1864-1938) was eventually chosen for the task. By 1901, Bowcher was only in his mid-thirties, but possessed a reputation as a prominent and prolific artist, having studied in London at the National Art Training School under the mainly self-taught sculptor Edward Onslow Ford, and in Paris, where he was influenced by the work of the eminent sculptor/medallist Jules-Clément Chaplain and medallist Louis-Oscar Roty.

“At last I am able to send you the photograph to furnish the subject for the reverse,” Keltie wrote to Rigg in mid-July, but he also wondered whether or not the details would be lost in reduction to the medal’s size, and wanted “a sketch of [Bowcher’s] proposed model before doing anything to it.” In addition, Keltie expanded the inscription: obverse – ‘BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1910 – 1913. CAPTAIN R.F. SCOTT. C.V.O. R.N. COMMANDER’; reverse – ‘PRESENTED BY THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY FOR ANTARCTIC DISCOVERY 1913’. Keeping a close eye on cost, the RGS president wanted from Bowcher “a definite estimate as to what the whole coast would be”.¹¹

After receiving the photograph – which featured a ship, iceberg, sledge and men – Bowcher was also concerned that “if the arrangement of [the] photo is to be followed it would make [the] size of [the] men small.”¹² Rigg also echoed reservations about the reverse design to Keltie:

*Personally I do not think it very promising as the figures will be very small, the picture too much of a horizontal line across the medal and the “table” would be better if it had mountains, &c. to break the stretch of flat above and below the figures.*¹³

Design and Production

After exchanging instructions and ideas by correspondence, Keltie and Bowcher met face to face at the Royal Geographical Society on Friday, 25 July 1913 to discuss preliminary sketches and other matters. In the days that followed Bowcher came up with sketches for the obverse and reverse, with some interesting assistance. “I had the advantage of showing Mr Ponting the design

this morning,” Bowcher wrote to Keltie on 30 July, “[and] he liked it very much & made some suggestions re[garding] details which I was able to alter this afternoon. M^r Meares who was with him confirmed M^r Pontings [*sic*] remarks.”¹⁴ Photographer Herbert G. Ponting, FRGS, was styled the “Camera Artist” in Scott’s journal, and the nomadic Cecil H. Meares was in charge of the dogs.¹⁵



Herbert Ponting’s Polar Medal and Russo-Japanese War Medal 1903-05 (courtesy Spink & Son)

Two photographs in the 1913 and 1925 printings of Scott’s journals carry the same caption, both of which are credited to Lieutenant H.R. Bowers, Royal Indian Marine Service – “THE POLAR PARTY: ON THE TRAIL”. Bowers was originally taken on as a ship’s officer in charge of stores, but Scott promoted him to the shore party. One image depicts Captain Oates, Petty Officer Evans, Dr. Wilson and Captain Scott man-hauling a sledge from a front three-quarter view, while the other depicts the same individuals man-hauling from a rear three-quarter view.¹⁶ With the artistic addition of Lieutenant Bowers, the latter photograph was the model for the reverse of the Scott Memorial Medal.

Keltie showed Lord Curzon the proposed overall design and, on the whole, he was satisfied with what he saw, except in two instances. A laurel band along the upper portion of the reverse needed removing, and his Lordship also felt “[Bowcher] has not caught the expression in the portrait.” It was decided to put the matter to the ultimate test by asking Scott’s widow herself. “Lord Curzon suggests that when [Bowcher] has re-drawn the portrait,” wrote Keltie, “he might submit it to you and that when you are satisfied with it Mr Bowcher may go on. Do you mind doing this?” Kathleen Scott,¹⁷ a trained sculptor in her own right, was more than pleased to help. “I have hundreds of photographs of [my husband] & have done a relief of him as well as good

heads. I would be delighted to show or lend him a copy of them. I'm so glad the Society is giving a medal".¹⁸

The process moved along to a fairly advanced stage by 13 August, as Bowcher had made wax models, being the final step before engraving the steel dies. "All matters of detail of costume &c of the figures on the reverse I have submitted to Mess^{rs} Meares, Mather & Ponting, members of the Expedition," wrote Bowcher to Keltie, "and finally shown the wax models to Lady Scott who has approved the wax portrait of Capt Scott and likes very much the scheme of the reverse design in wax."¹⁹ Petty Officer John H. Mather, RNVR, was a member of the ship's party who skinned all the specimens, having gone to great lengths to perfect his taxidermy skills in New Zealand.

The steel dies were nearing completion by mid-September, and striking began a month later, so the medals in their cases were set for delivery by 18 October. This pleased Keltie, as it was the wish of the RGS to probably present them at their first meeting of the session in early November. "So far as I can see at present," wrote Keltie to Bowcher on 14 October, "we shall want 30 silver and 40 bronze medals. The silver medals ought to be in a somewhat slightly different coloured case from the bronze. I should be glad if you would submit me specimens of cases."²⁰



The Polar Medal with clasp "ANTARCTIC 1910-13" and Scott Memorial Medal (silver) to Assistant Zoologist Apsley Cherry-Garrard (courtesy DNW)

The case containing the silver medal to geologist Frank Debenham is 77 x 80 x 20mm, black on the outside, with a dark maroon velvet lining on the interior base and lid; there is also a ribbon to assist in removing the medal from its recess. The silver medal case for Meares also has a black exterior, and the same interior lining as Debenham's. The exterior case for Leading Stoker Bernard James Stone's bronze medal is claret coloured, while the interior lid and base are dark olive green. However, the exterior case of groom Anton L. Omelchenko's bronze award is a rusty red, while the interior base is a tan velvet and the lid a pink satin. RGS records describe the silver medals as being presented in calfskin cases and the bronzes in leather, and Bowcher also described them as such in a letter to Keltie on 1 November.²¹

Within a few days, Keltie modified the medal count: "I now have learned definitely that the number of silver medals required is 25, and the number of bronze medals 46."²² There is nothing in the correspondence regarding any intended naming of the medals, and they were in fact issued unnamed.

In the final week of October, Bowcher left one silver and one bronze specimen (in their cases) at the RGS for Keltie's inspection – and "enclosed (on my own behalf) an additional silver medal in a double case for Lady Scott, who kindly helped me with a photograph & her criticism." Although Keltie was fine with the specimens, he returned "the double case, as I do not think it would do to present Lady Scott with two medals and the others with only one." He also asked Bowcher for the dies and the plaster casts for framing and display at the RGS.²³

Bowcher no doubt felt quite confident about the medal's design, as he asked Keltie about the presentation date, so he could send a medal or photograph to Marion H.A. Spielmann (a prolific art critic and scholar), to see if he would publish an image in *The Graphic* newspaper. The presentation date was set for 10 November 1913, but Keltie did not want an illustration of the medal to appear before then; if Bowcher planned on taking a photograph, Keltie asked that a copy be sent to him, "as we shall reproduce the medal in our Journal and Year-Book."²⁴ Afterwards (on 11 November), Bowcher did send a photograph to Keltie, as well as one to Spielmann.

It's not a little interesting at this very late stage, that Keltie raised the issue of cost with Bowcher on 31 October:

*I find your charge for silver medals is considerable in excess of another estimate I had: yours is 18/6 and the other estimate is 15/- per medal. I hope you will see your way to giving us a fair discount off the total charge, that would make up the deficiency. As we shall practically pay you ready money, you ought at any rate, to give us a good discount, say ten percent.*²⁵

However, Keltie did not have his facts straight. In the first place, Bowcher stated his silver medals would each be 3 ounces, whereas Brownlie stated each of the same would weigh "about 2½ ounces". Brownlie's cost less, but each medal would also contain approximately one-half ounce less silver. Keltie got to 15/- by including Brownlie's cost of striking the silver medals at

3/- each, but he neglected to include the charge of 2/- for each Morocco case – bringing it to 17/- per medal. Bowcher’s estimate included leather and calf cases. Since Keltie wanted a “fair discount off the total charge,” he may have been taking into account Bowcher’s two additional costs for both the silver and bronze medals, that of making designs and supplying plaster models of the obverse and reverse – £45, and supplying the dies (ready for striking) – £25 extra.²⁶

Bowcher sent an immediate response:

In reply to your letter of the 31st Oct. it is not customary for artists to make a discount on any estimate especially in the case where I make no profit whatever on the bronze & silver medals. I pay away 6/6 for the bronze with the leather case, and 16/9 for the silver with the calf case, the couple of guineas left over on the silver just pays my time and expenses in supervising the striking, & toning of the medals.

As you accepted my estimate I naturally produced the medals in the very best manner, also as regards weight of metal, and gave high relief which of course makes striking more expensive.

I should be pleased to show you the bills.

*The whole estimate was considerably lower than I generally charge.*²⁷

The RGS archives do not contain any further correspondence on this matter, so one can assume Keltie decided to let it go.



The final resting place of Scott, Wilson and Bowers
(Scott, 1913, volume 2, between pp. 236-37)

The Presentation

Lord Curzon presented the medals to surviving expedition members at the RGS meeting on 10 November, although it is likely not all honorees were able to attend:

*At the request of the [Royal] Italian Geographical Society he also presented to Lady Scott the [King Umberto] Gold Medal awarded by that Society in memory of Captain Scott. Silver duplicates were presented to Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Oates, Mrs. Bowers, and Mrs. Evans, widow of Petty Officer Evans.*²⁸

The number of individuals entitled to receive medals, based on Scott's journal, was 25 in silver for officers and scientists, and 39 in bronze for the crew.²⁹ In October Keltie, twice wrote to Bowcher stating the definite number of medals required was 25 silver and 46 bronze.³⁰ In November, Keltie inquired about the cost of ordering additional medals, and Bowcher responded that "the cost in this instance for 1 silver & 3 bronze Scott medals would be the same as for the original supply."³¹ Assuming the latter medals were ordered, adding the total number supplied to the RGS to the additional medal intended for Lady Scott would equal 27 silver and 49 bronze medals known to have been struck.

A bronze-gilt example, weighing 74.8g, was acquired by a medal dealer from the Bowcher family, which then found its way into the Sim Comfort Collection. It was presented to Bowcher by the RGS for being the artist, and is believed to have been gilded so as not to cause confusion with the silver or bronze issues.³² It is worth noting I came across an example of this medal cast in iron on eBay in November 2014 (now in a private collection), and another cast in bronze in February 2022 (private collection). Given the rarity of the originals, perhaps a few such examples were produced for display in institutions.



The Scott Memorial Medal in bronze-gilt (courtesy Sim Comfort)

Postscript

A silver issue was offered at Sotheby's in 1990, being described as the award "presented to Mrs. Hannah Scott, mother of Captain R.F. Scott, R.N.," and "in case of issue [hinges damaged], good extremely fine". Among the five pieces of original documentation with the lot was a letter from Keltie to Miss Katherine "Kitty" Scott, the explorer's younger sister (6 November 1913), which reads in part, "As you may know, we are presenting a special Antarctic Medal to the members of the expedition, and copies to relatives of the five men who died. I should think probably your mother would like a copy. If so, I might be able to send one." A letter dated 25 November 1913 in the RGS archives provided further confirmation regarding the award to Mrs. Scott, wherein Keltie enclosed a medal to Katherine Scott, asking her to arrange for its delivery to her mother.³³ In 2016, Sotheby's offered a silver issue "believed to be the one presented to Captain Scott's mother". "The medal and letter framed together and glazed, with an engraved label stating "The official Royal Geographical Society Medal for Scott's Last Expedition, 1910-13, presented to his mother"." The case was not present, and the medal's condition was not stated – but obverse and reverse images plainly revealed at least 13 edge knocks (including one severe one), and one rim bump.³⁴

Footnotes

¹ Yelverton, p. 198.

² Rigg was "a man of ability and personality who served first in the assay department and then as chief clerk in the Mint office, so that unusually he brought to the operative department welcome practical experience of the other two departments of the Mint." (Challis, p. 543).

³ Keltie to Rigg, 2 June 1913.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Stein, p. 303; Yelverton, p. 166; silver medal awarded to Geologist Frank Debenham, SPRI Museum, Y: 2002/1/17; Poulson, pp. 85, 86, 87, 89, 90; Poulson & Myres, pp. 693, 697-99.

⁶ Keltie to Drake, 5 June 1913 – marked "PRIVATE".

⁷ Rigg to Keltie, 11 June 1913.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Keltie to Rigg, 12 June 1913.

¹⁰ Bowcher to Rigg, 20 June 1913 & Brownlie to Rigg, 25 June 2013; For comparison, the RGS Chief Clerk S.J. Evis researched the costs involved in producing the Shackleton Medal for the 1907-09 expedition, which was 3.25 inches diameter (82.55mm): designing – £63; reduction – £28/10; one gold medal at £36/10; silver medals at £1/18/6 each; bronze medals at £1/5/0 each. (Notes by Mr. S.J. Evis, 21 July 1913).

¹¹ Keltie to Rigg, 11 July 1913.

¹² Bowcher to Rigg, 16 July 1913.

¹³ Rigg to Keltie, 17 July 1913.

¹⁴ Ibid; Keltie to Rigg, 23 July 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 23 & 24 July 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 30 July 1913.

¹⁵ Ponting's Polar Medal/Antarctic 1910-13 and Russo-Japanese War Medal 1903-05 (Japan), plus related dress miniatures (both pairs mounted as worn in an old Spink case), were sold as part of The Fevyer Collection, Spink, 25 November 1998. Meares's group includes the Queen's South Africa 1899-1902/Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902 (L. CPL. C.H. MEARES.); 1914 Star (2 LIEUT. MEARES.), but only entitled to the 1914/15 Star, as he entered service on 30 March 1915 – Temporary Lieutenant Commander, RNVR, W/T duties, Dunkirk (see ADM 273/23/495); British War and Victory Medals (LT. COL. C.H. MEARES R.A.F.); Polar Medal/Antarctic 1910-13 (C.H. MEARES TERRA NOVA); Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class (Japan/cased); Imperial Aviation Association Merit Medal (Japan/cased); Scott Memorial Medal (silver/unnamed/cased); a pewter medallion, with Scott's portrait, and a representation of expedition members. His mounted for wear miniature medals begin with the Polar Medal/Antarctic 1910-13, followed by the QSA/five clasps, and a 1914 Star and Bar Trio. After the death of his wife in 1976, Meares's sword (presented by the Japanese in 1921, as a gift for helping to train naval pilots), medals, books, personal sledge flag, and papers, went to the Royal British Columbia Museum, Canada. (Chung and Stein, personal communications, May-July 2019).

¹⁶ Scott, 1913, volume 1, p. 360 – facing page & Scott, 1925, p. 362 – facing page.

¹⁷ She is referred to in the correspondence as “Lady Scott”. “In 1913, she was granted the rank (but not the style) of a widow of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. This meant that, for the purposes of establishing official precedence, she was treated as if she were the widow of such a knight. However, she was not entitled to be called Lady Scott merely by virtue of this, and it did not amount to Captain Scott being posthumously knighted.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_Scott)

¹⁸ Keltie to Curzon, 30 July 1913; Keltie to Scott, 1 August 1913; Scott to Keltie, undated.

¹⁹ Bowcher to Keltie, 13 August 1913.

²⁰ Bowcher to Keltie, 18 September 1913; Keltie to Bowcher, 19 September 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 19 September 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 14 October 1913; Keltie to Bowcher, 14 October 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 17 October 1913.

²¹ SPRI Museum Y: 2002/1/17; Chung and Stein, personal communications, 17 & 27 June 2019; Nesbits Auctions Ltd., 16 December 2015, Lot 400; Carrington and Stein, personal communications, 14-15 May 2019; Bowcher to Keltie, 1 November 1913.

²² Keltie to Bowcher, 17 October 1913 & Keltie to Bowcher, 22 October 1913.

²³ Keltie to Bowcher, 14 October 1913 & Bowcher to Keltie, 17, 27, 28 & 31 October 1913.

²⁴ Bowcher to Keltie, 28 October 1913; Keltie to Bowcher, 29 October 1913; Bowcher to Keltie, 11 November 1913).

²⁵ Keltie to Bowcher, 31 October 1913.

²⁶ Bowcher to Rigg, 20 June 1913; Brownlie to Rigg, 25 June 2013; Bowcher to Keltie, 1 November 1913.

²⁷ Bowcher to Keltie, 1 November 1913.

²⁸ Keltie to Miss Katherine Scott, 6 November 1913; “Honors to Surviving Members of the Scott Party”; The British Museum holds Scott’s silver issue, along with his Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, and other society awards (Attwood to Stein, personal communication, 6 February 2012); The explorer’s son, Sir Peter Scott, CH, CBE, DSC & Bar, gifted his father’s Polar Medal and French Legion of Honor (Officer) to the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, “in recognition of the assistance given to his father by the people of New Zealand in connection with his two Antarctic expeditions.” (Witte, p 17.).

²⁹ Scott, 2013, volume 1, pp. xix-xxi.

³⁰ Keltie to Bowcher, 17 & 22 Oct. 1913.

³¹ Bowcher to Keltie, 21 Nov. 1913.

³² Comfort to Stein, personal communication, 3 February 2012.

³³ Sotheby’s, 8 February 1990, lot 416; Sotheby’s was “indebted to David Yelverton, Esq., who provided this information,” in reference to the letter of 25 November 1913.

³⁴ Sotheby’s, 28 April 2016, lot 64.

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Dr. Tzu-I Chung, Royal British Columbia Museum
Mr. Sim Comfort
Ms. Karen May
the late David E. Yelverton, FRGS

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Scott Polar Research Institute

Sotheby’s

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