

# **THE RACE TO THE SOUTH POLE**



# **COURSE OUTLINE**

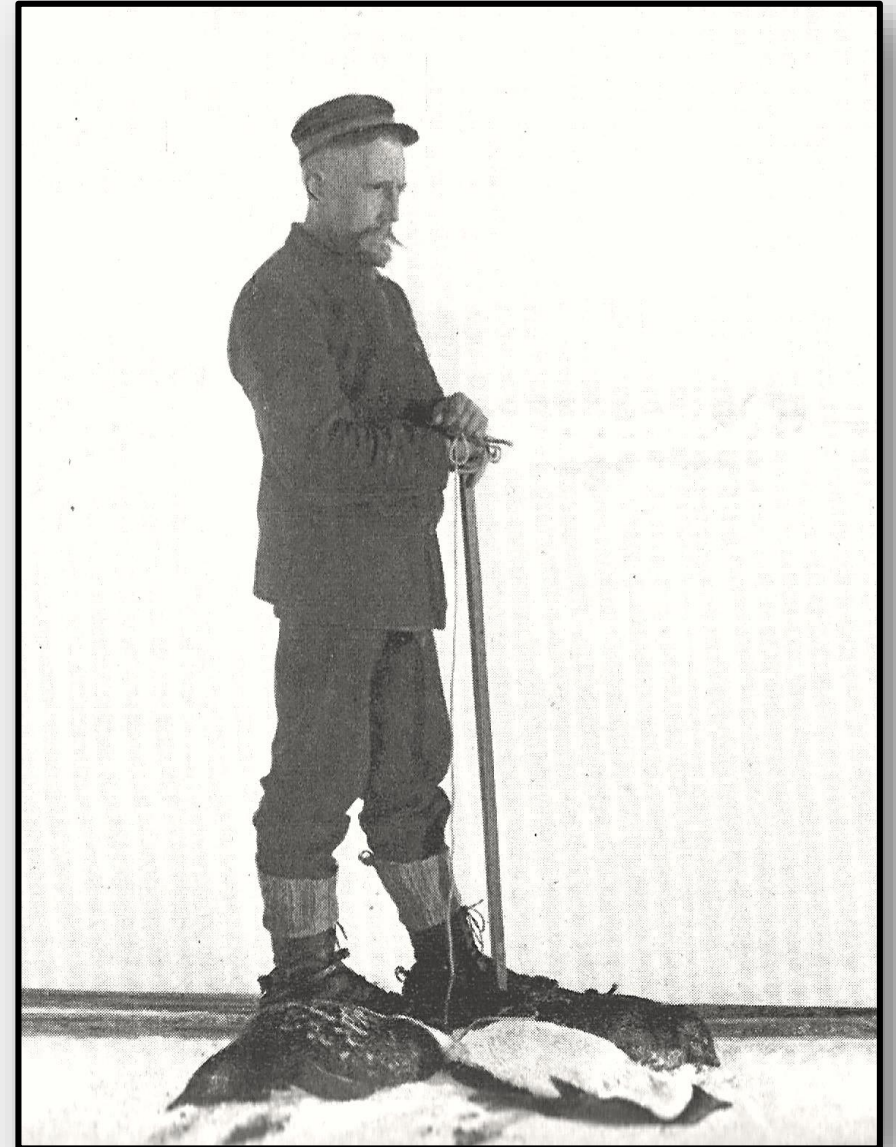
- **Wk 1 – Introduction**
  - **Course Outline**
  - **Suggested Reading**
  - **Antarctica and the South Pole – A quick introduction**
  - **Setting the Stage – Antarctica before the Race**

# COURSE OUTLINE

➤ Wk 1 – Introduction

➤ Wk 2 – *Belgica*

**Roald Amundsen's  
Antarctic Apprenticeship**

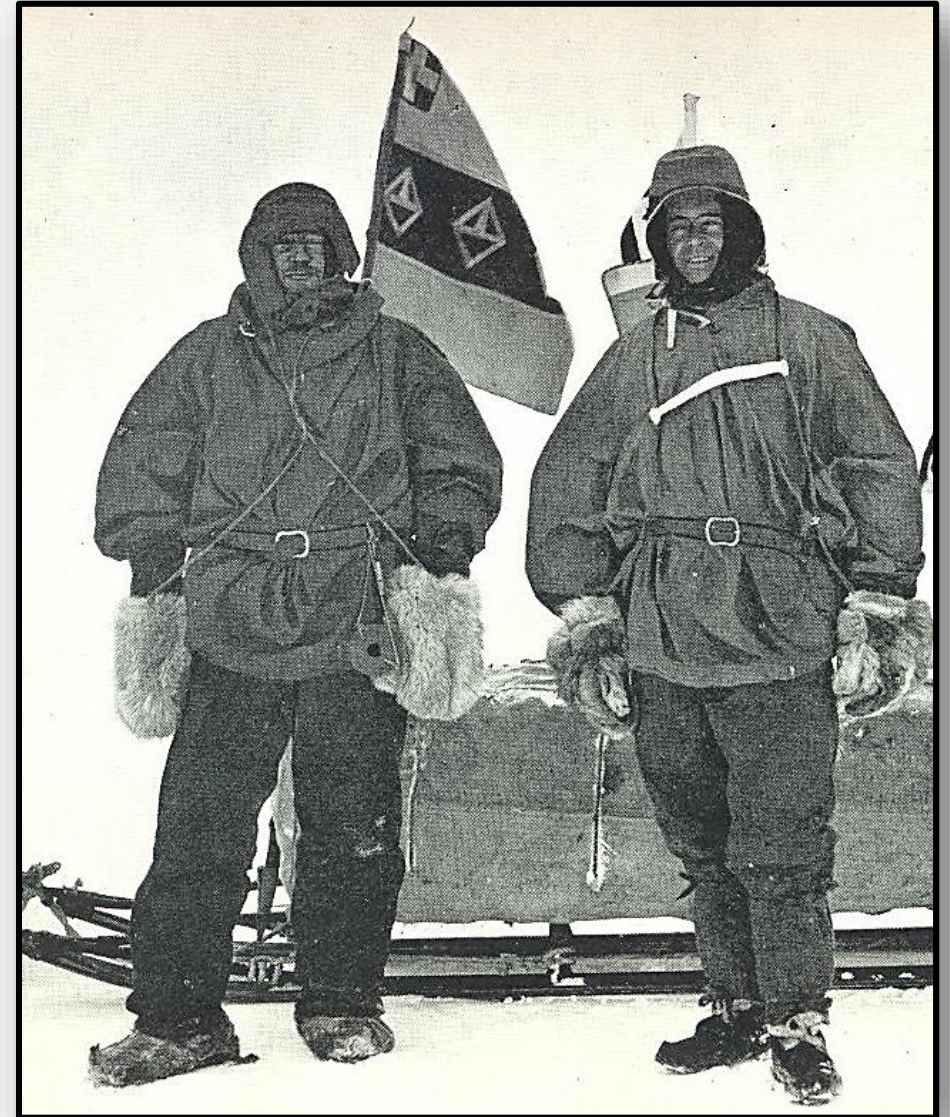


# COURSE OUTLINE

- Wk 1 – Introduction
- Wk 2 – *Belgica*

- **Wk 3 – *Discovery***

**Robert Falcon Scott,  
Ernest Shackleton,  
enter the Scene**

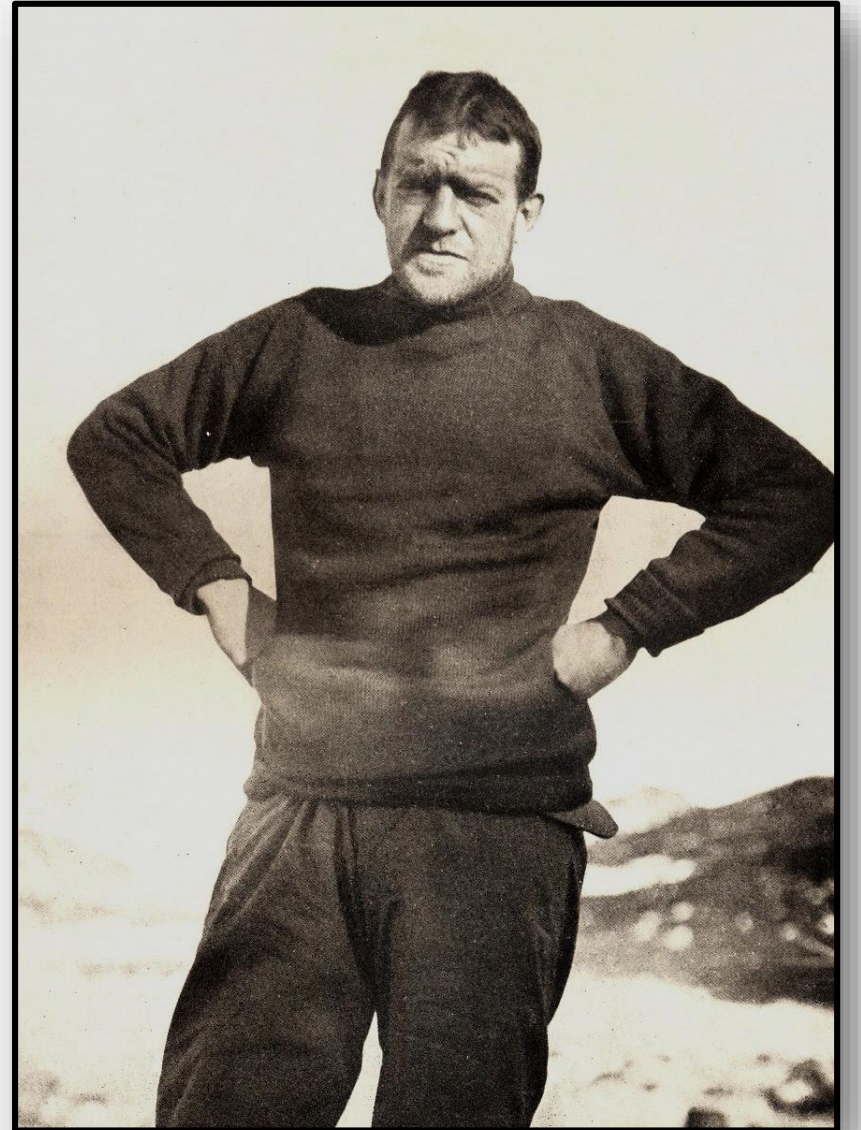




# COURSE OUTLINE

- Wk 1 – Introduction
- Wk 2 – *Belgica*
- Wk 3 – *Discovery*
- **Wk 4 – *Nimrod***

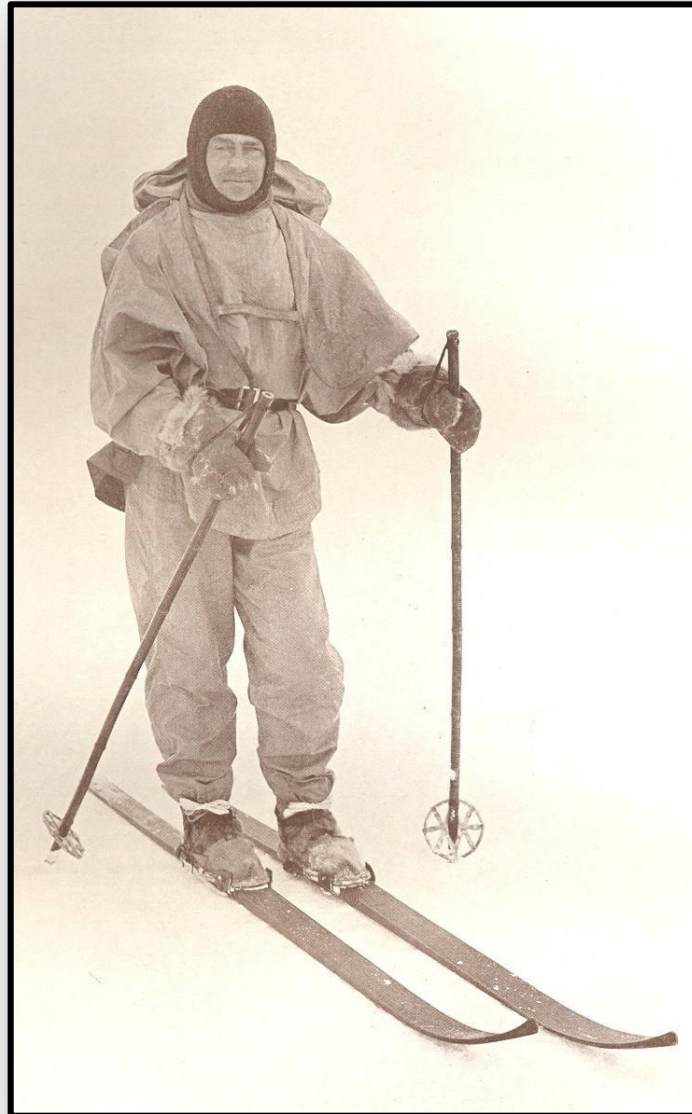
**Shackleton returns and  
finds the way; almost  
takes the prize**



# COURSE OUTLINE

➤ **Wks 5-7 – *Fram,*  
*Terra Nova***

**Scott and  
Amundsen return;  
the race is on,  
then won and lost**

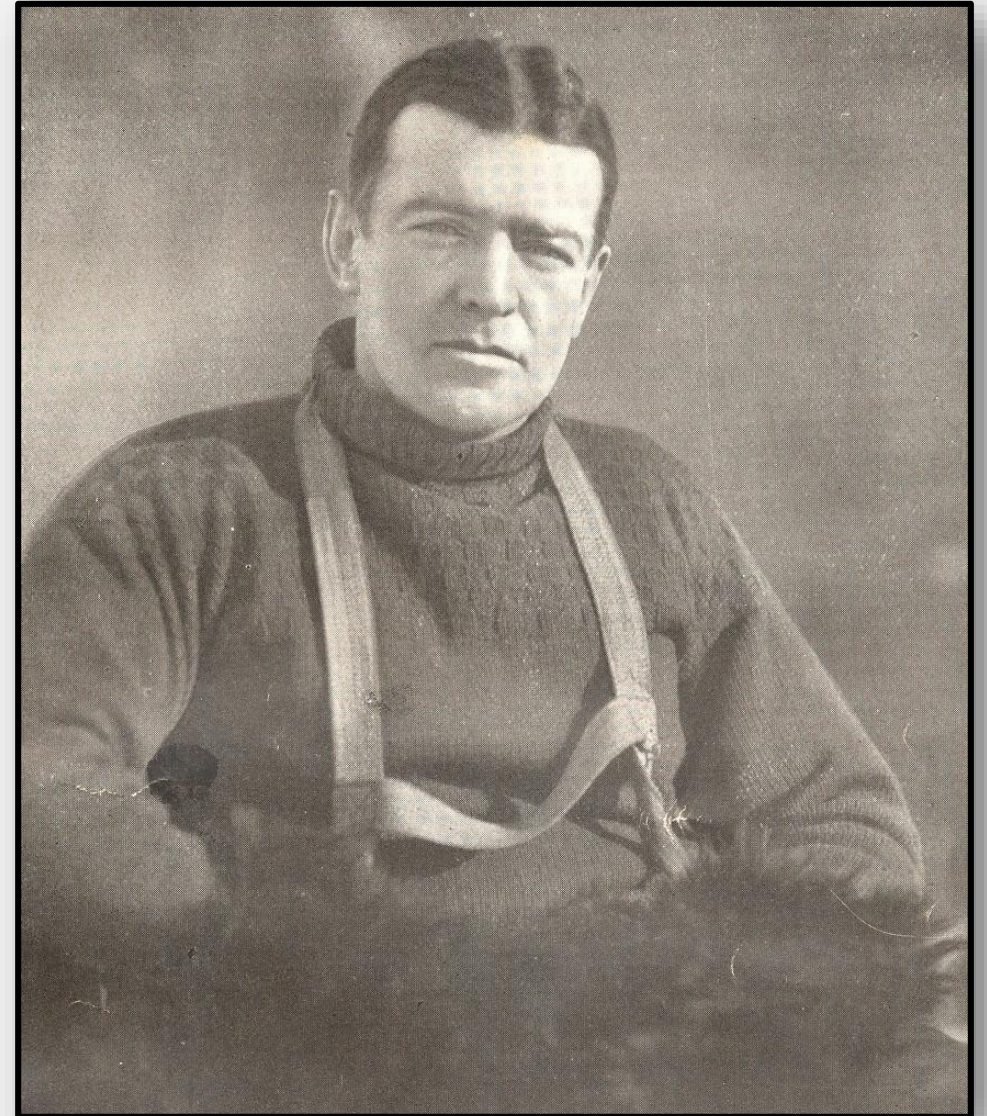




# COURSE OUTLINE

- *Wks 5-7 – Fram, Terra Nova*
- **Wk 8 – Endurance**

**Shackleton again. The prize of the pole gone, he attempts the “Last Great Journey”**



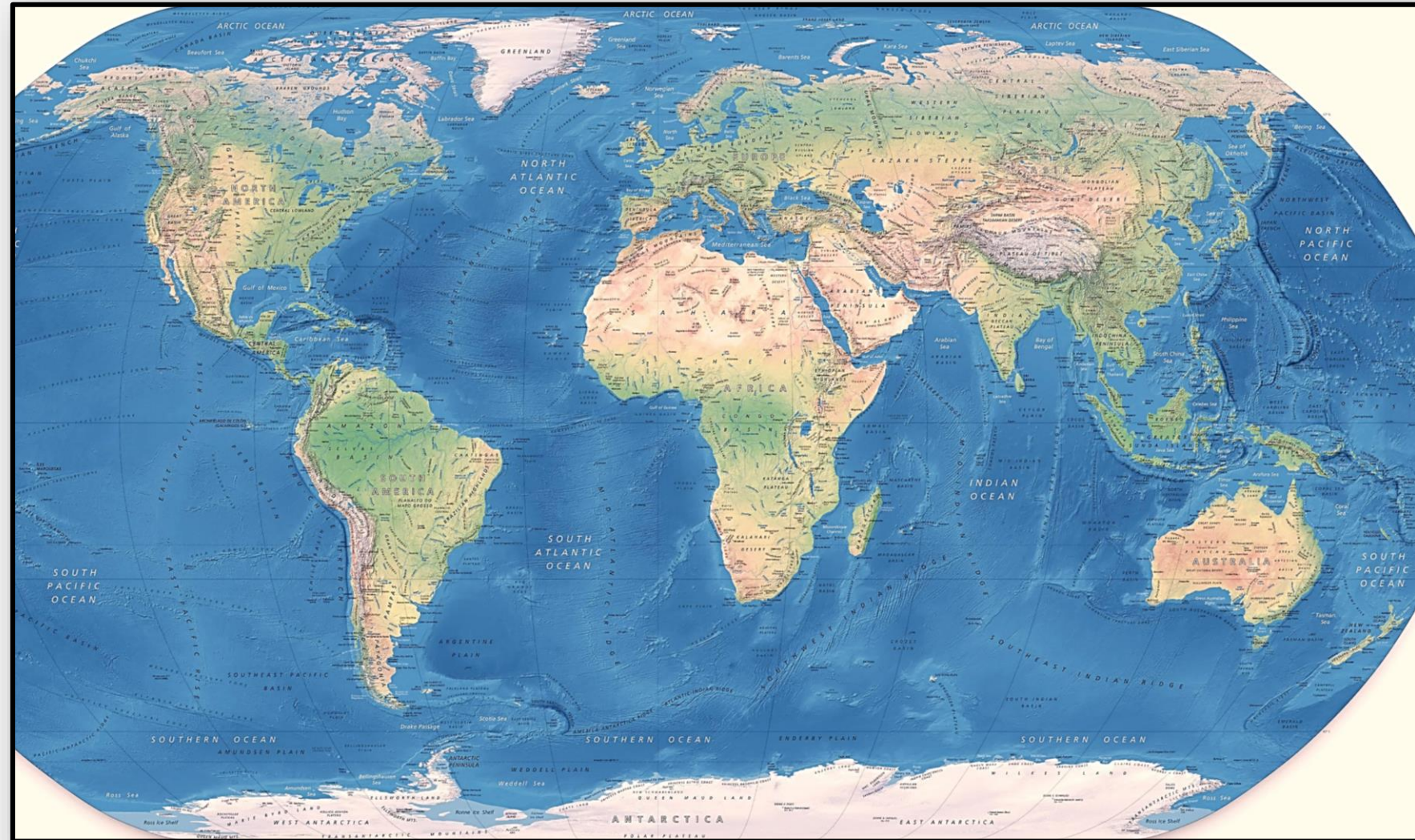
# **SUGGESTED READING**

- **BIOGRAPHIES**
- **EXPEDITION ACCOUNTS**
  - **Secondary**
  - **Primary**
- **MULTI-EXPEDITION ACCOUNTS**



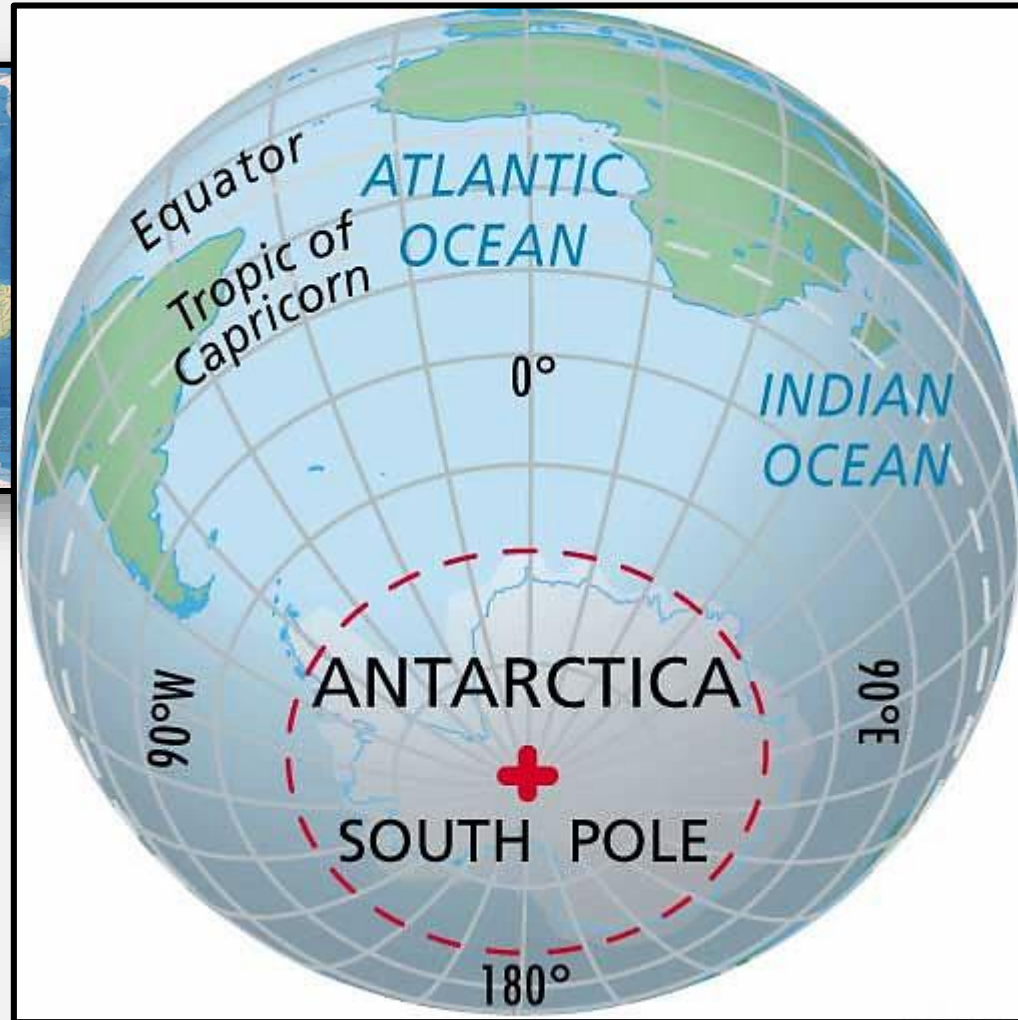
# ANTARCTICA – WHERE?

**At the  
“bottom”  
of the  
map**



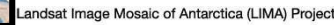
# ANTARCTICA – WHERE?

**At the  
“bottom”  
of the  
globe**





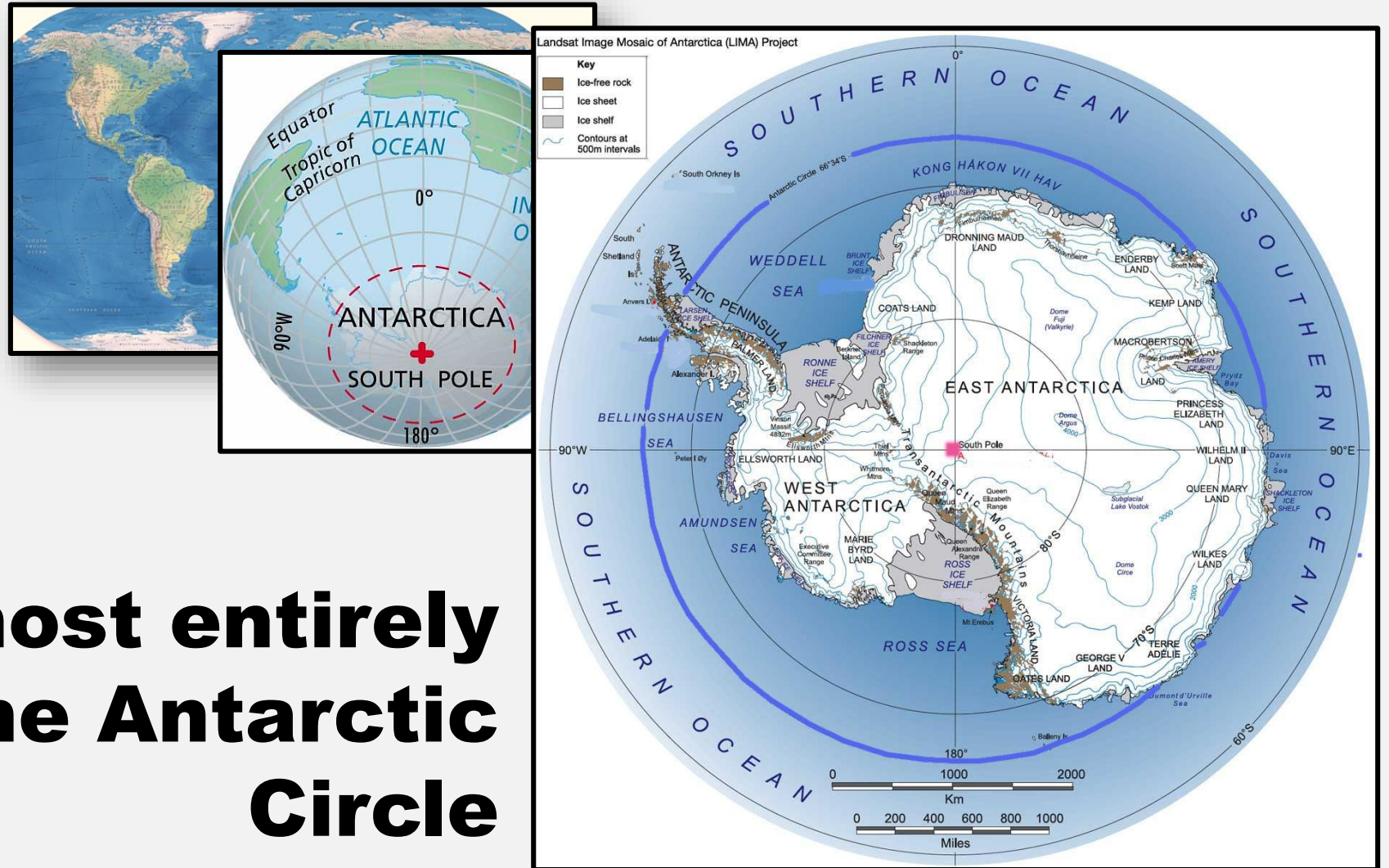
# At the center of the Southern Hemisphere



# ANTARCTICA – WHERE?

# Surrounded by water

**. . . and almost entirely  
within the Antarctic  
Circle**





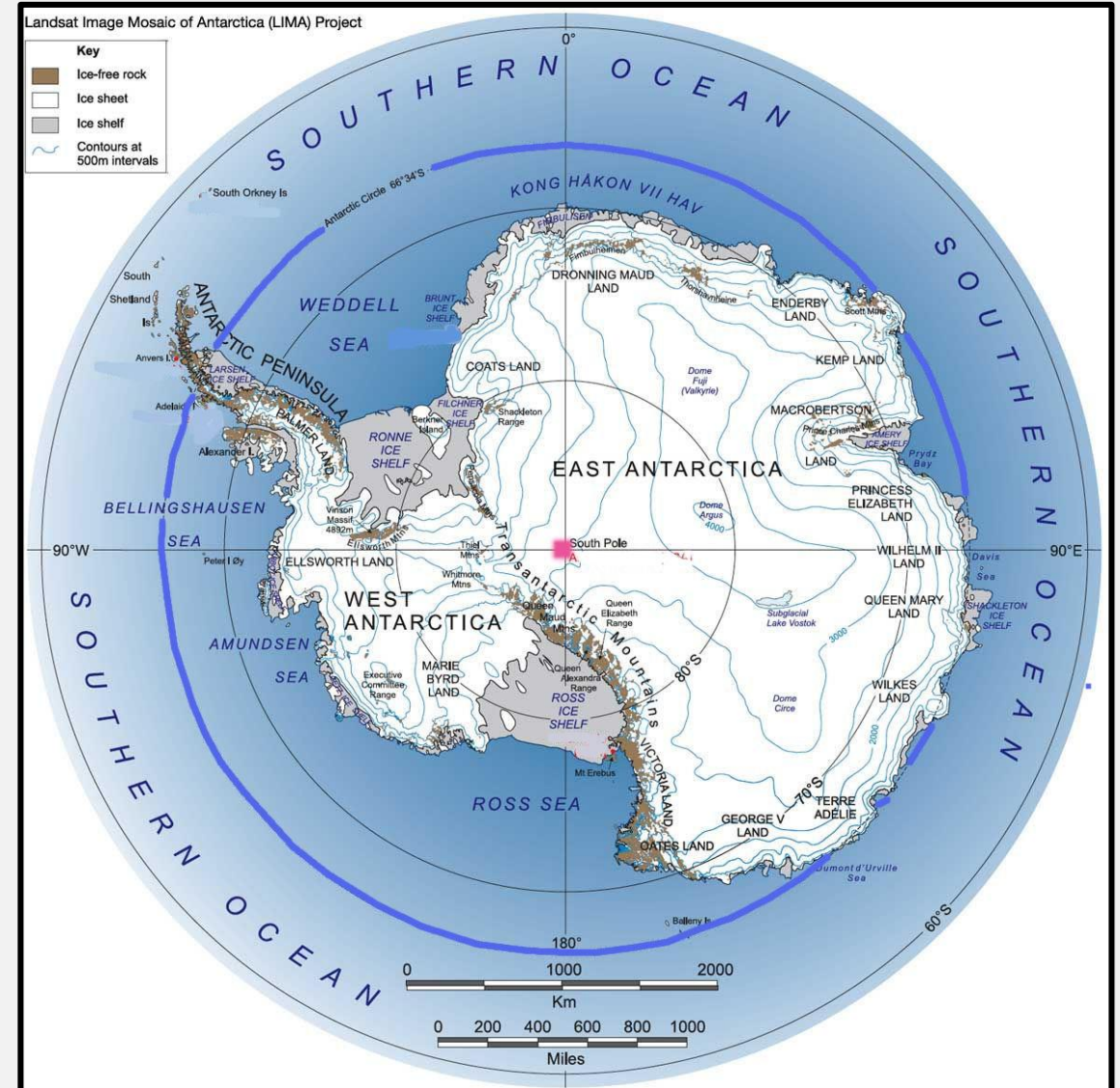
# ANTARCTICA – HOW BIG?

**The sixth  
largest  
continent --  
Larger than  
Australia,  
smaller than  
the rest**



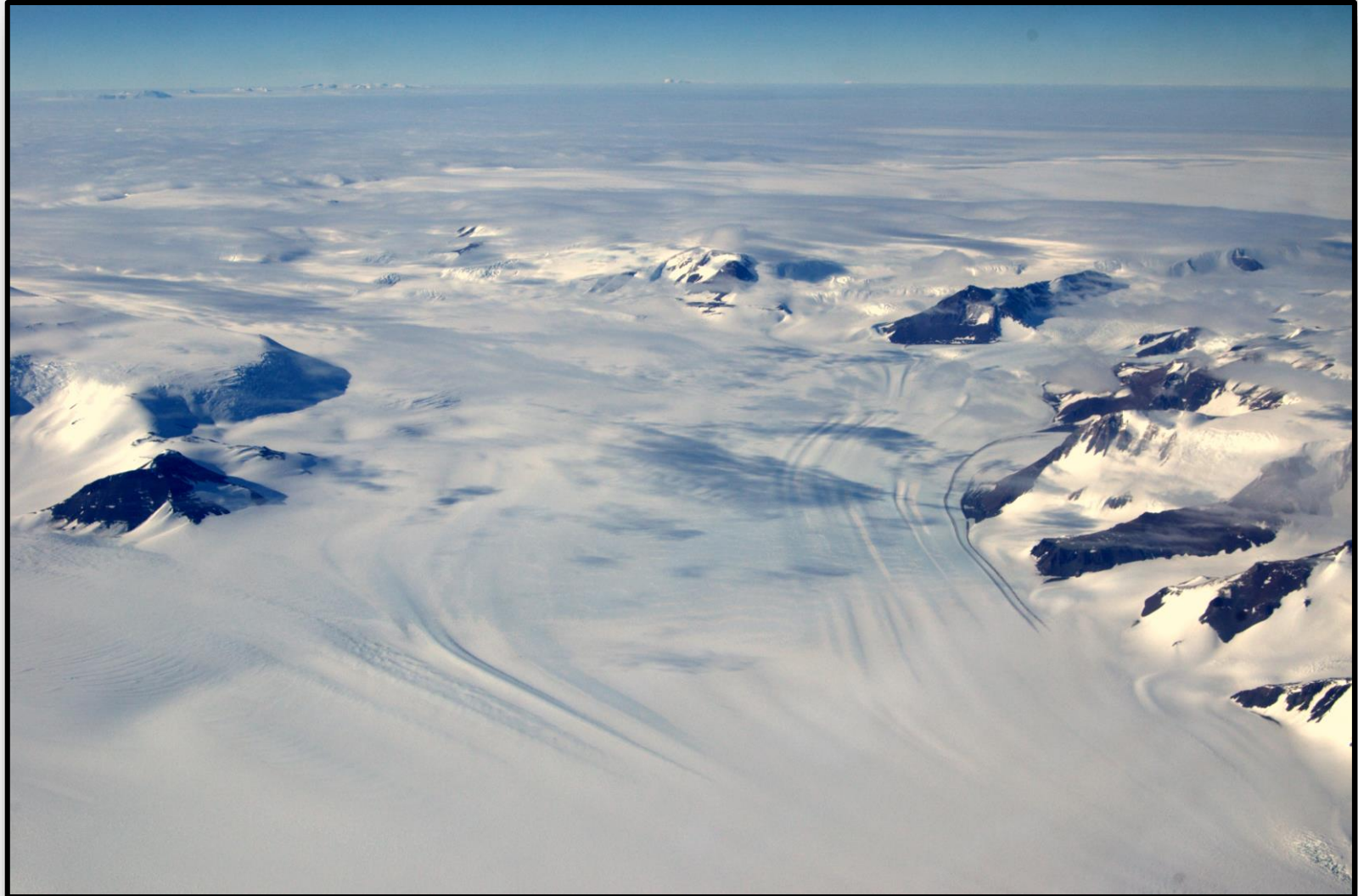
# THE SOUTH POLE: Where?

- **90 degrees south**
- **9300' elevation**
- **800 Miles from nearest open water**



# **THE SOUTH POLE: What's it like?**

**Nearest  
visible land:  
Several  
hundred miles  
away**





# THE SOUTH POLE: What's it like?

Nearest  
visible land:  
Several  
hundred miles  
away

**At pole,  
sastrugi dot  
the landscape**





# **THE SOUTH POLE: What's it like?**

**No natural  
flora, fauna**

**Minimal  
precipitation**



# **THE SOUTH POLE: What's it like?**

**The ultimate  
long day and  
night:**

**Sun rises once a  
year: ~ Sept 21**

**Sun sets once a  
year: ~ Mar 21**



# **THE SOUTH POLE: What's it like?**

**IT'S COLD!**

**Jan (summer)  
ave high = -15**

**June (winter)  
ave high = -72**

**Annual  
ave = -58**



# **SETTING THE STAGE**

## **Antarctic Exploration Before the Race**



# 1570 World Map

**A massive,  
purely  
theoretical,  
continent  
extends  
northward from  
the far south**

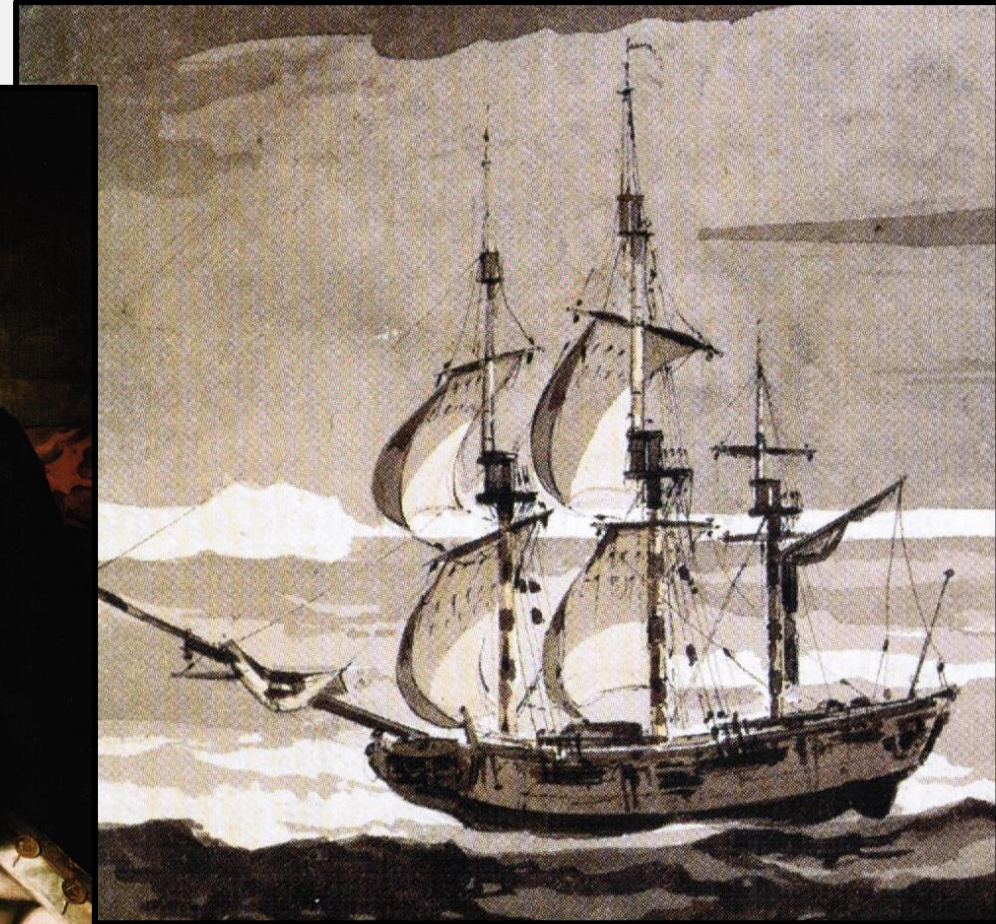




# James Cook Seeks the Truth

**1772-1775**

**The first  
serious  
search for  
the  
Southern  
Continent**

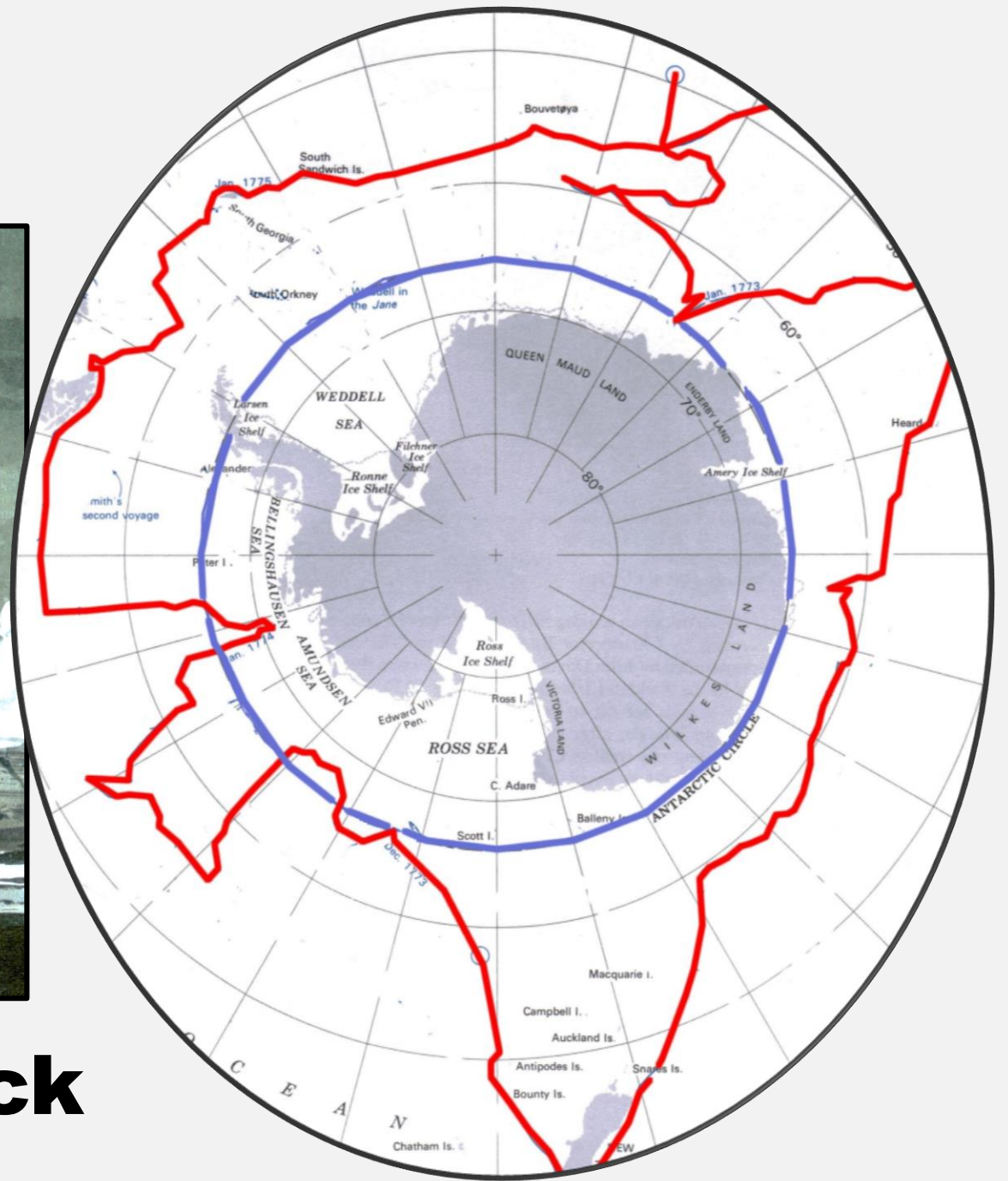




# Cook's Voyage



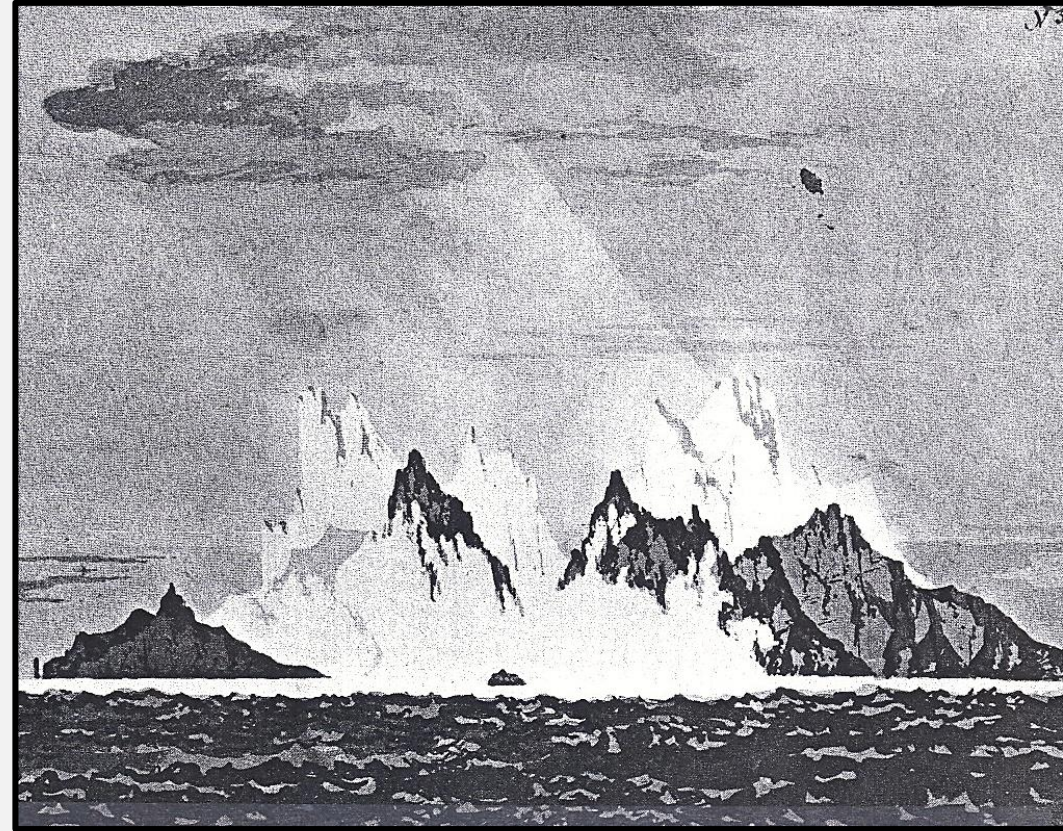
**Circumnavigation track**





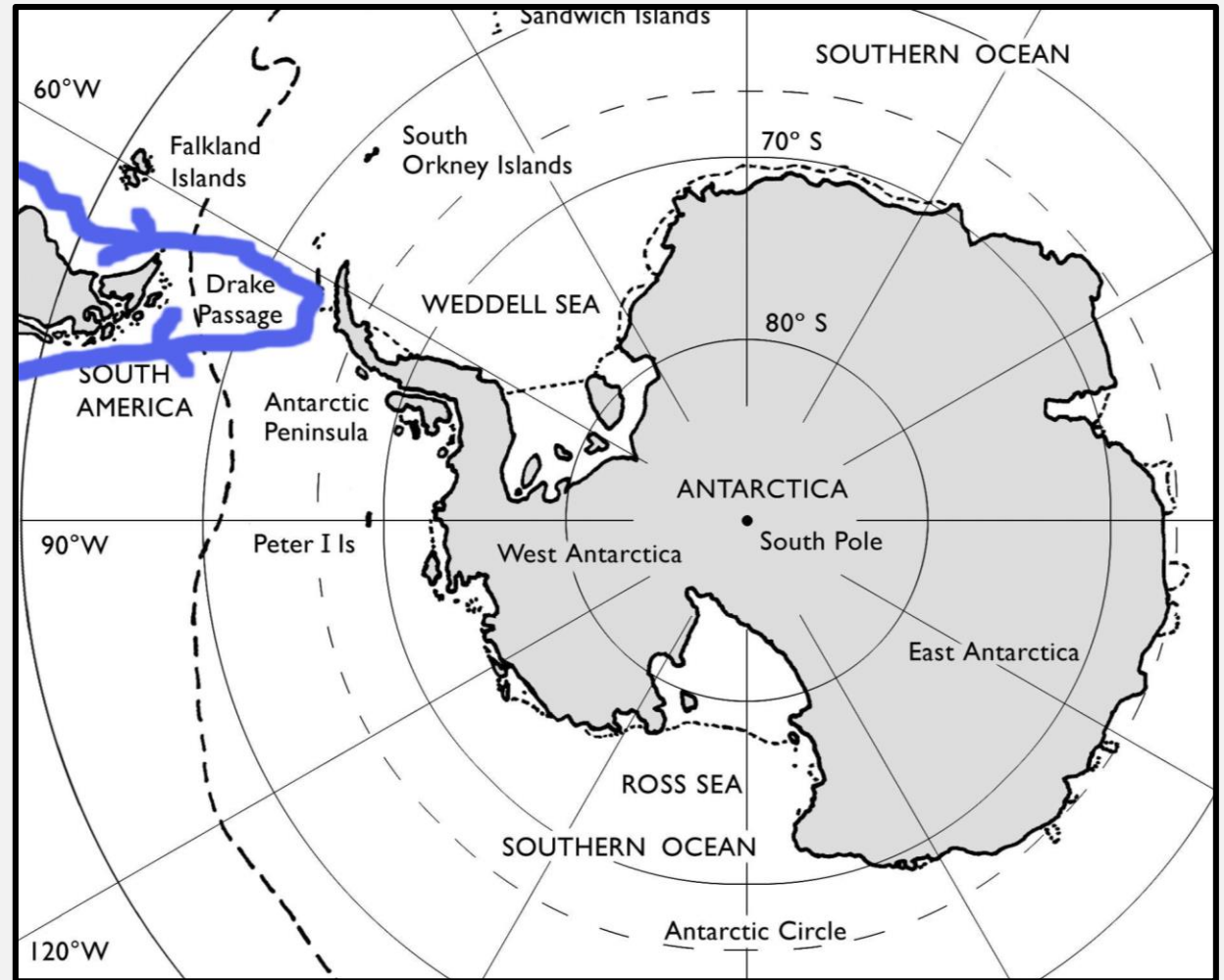
# Cook's Summation

***“That there may be a Continent or large tract of land near the Pole, I will not deny. . . Lands doomed by nature to everlasting frigidness and never once to feel the warmth of the Sun's rays, whose horrible and savage aspect I have no words to describe. . .”***



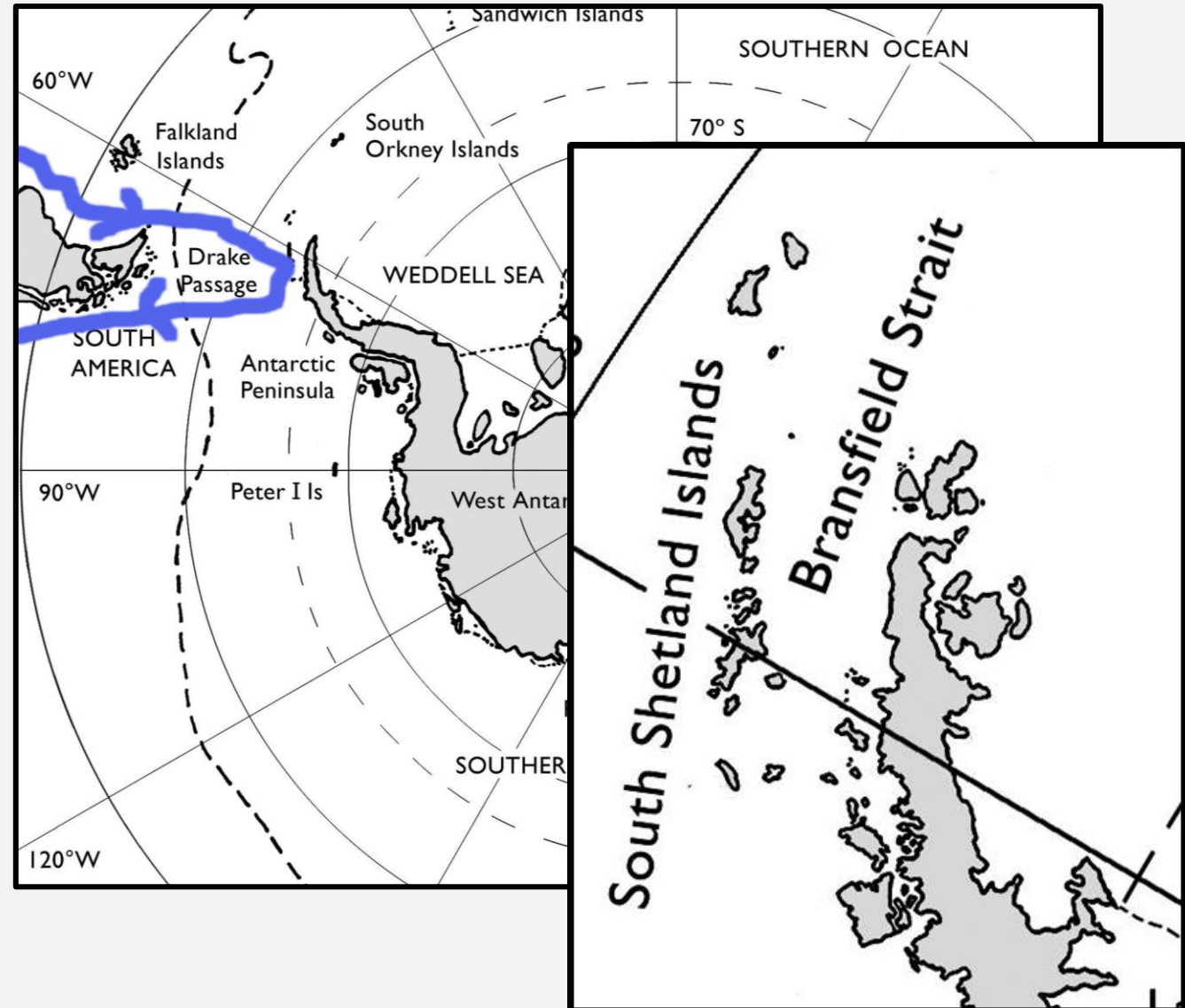
# THE FIRST SIGHTINGS

**Feb 1819,  
William Smith  
discovers the  
South Shetland  
Islands**



# THE FIRST SIGHTINGS

**So close to the  
tip of the  
Peninsula that  
on a clear day,  
one can see the  
Antarctic  
continent**





# THE CONTINENT SEEN

**Explorers  
follow, the first  
since Cook**

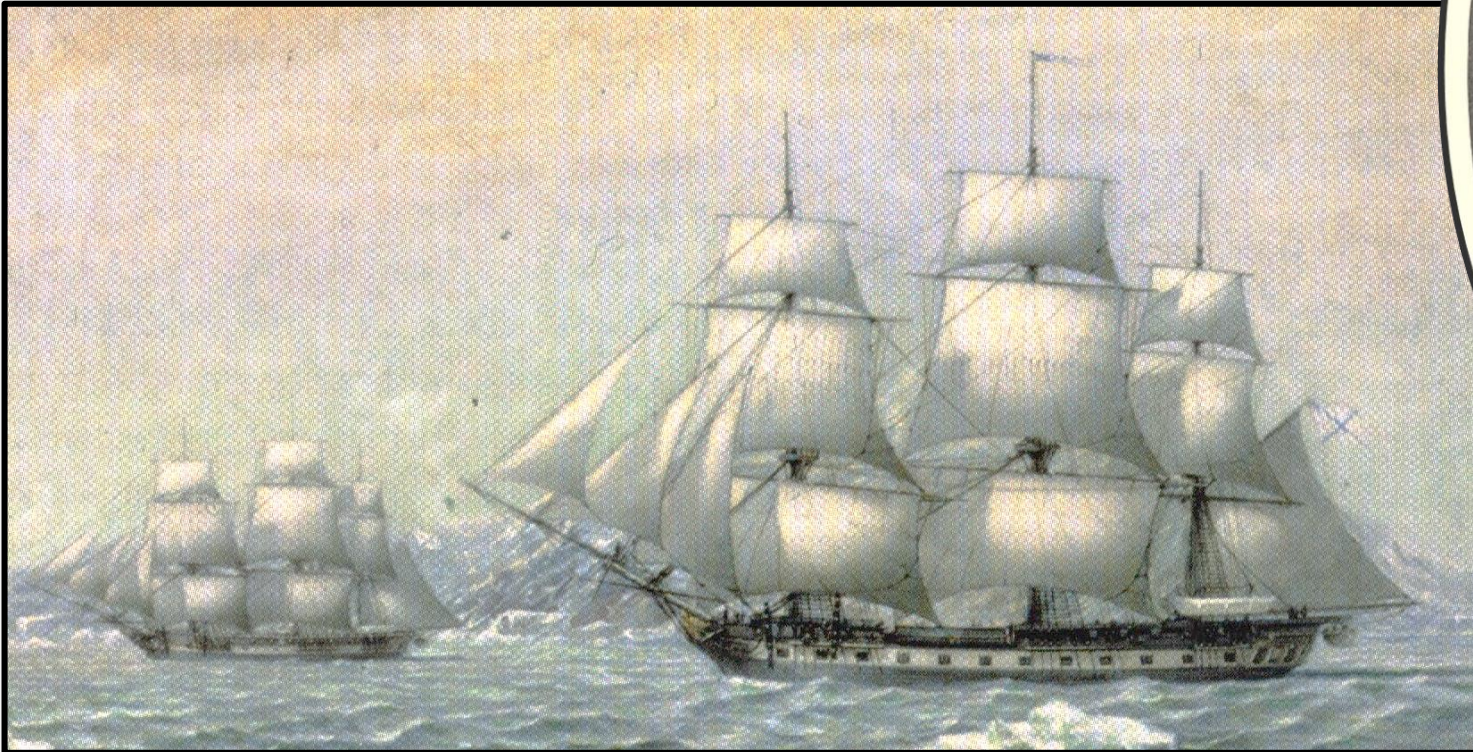
**The British --  
Bransfield to the  
South Shetlands**





# THE CONTINENT SEEN

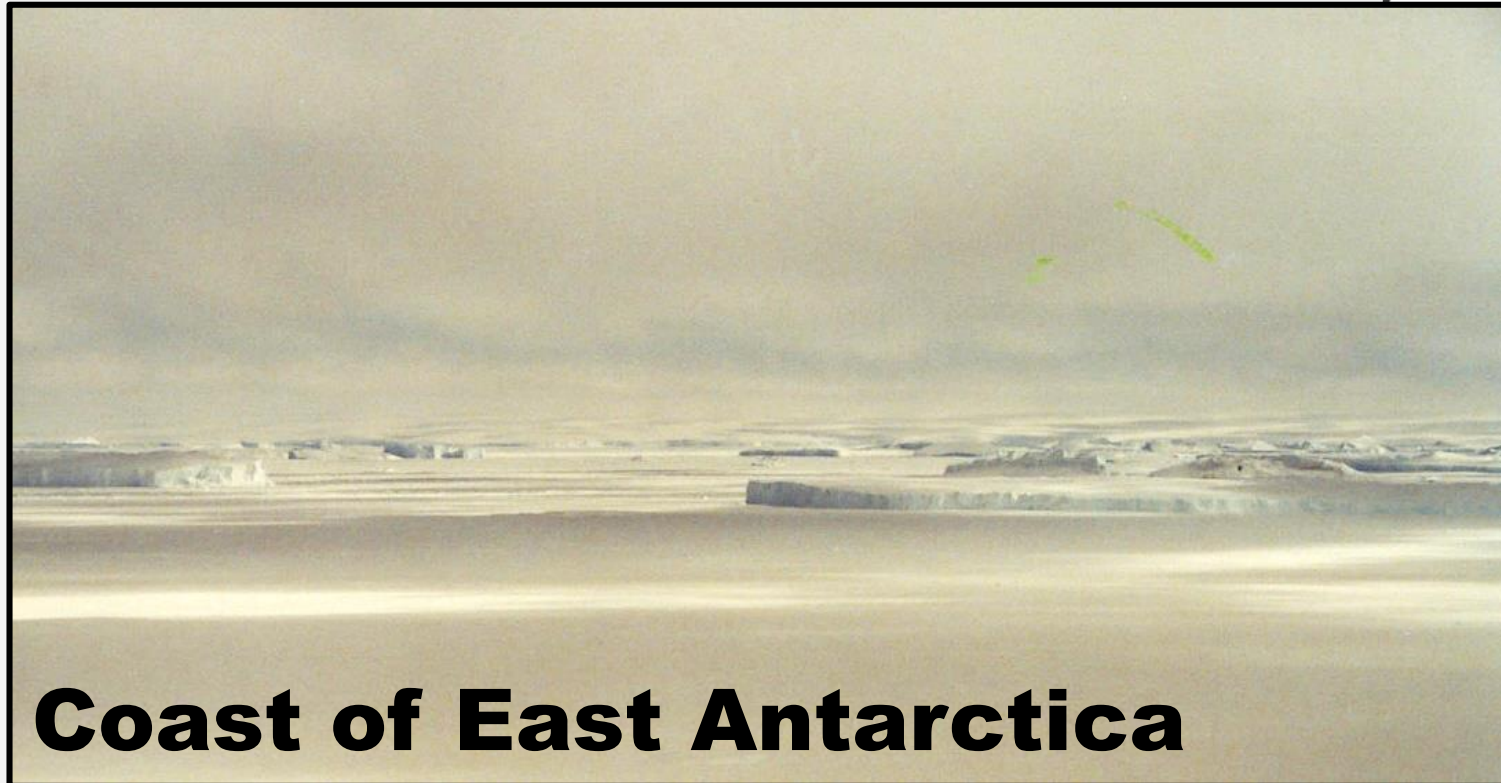
**And the Russians –  
Bellingshausen following in  
the wake of Cook**



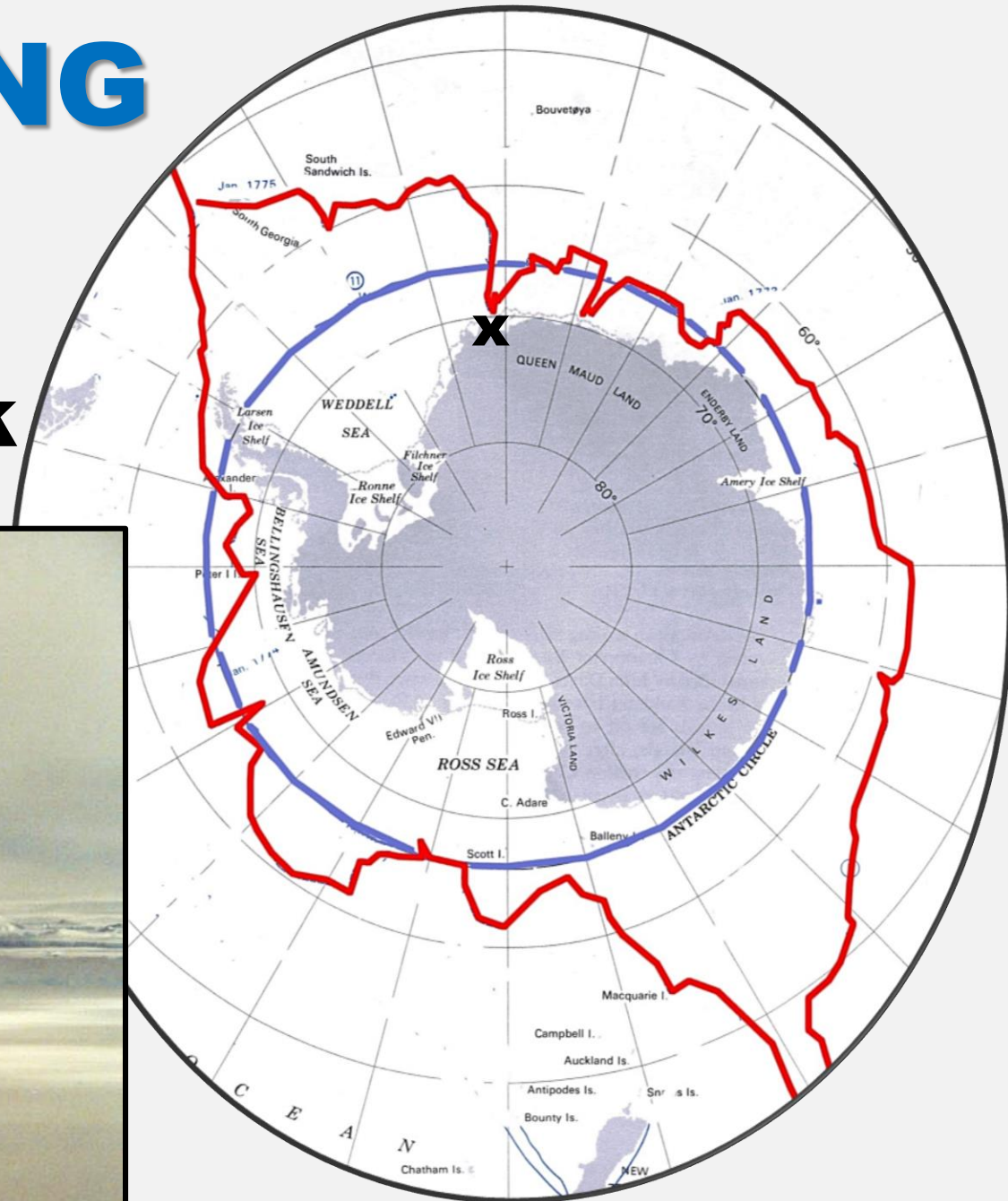


# THE FIRST SIGHTING JAN 27, 1820

## Bellingshausen's Track



**Coast of East Antarctica**





# SEALERS RACE SOUTH

**And the sealers  
come, eager to  
claim the fur  
seals on the  
South Shetland  
beaches Smith  
had discovered**



# INCIDENTAL DISCOVERIES

**The Sealers,  
too, make  
discoveries.  
And land on the  
Antarctic  
Peninsula, the  
first men to set  
foot on the  
continent**

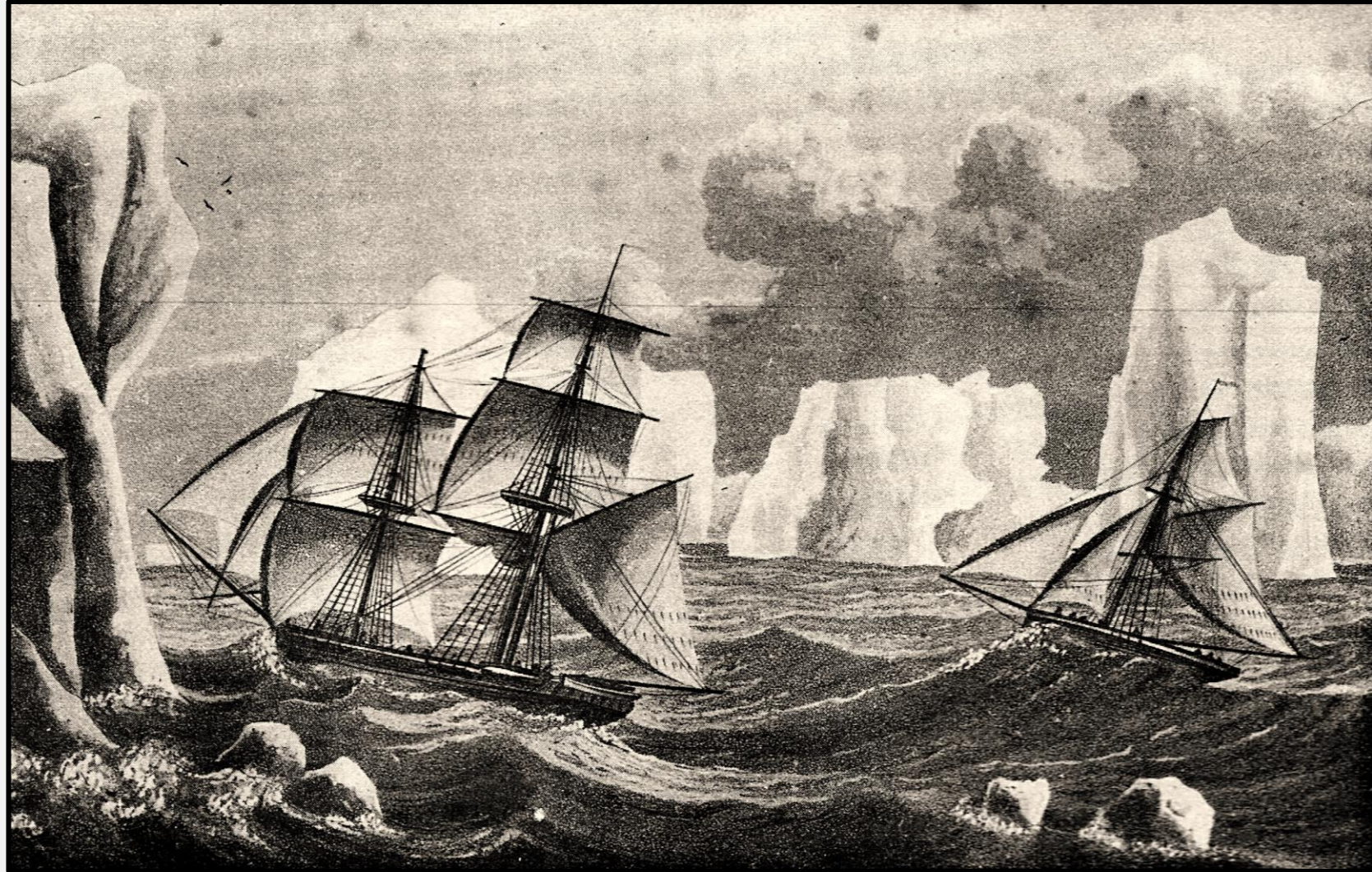




# A NEW FARTHEST SOUTH

**1823**

**James Weddell  
pushes  
southward in  
the Weddell  
Sea to a new  
record south**

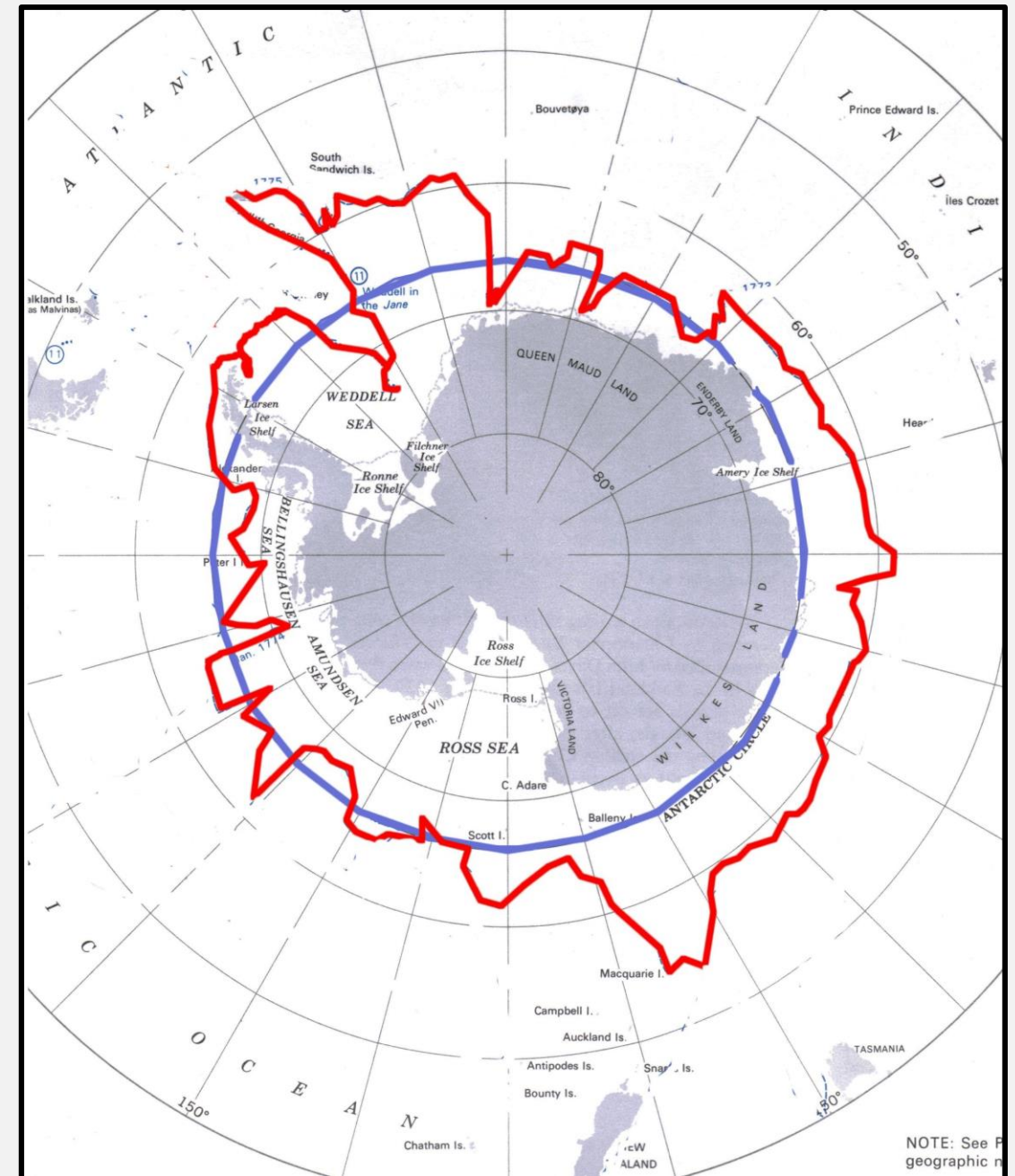




# Closing in on the Possible Extent of a Southern Continent

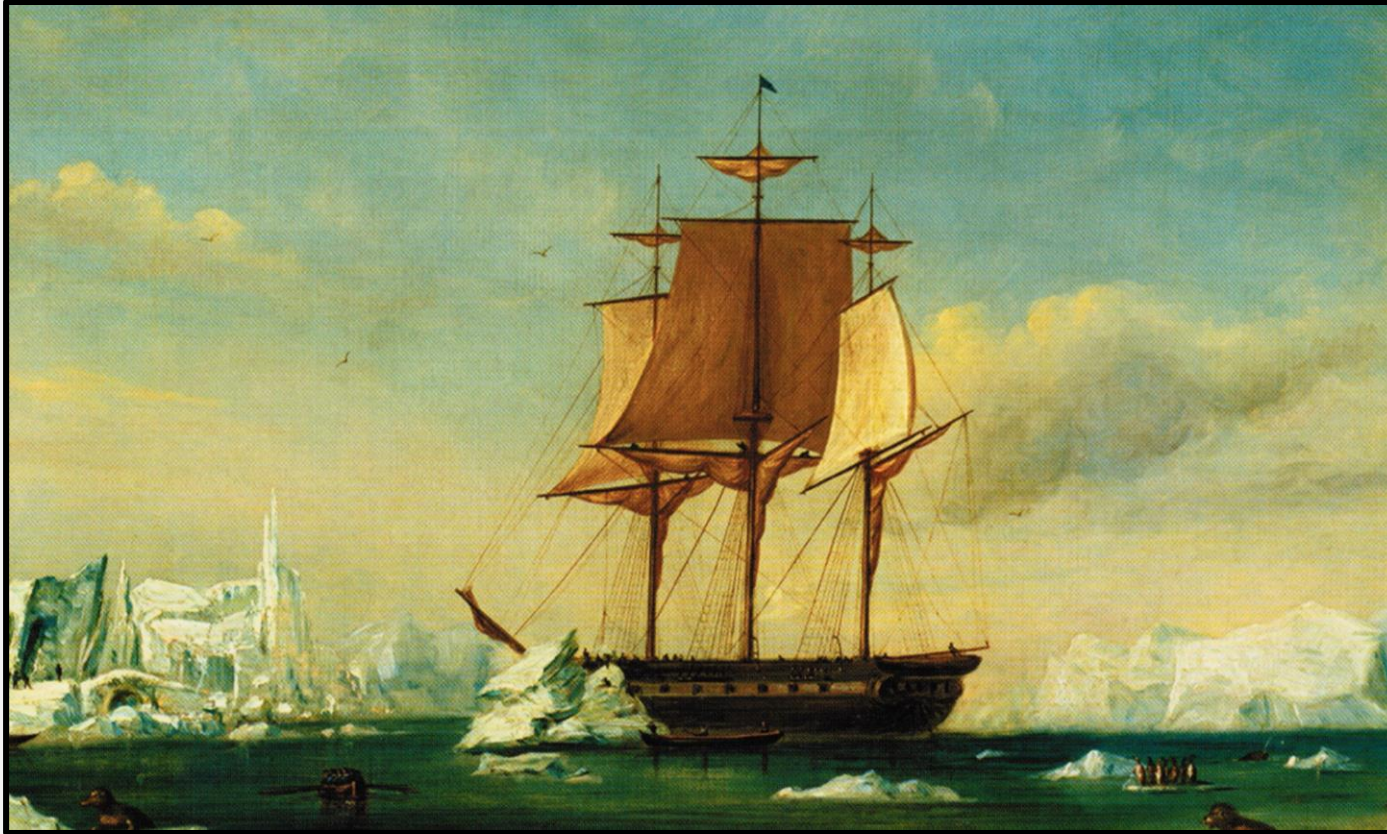
-- As of 1823

**Southernmost reach  
of Cook,  
Bellingshausen,  
and the sealers**

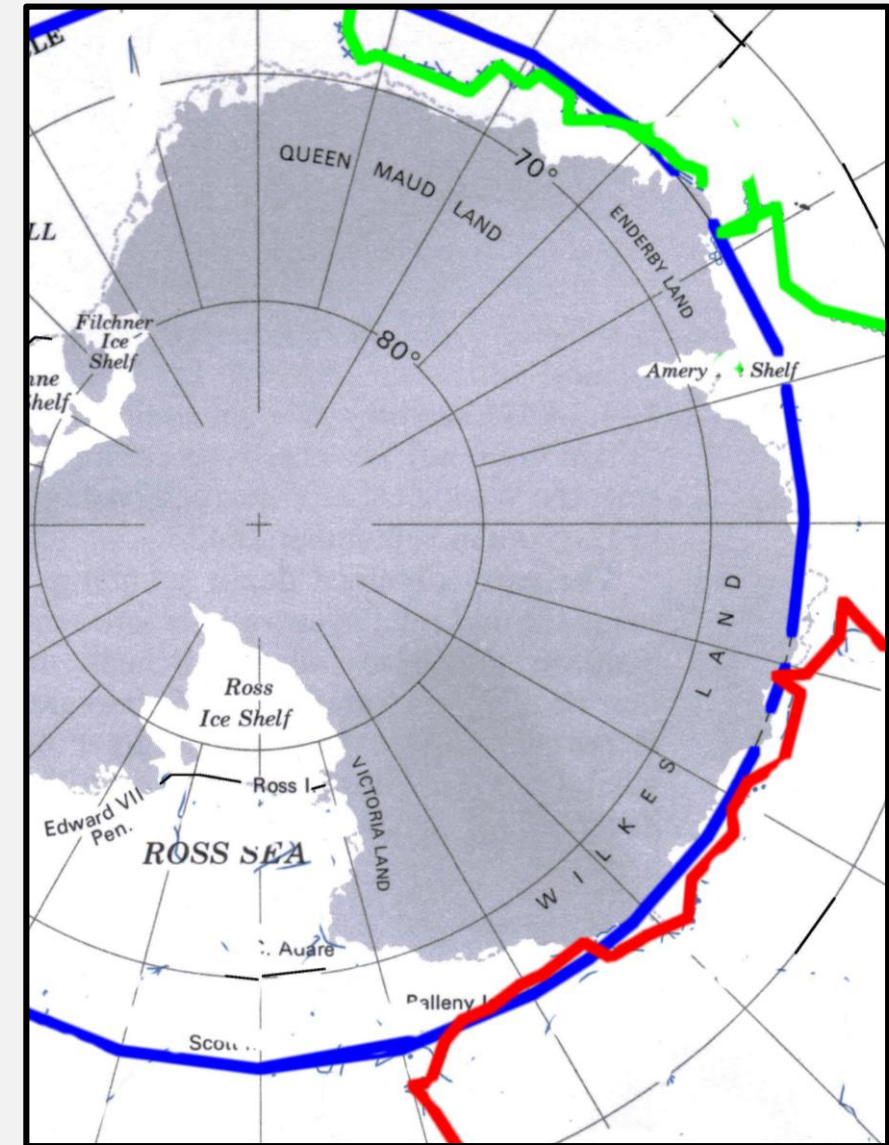




# Charles Wilkes – 1839-40

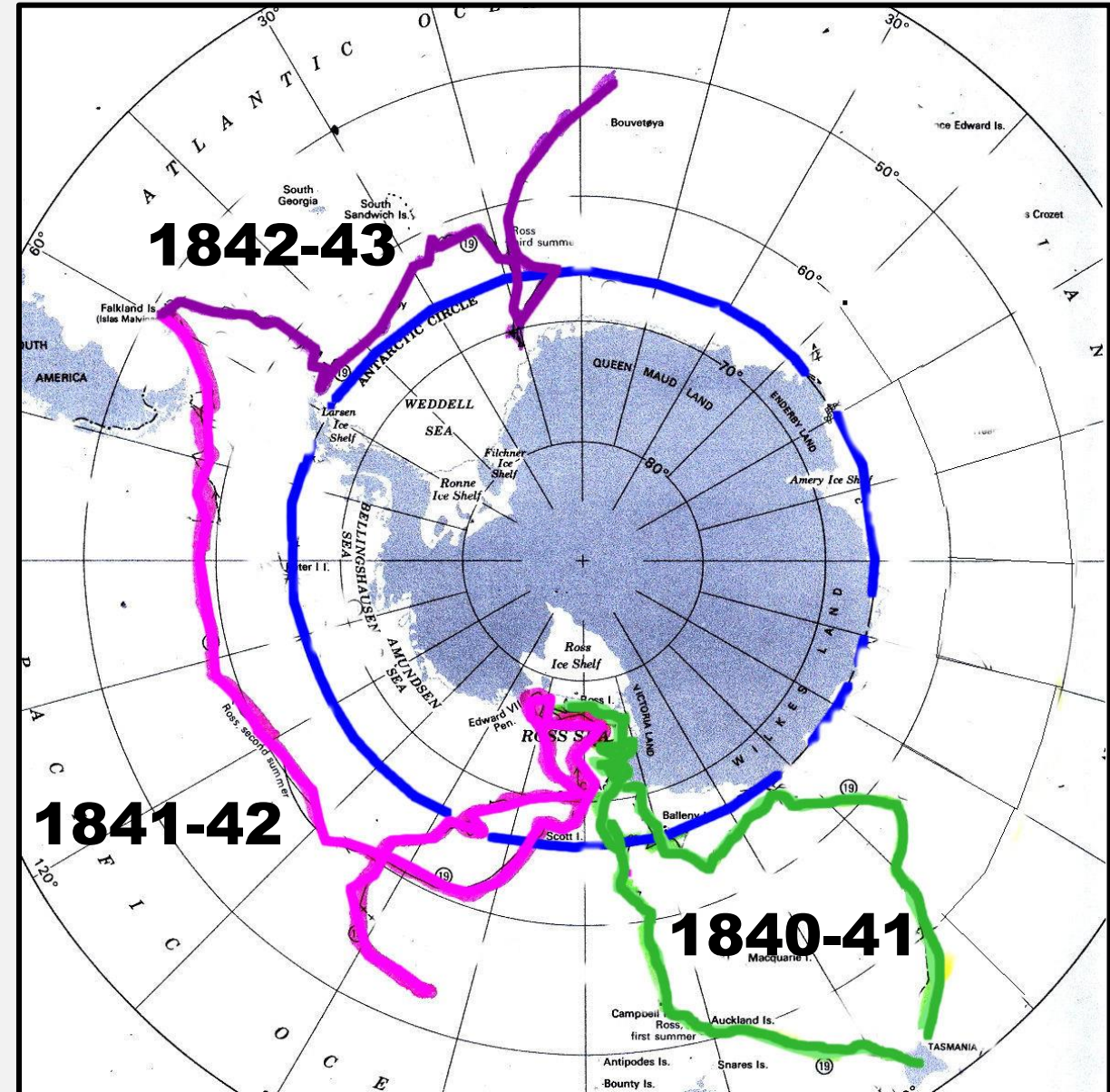


***“I gave the land the name of the Antarctic Continent. . .”***



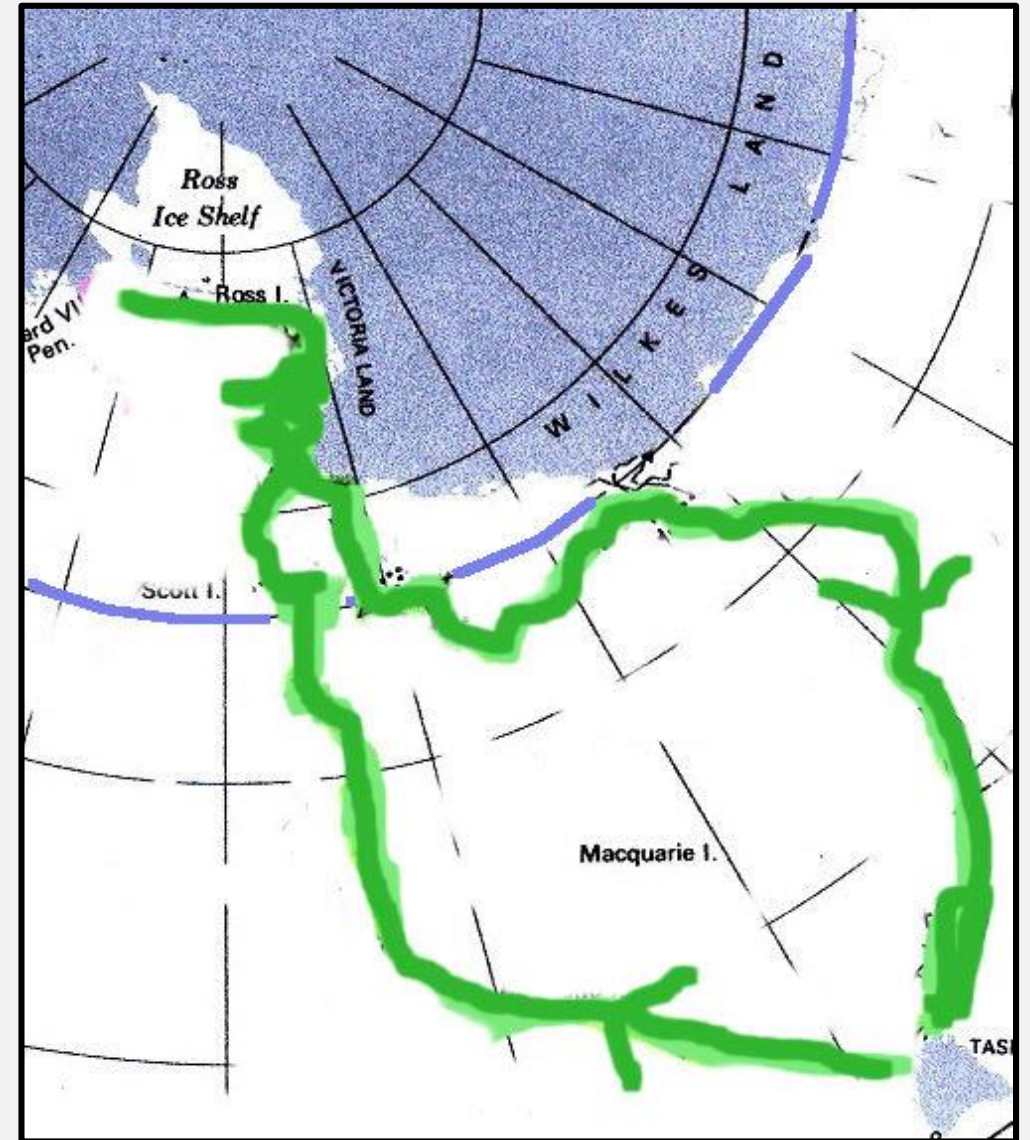


# James Clark Ross – 1840-43



# Ross Heads South

***“... Impressed with the feeling that England had ever led the way of discovery in the southern as well as in the northern regions . . .”***





# Into the Pack Ice . . .





# Into a New Sea . . .





# A New Land





# Victoria Land Named, Claimed





# Penguins – Adelies and Emperors



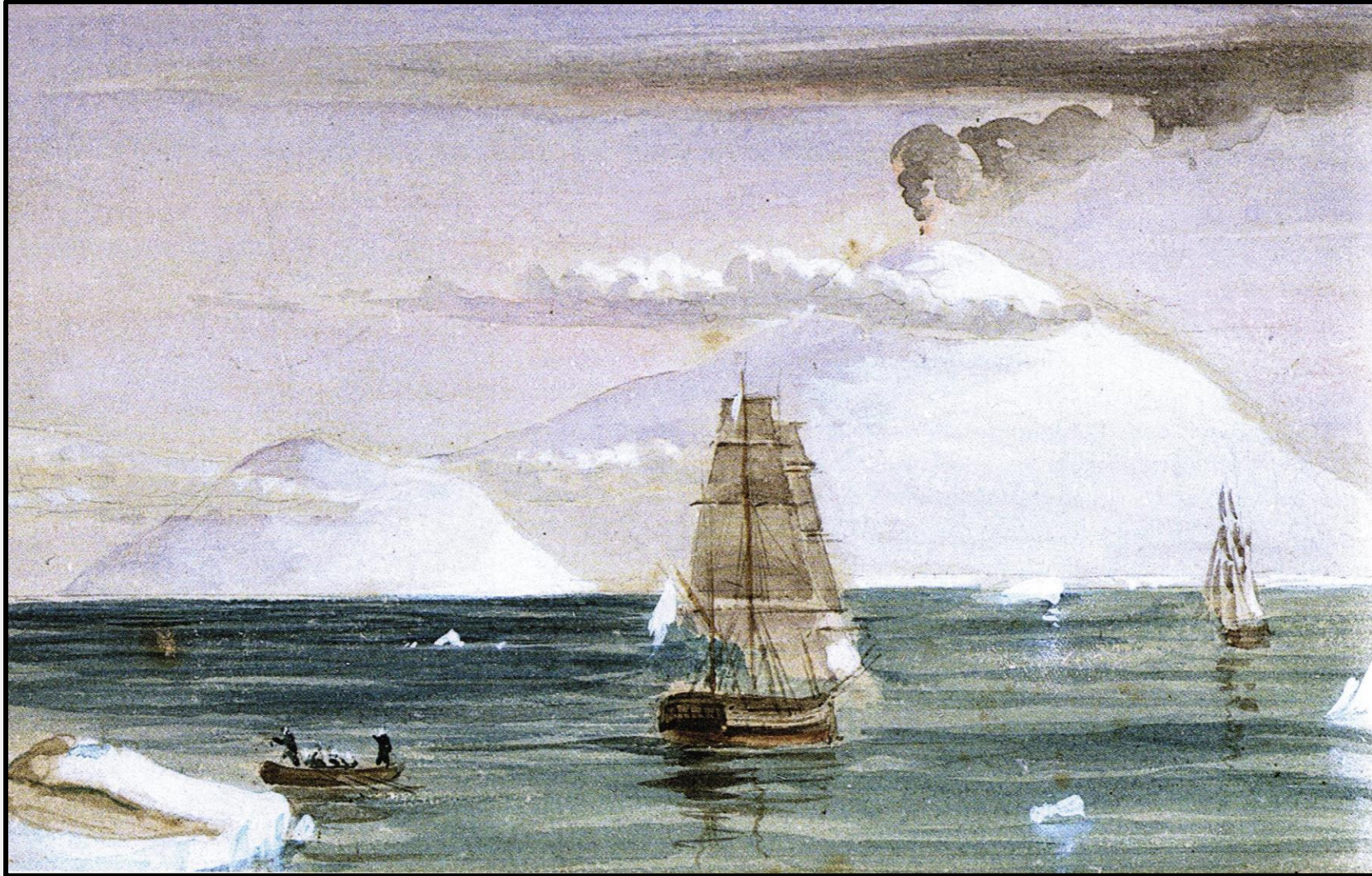


# Southward, Exploring





# A Smoking Volcano . . .





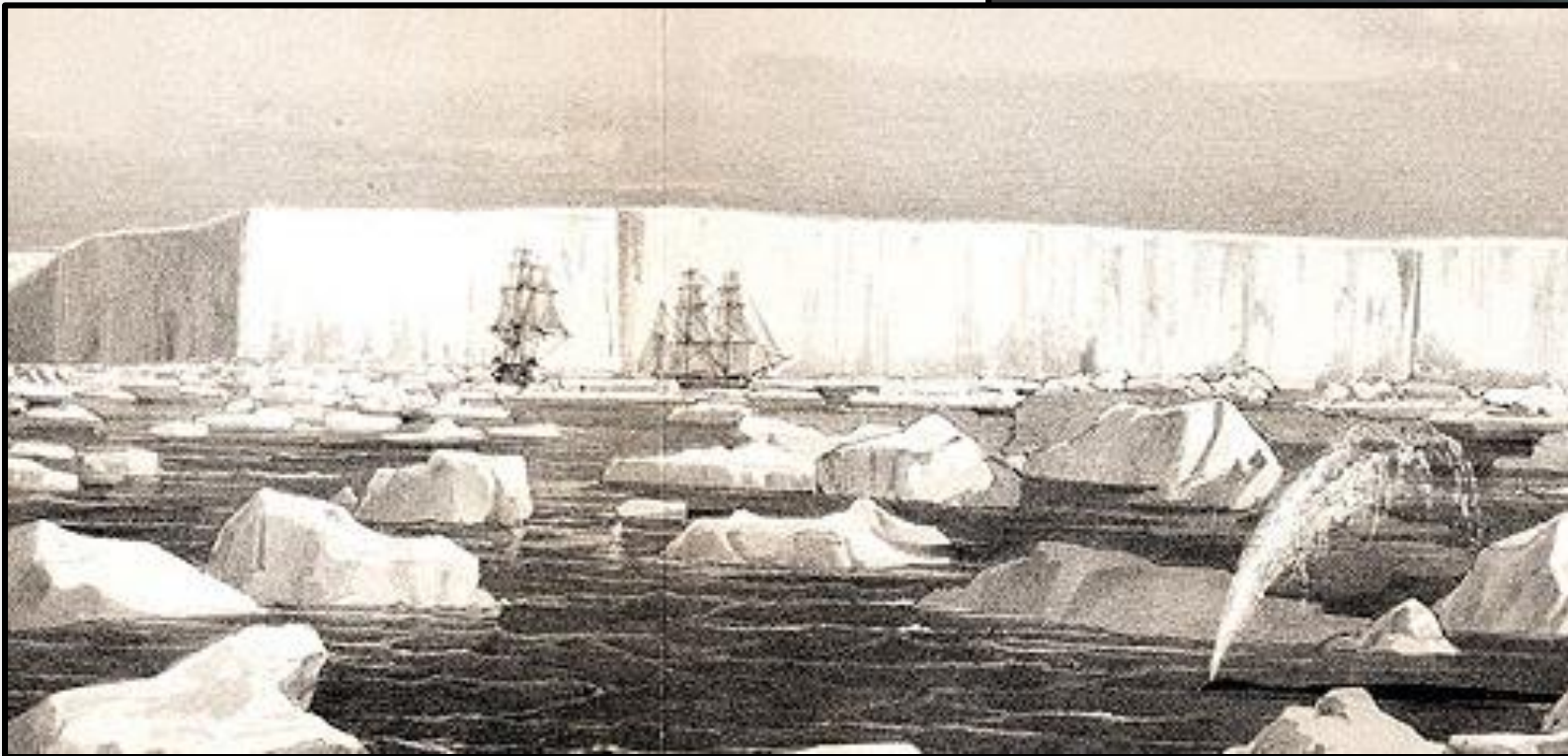
## . . . and a New Wonder



***“an obstruction of such a character . . . we might with equal chance of success try to sail through the Cliffs of Dover, as penetrate such a mass”***



# **. . . and a New Wonder**



# Eastward, Exploring

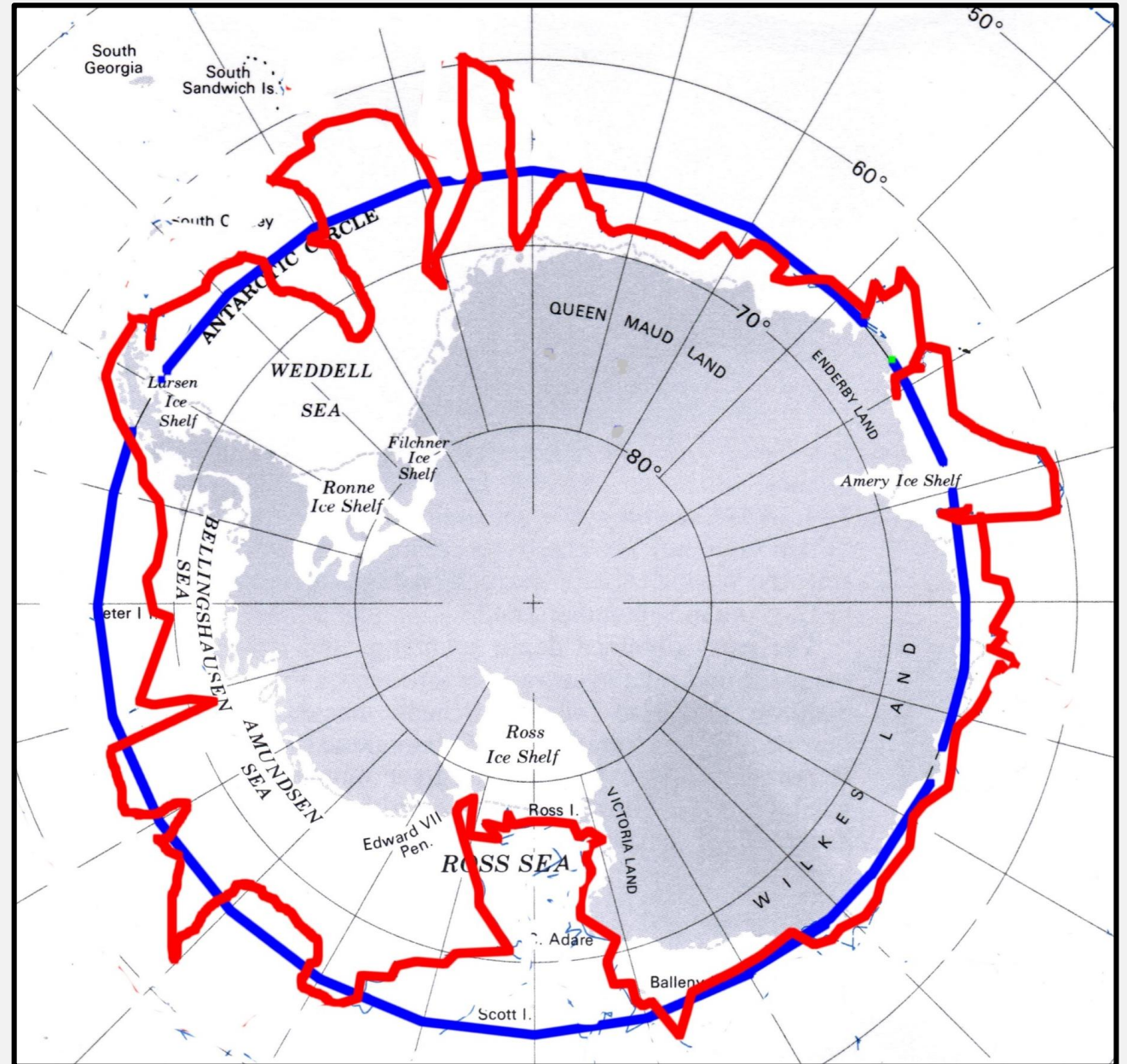




# FOUND AND NAMED BY/FOR ROSS



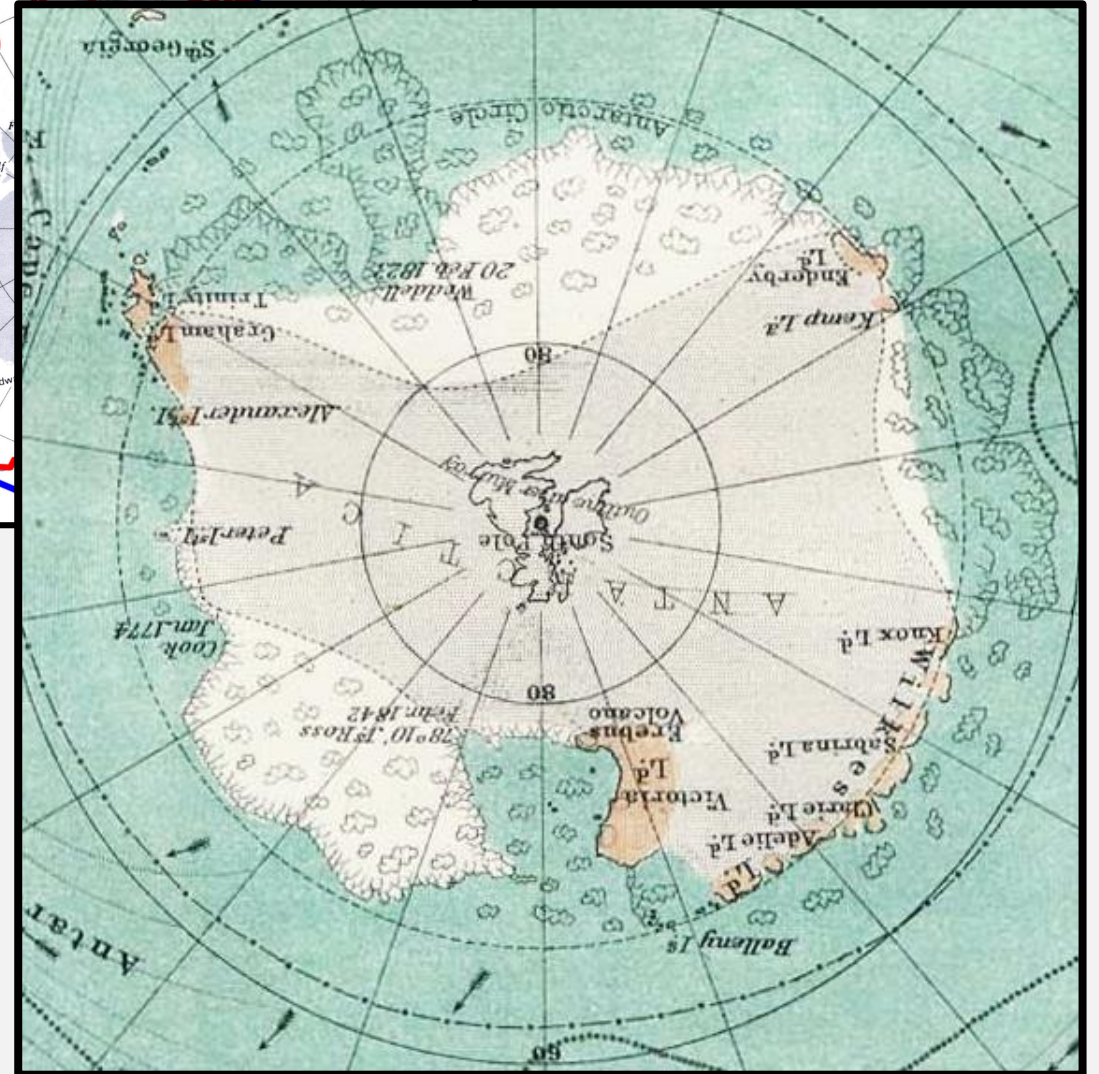
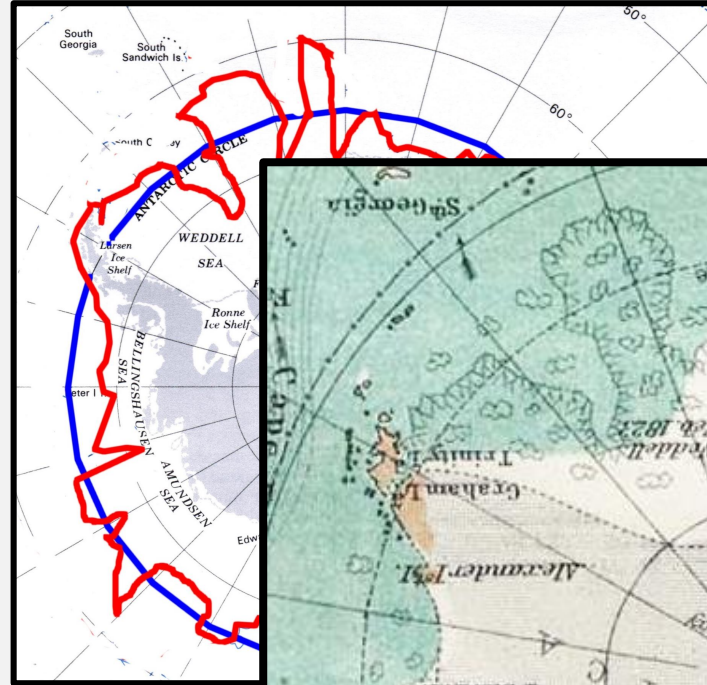
**By 1894 – The  
Continent  
closely  
Encircled**





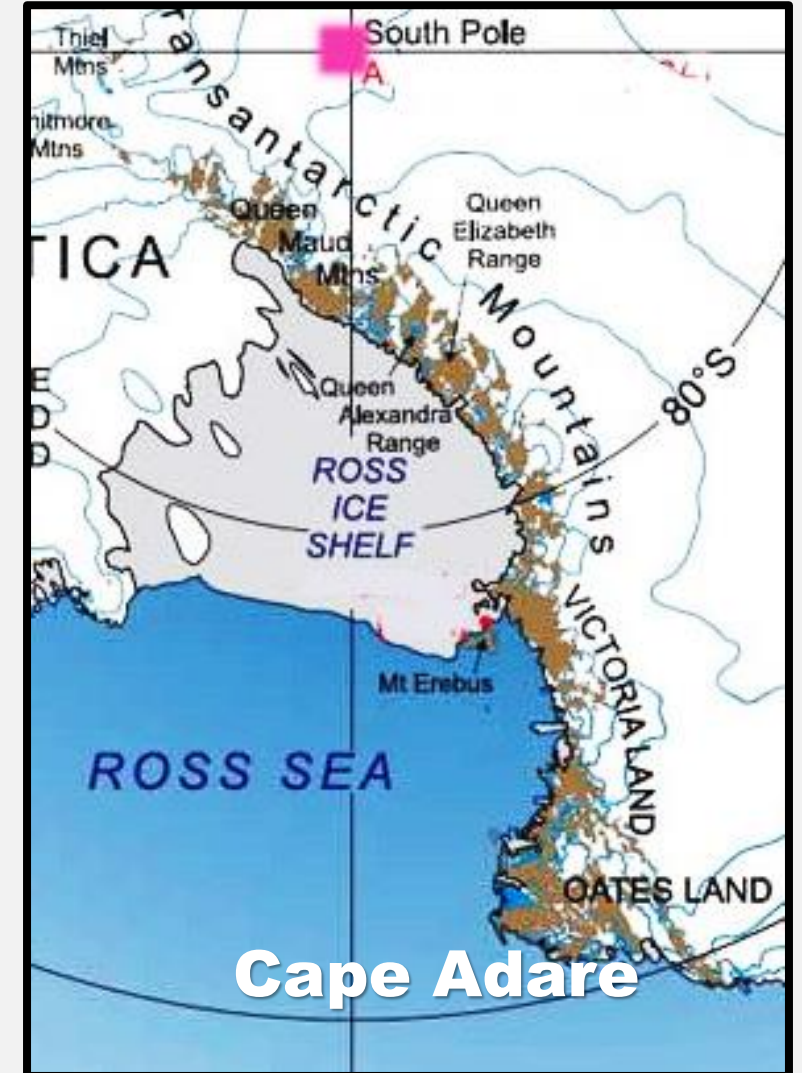
**By 1894 – The  
Continent  
closely  
Encircled**

**But the  
interior still  
unknown**





# Jan 25, 1895, A Historic Landing





***“ . . . the exploration of the Antarctic Regions is the greatest piece of geographical exploration still to be undertaken. . . . the Congress recommends that the scientific societies throughout the world should urge, in whatever way seems to them most effective, that this work should be undertaken before the close of the century.”***

**NEXT WEEK**

**Roald Amundsen**

**The First on the Scene**

**His Polar Apprenticeship**



# The Looming Iceberg: The Size of Delaware

