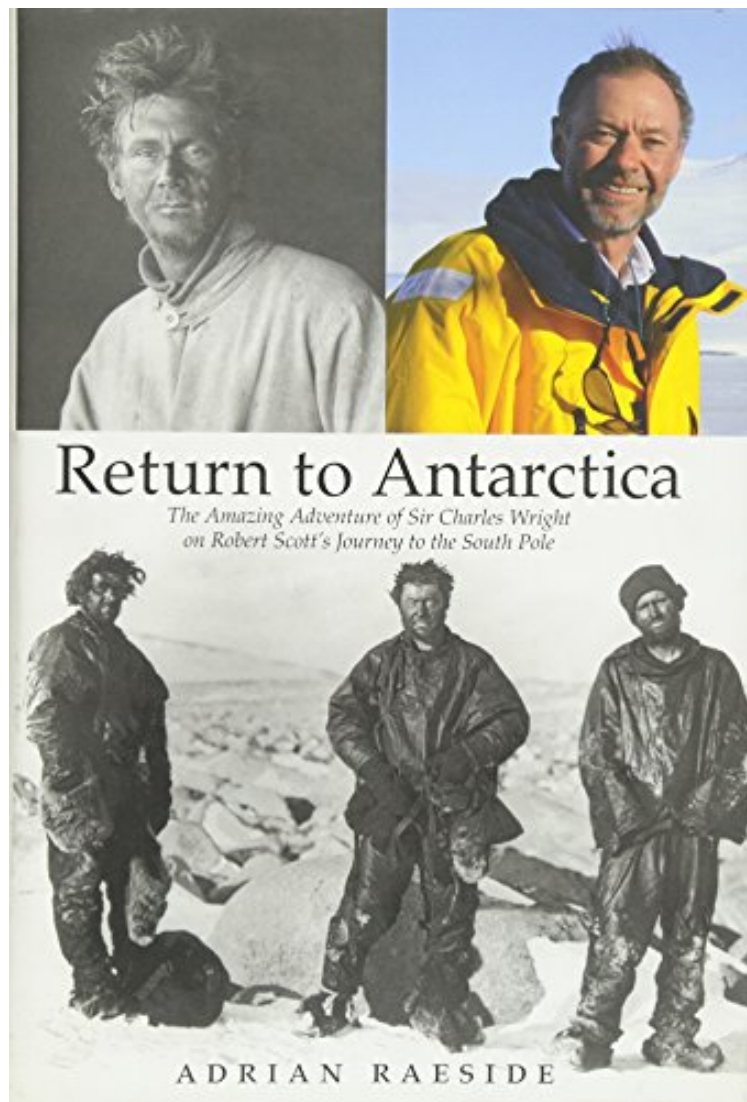


[Download pdf] Return to Antarctica: The Amazing Adventure of Sir Charles Wright on Robert Scott's Journey to the South Pole

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Adrian Raeside

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Adrian Raeside : Return to Antarctica: The Amazing Adventure of Sir Charles Wright on Robert Scott's Journey to the South Pole before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Return to Antarctica: The Amazing Adventure of Sir Charles Wright on Robert Scott's Journey to the South Pole:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. One of the best, if not the best book about Scott's 1911-1912 expedition. By Marc Ranger. Return to Antarctica is one of the very best books written about the Scott 1910-1912 expedition. I've read everything printed about Antarctica's Heroic Period. What sets apart Adrian Raeside's work is that you'll find inside tons of new information. Numerous quotes from Silas Wright's diary, from Griff Taylor's memoirs and so on. You'll learn what was the relation between all those characters and it's fascinating. We learn, for one thing, that Silas warned Bill Wilson that Scott's calculations about fuel and food rations on the South Polar Journey were all wrong, and he asked Uncle Bill to bring the matter up with Scott. Naturally, Scott could not care less about the 24 years old opinion... There are 3 or 4 factual errors those who know the Scott expedition real well will find, but those are easily forgiven when balanced with the enormous amount of new material and insights. Go get the book, now.

By 1910, the Antarctic was the last place on earth that had never been explored, and British naval officer Robert Scott was obsessed that an Englishman - specifically himself - should conquer the pole. Despite being under-funded, under-equipped and unprepared, Scott sailed south in the antiquated whaling ship, Terra Nova, in what everyone assumed would be a cracking good adventure. The expedition was made up entirely of British adventurers, gadabouts and scientists, the exception being one Canadian, Charles Seymour (Silas) Wright. Born 1887 in Toronto, Charles Wright was studying physics in Cambridge when he heard Scott was looking for a physicist to join the expedition to the pole. By the time Wright inquired, Scott had chosen a physicist for the team but was short a glaciologist. Who else but a Canadian would know about glaciers? Wright became the expedition's glaciologist. Halfway through the rough passage to the Antarctic, Scott got word that a rival explorer, Norwegian Roald Amundsen, was also making a run for the pole and was close on their heels. What started out as a stroll to the South Pole became a race between two very determined and different men. Arriving at their base camp on Cape Evans in January 1911, Scott's team soon discovered they were unprepared for the Antarctic, while equipment failures and food shortages compounded the hardship. For the final race to the pole, Scott stripped the team down to four men, and Wright did not make the cut. Scott reached the geographic South Pole only to find that Amundsen had beaten them by days. Bitterly disappointed, Scott and his companions returned to base camp, but were caught in a fierce Antarctic blizzard that raged for days. Too weak to pull their sleds and out of food and fuel, they froze to death. Ironically, as if to underscore the litany of errors that dogged the expedition, they perished only a few miles from a cache of food and fuel. Next spring Wright led a search party to look for the remains of Scott and his party, and it was the sharp-eyed Wright who spotted a small patch of green on a snowy landscape - the tent containing Scott and his companions' frozen bodies. Wright returned to England and went on to do even more extraordinary things, including inventing trench wireless in WWI, and working closely with Winston Churchill, developing the technology to assist in the allied invasion of Europe in WWII which included developing the first radar installations and inventing the technology that neutralized German magnetic sea mines. After a stint as naval attaché to Washington, D.C., and Director of Scripps Oceanographic Institute in La Jolla, California, he retired to Salt Spring Island, BC, passing away in 1975. Typically Canadian, Wright was modest about his accomplishments, with few Canadians aware of his amazing life and the extraordinary impact he had on the 20th century.

From the Inside Flap. Return to Antarctica marks the 100th anniversary of the Scott Expedition to the South Pole. By 1910, the South Pole had gripped the imagination as one of the final frontiers to be explored, and British naval officer Robert Scott was obsessed that an Englishman specifically himself should be its conqueror. Despite being under-funded and under-equipped, Scott gathered together an eclectic group of naval personnel and scientists and sailed south in the ex-sealing vessel Terra Nova. Also aboard the Terra Nova was a Canadian, Charles Seymour "Silas" Wright. Wright was studying physics at Cambridge University when he heard Scott was looking for a physicist to join the expedition to the Pole. Initially turned down by Scott, Wright walked from Cambridge to London to apply in person, where Scott changed his mind, appointing Wright the expedition's official physicist and glaciologist. (Who else but a Canadian would know about glaciers?) Halfway through the rough passage to the Antarctic, Scott got word that rival explorer, Norwegian Roald Amundsen, was also making a run for the Pole and was close on their heels. What started out as a stroll to the South Pole became a race between two very determined and different men. Picked to accompany Scott on the 900-mile journey, Wright made it to within 283 miles of the Pole before being turned back. Scott and a four-man party reached the South Pole on January 17, 1912, only to discover that they had lost the race to Amundsen. Bitterly disappointed, Scott and his companions returned to the coast, but were caught in a fierce Antarctic blizzard that raged for days. Too weak to pull their sleds and out of food and fuel, they froze to death only eleven miles from a cache of supplies. The next spring Wright navigated for the search party that went back to look for the remains of Scott and his party and it was the sharp-eye Wright who spotted the mound of snow covering the tent and the frozen bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers. Return to Antarctica will transport the reader to the very time and place of Scott's expedition through the eyes of Charles Wright, whose diaries and notes were handed down to his grandson, Adrian Raeside. In the Antarctic summer of 2008-2009, Raeside travelled to Antarctica to retrace his grandfather's footsteps and to gain perspective on an adventure of a century ago that challenged men's courage, strength and sanity. Raeside's story telling,

supported by revelations from previously unpublished accounts, drawing and photographs, does admirable justice to the legacy of the men who literally followed Robert Scott to the end of the Earth. About the Author Adrian Raeside was born in 1957, in Dunedin, New Zealand. His editorial cartoons, which have appeared in the Victoria Times Colonist for 30 years, and his Other Coast comic strip are syndicated to hundreds of newspapers and magazine worldwide. The author travelled to Antarctica courtesy of Quark Expeditions, www.quarkexpeditions.com.