

# In Brief

DOI: 10.1017/S0032247404003638

**ANTARCTIC CIRCLE CROSSED BY LARGE CRUISE VESSEL.** The first crossing of the Antarctic Circle by a large cruise vessel, Holland America's MS *Amsterdam*, was made in the 2003/04 austral summer on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. *Amsterdam* is the largest cruise vessel to cross the Antarctic Circle, and the second largest ship to do so, the first being the US aircraft carrier *Philippine Sea* during Operation Highjump, 1946–47. Sea-ice conditions in the area cruised by *Amsterdam* were unusually light, with minor scattered icebergs. *Amsterdam* is not ice-strengthened and, by agreement with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators and the company's permit from the US Environmental Protection Agency, conducts only cruises in the Antarctic Peninsula area, without making landings. During the 2003/04 season, its second in the Antarctic, *Amsterdam* twice crossed the Antarctic Circle (28 December 2003 and 20 January 2004). Captain Jonathan Peter Harris was the Master, and Pat Toomey the Ice Pilot. (Source : John Splettstoesser)

**ANTARCTIC LANDINGS MADE FROM MEDIUM-SIZED CRUISE VESSEL.** The first Antarctic landings from a medium-sized cruise vessel officially affiliated with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators — Saga Shipping Company's MV *Saga Rose* — were made in the 2003/04 season. Although landings have

been made in previous years from the similarly sized *Marco Polo*, Orient Lines has not been a full member of IAATO. As part of the world cruise of *Saga Rose*, landings were made at Half Moon Island on 28 January 2004, at Waterboat Point on 29 January, and at Deception Island on 30 January. *Saga Rose* is currently scheduled to have a similar Antarctic programme in 2005. Captain Alistair McLundie was the Master and Captain Stewart Lawrence the Ice Pilot.

**SOUTH WITH SHACKLETON.** An exhibition of artefacts from Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition of 1907–09 opened in April 2004 at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. The exhibition, entitled 'South with Shackleton,' includes a specially produced video about the expedition, which sailed in *Nimrod* and saw 15 men winter at a hut at Cape Royds, Ross Island. Shackleton and three comrades discovered the Beardmore Glacier, reached the Antarctic Plateau, and attained a farthest south of only 97 miles from the South Pole, while three other members of the expedition were the first to reach the area of the South Magnetic Pole. Many of the artefacts displayed in the exhibition belonged to Sir Philip Brocklehurst, a member of the expedition and a nephew of Sudeley Castle's former owner, Emma Dent. The items have been donated to the exhibition — which is scheduled to run for two years — by Mr Johnny Van Haften, Brocklehurst's great nephew and heir.