



UNITED KINGDOM ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST NEWS RELEASE

WHISKY GALORE AMONGST NEW FINDS FROM SHACKLETON'S ANTARCTIC HUT

London, February 26: Two cases of perfectly preserved *MacKinlay's Rare Old Whisky* are amongst dozens of new objects discovered by an international team working to conserve Sir Ernest Shackleton's only Antarctic hut. The discoveries were made during the current short Antarctic summer.

The objects were found while removing ice from under Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds for the first time since it was built in 1908. The finds are made up of several items including:

- a woolen undershirt labeled Bertram Armytage, an Australian member of Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition 1907-09
- rubber and felt boots still lined with straw to insulate the team's feet
- an intact dog harness
- several crates of matches,
- and two pristine crates labelled *MacKinlay's* whisky.

"It was a magical feeling literally discovering history, touching things that had remained untouched for almost a hundred years" said British-based James Blake the youngest member of the conservation team working at the site who spent many days under the hut in sub zero temperatures recovering the objects.

British firm Carpenter Oak and Woodland oversaw the carpentry work and director Charley Brentnall, onsite for the last six weeks, was delighted with the new finds. "It was an unexpected bonus to the planned programme of hut conservation. As with so much of the huts' project, the perfectly preserved mundane everyday things like boxes of matches and bottles of whisky really bring alive the ordeal of these great men," said Mr Brentnall.

The majority of the unique artifacts have all been transported to New Zealand's Antarctic research facility, Scott Base, where an international team of conservators led by Briton Chris Calnan from The National Trust has just arrived to spend the long Antarctic winter conserving the Shackleton hut collection.

The work is part of a project to conserve the endangered Antarctic legacy of Scott and Shackleton's expeditions for future generations for which £3,000,000 is urgently needed to save Captain Scott's last expedition base.

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