

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

### Polar Exploration

This series includes accounts, by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, of early expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic. Huge resources were invested in such endeavours, particularly the search for the North-West Passage, which, if successful, promised enormous strategic and commercial rewards. Cartographers and scientists travelled with many of the expeditions, and their work made important contributions to earth sciences, climatology, botany and zoology. They also brought back anthropological information about the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region and the southern fringes of the American continent. The series further includes dramatic and poignant accounts of the harsh realities of working in extreme conditions and utter isolation in bygone centuries.

### The Voyage of the *Why Not?* in the Antarctic

This 1911 publication, translated from the French, vividly describes the varied hardships and satisfactions of Antarctic exploration and scientific research in the early twentieth century. Son of the famed neurologist, Jean-Baptiste Charcot (1867–1936) commanded the *Pourquoi-Pas?* on its hazardous journey into the ice-bound regions south of Cape Horn. Illustrated with numerous photographs, his journal entries provide a rich account of daily life aboard the ship and out on the ice, including encounters with seals and penguins, and Christmases gathered around a cardboard tree. Building on the advances made by previous expeditions, including his own on the *Français* (1903–5), Charcot and his men, ranging in their expertise from astronomy to zoology, set out to further push back the boundaries of the unknown ‘for the honour of French science’. The precise mapping of more than a thousand miles of Antarctic coastline ranked as one of the expedition’s foremost achievements.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# The Voyage of the *Why Not?* in the Antarctic

*The Journal of the Second French  
South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910*

JEAN CHARCOT

TRANSLATED BY PHILIP WALSH



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
Polar Expedition, 1908–1910  
Jean Charcot  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108076753](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108076753)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1911  
This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07675-3 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect  
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published  
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,  
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of oversize plates  
which it has not been possible to reproduce to scale in this edition.  
They can be found online at [www.cambridge.org/9781108076753](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108076753)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

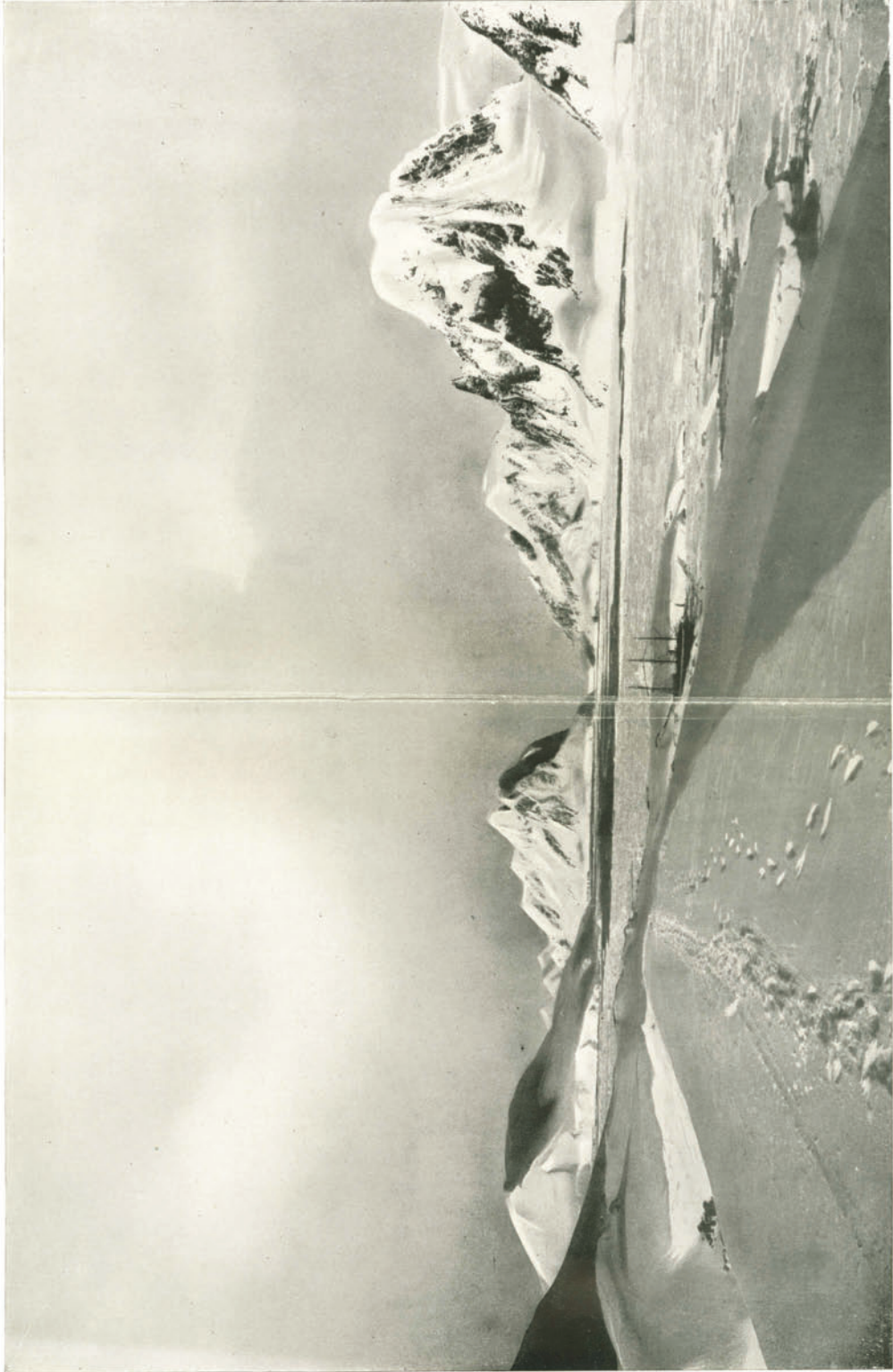
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE ‘POURQUOI-PAS ?’ IN THE  
ANTARCTIC

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
Polar Expedition, 1908–1910  
Jean Charcot  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)



Winter Quarters of the Expedition at Petermann Island.

The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE VOYAGE OF THE  
' WHY NOT ? '  
IN THE ANTARCTIC

THE JOURNAL OF THE SECOND FRENCH  
SOUTH POLAR EXPEDITION, 1908–1910

By  
DR. JEAN CHARCOT

English Version by  
PHILIP WALSH

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS  
FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

HODDER AND STOUGHTON  
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*Butler and Tanner The Selwood Printing Works Frome and London*



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
FROM HAVRE TO PUNTA ARENAS . . . . .	25

## THE DIARY OF THE EXPEDITION

### *PART I*

THE SUMMER OF 1908–1909 . . . . .	29
-----------------------------------	----

### *PART II*

AUTUMN, WINTER AND SPRING, 1909 . . . . .	140
---	-----

### *PART III*

THE SUMMER OF 1909–1910 . . . . .	250
-----------------------------------	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South  
 Polar Expedition, 1908–1910  
 Jean Charcot  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

## ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
WINTER QUARTERS OF THE EXPEDITION AT PETERMANN ISLAND <i>(Folder—Frontispiece)</i>	
SOUTH POLAR CHART	6
THE <i>Pourquoi-Pas?</i> 's RIG	10
PLAN OF THE <i>Pourquoi-Pas?</i>	10
SECTIONS OF THE <i>Pourquoi-Pas?</i> AND OF AN ORDINARY BOAT	10
THE STAFF BEFORE DEPARTURE	24
DEPARTURE FROM HAVRE	24
OUR FIRST ICEBERG	29
COALING AT PENDULUM COVE	48
CORMORANTS ON THEIR NESTS	60
THE MAGNETIC HUT ON WANDEL ISLAND AFTER FIVE YEARS	64
THREATENING ICE-BLOCKS	68
THE FIGHT WITH THE ICE AT WANDEL	72
ADÉLIE PENGUINS ON THE ICE IN MARGUERITE BAY	96
JENNY ISLAND AND ITS TERRACE	100
ON THE SUMMIT OF JENNY ISLAND	104
ICE-FLOES OFF ALEXANDER I. LAND	108
GLACIER FACE IN MARGUERITE BAY	112
EMBARKING IN THE NORWEGIAN BOAT IN MATHA BAY	132
ROCK FORMATION IN MATHA BAY	136
PENGUIN ROOKERY ON PETERMANN ISLAND	140
ONE OF THE METEOROLOGICAL SHELTERS IN AUTUMN	144
THE SAME SHELTER IN SPRING	144
PENGUINS' TRACKS AT WHALEBOAT POINT	148
	vii

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07675-3 - The Voyage of the Why Not? in the Antarctic: The Journal of the Second French South Polar Expedition, 1908–1910

Jean Charcot

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
THE HUTS FOR THE TRANSIT INSTRUMENT AND THE SEISMOGRAPH	149
SENDING UP A METEOROLOGICAL BALLOON	149
A SEA LEOPARD	154
A CRABBING SEAL	155
A SEA LEOPARD	155
SHROVE TUESDAY MASQUERADE	158
SHROVE TUESDAY PARADE	158
AN ARCH OF ICE	160
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY ON MEGALESTRIS HILL	161
OUR QUARTERS, SPRING, 1909	166
CROSSING A BRIDGE OF ICE	170
A DIFFICULT DESCENT	174
THE DESCENT OF THE GLACIER	175
HAULING THE NORWEGIAN BOAT OVER THE GLACIER	180
THE ARGENTINE ISLANDS	180
ON THE PACK	188
CLOUDS ROUND THE GLACIER PEAK AND AN ICE-BLOCKED CHANNEL	192
THE STAFF IN JULY, 1909	200
THE CAMP ON THE GLACIER	224
THE RETURN OF AVELINE, BESNARD, AND HERVÉ	232
THE <i>Pourquoi-Pas ?</i> AND HER SURROUNDINGS IN OCTOBER, 1909	236
WE BEGIN TO PUT THE STORES ON BOARD	244
AN ARGUMENT !	248
OUT FOR A WALK	248
HOGGARD AND WANDEL ISLANDS, AS SEEN FROM PETERMANN	252
AN ICEBERG OFF PETERMANN ISLAND	256
ON THE EDGE OF THE PACK	286
THE <i>Pourquoi-Pas ?</i> CHARGING A BIG FLOE	292