



# **The Antarctic Dictionary**

## **A Complete Guide to Antarctic English**

***Bernadette Hince***

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THE ANTARCTIC DICTIONARY

# G

**galley** *Falkland Islands*

[Galley is recorded since 1750 (NOED) in British English for a kitchen aboard ship. It is also used on US antarctic bases, and prob. much more widely, for a kitchen and dining room area.]

The kitchen of a **cookhouse**.

**1994** Simpson, Tim *Cooking the Falkland Island way* Peregrine Publishing, Bangor: 10.

I should perhaps explain here the terms 'cookhouse' and 'galley' as they are used in the Falkland Islands. All settlements have a cookhouse where the single men and shearing gangs eat, and in some places, sleep. In a few larger settlements they sleep in a separate bunkhouse. The cooking for these men is done in the 'galley' as the kitchen of the cookhouse is always called.

**gallied** *adjective. Orig whaling, also recorded from Tristan da Cunha*

[The verb galley to frighten or daze is recorded from 1605, though NOED noted that it is now only in dialect and whaling use.]

Frightened, flustered.

**1827** (South Shetlands) Weddell, James *A voyage towards the South Pole, performed in the years 1822–24*, 2nd edn David and Charles Reprints, Newton Abbot, Devon (1970): 128.

At two in the afternoon, the Beaufoy having joined company, we stood to the westward, and at 4 o'clock we saw a sperm whale, which confirms Mr. Smith's report of such sort of whales being found on this coast, as stated by him in his account of South Shetland. The weather being now more settled, we lowered our boats, and set out in pursuit of the whale, but did not succeed. It was supposed that the fish having seen the copper of the vessel, had become what is technically called *gallied*, and disappeared.

**1910** Barrow, K.M. *Three years in Tristan da Cunha* Skeffington & Son, London: 280.

Some Tristan words .. Allow, to say. .. Gallied, flustered [etc..].

**gam** *Also gamming*

[Recorded in *New Zealand English (DNZE)* from 1846 for a sociable display by young albatrosses and possibly other large seabirds; later recorded in *British English (from 1889: NOED)* for social gatherings of whales and of whalers. It applies here esp. to albatrosses, but not only to young ones.]

A social pattern of behaviour of a group of **albatrosses**, or the group itself.

**26 Nov 1912** Murphy, Robert Cushman (1948) *Logbook for Grace Robert Hale Ltd*, London: 152.

There were millions and millions of petrels and albatrosses, filling the air like snowflakes, or afloat. The albatrosses were mostly grouped in gams, in some instances with giant fulmars mingled peaceably among them. From six to twenty of the big birds might be together in such companies.

**1960** Westerskov, Kaj *Birds of Campbell Island* Wildlife Publication no. 61, Wildlife Division, New Zealand: opp. 24.

[caption] The gently-rolling tussock-covered slopes of Mt. Honey are a favoured nesting habitat for the royal alba-

trosses. Here a gam of three young birds, not yet breeding, are sham-displaying.

**1962** Bailey, Alfred M. and Sorensen, J.H. *Subantarctic Campbell Island*. Proceedings no. 10, Denver Museum of Natural History: 168.

Shuffling awkwardly, with body held horizontally, the great bird [sc. Royal Albatross] will usually thrust its head upward and with open beak send out a sonorous invitation for others to gather 'round. If the invitation is accepted, one or a half dozen may quickly settle down, and the "gam" ceremony takes place. ... Usually one albatross dominates the show, stepping awkwardly about, thrusting head and neck skyward with beak open as it gives a far-reaching neighing call — shaking the head vigorously — and culminating the performance with raised wings and a frenzy of calls, with an occasional savage snapping of mandibles at one of the other participants. Often there seems to be an individual in a group that tries to monopolize the "gam," and he or she may make a vicious attack on another of the party.

**1986** Fraser, Conon *Beyond the roaring forties: New Zealand's subantarctic islands* Government Printing Office Publishing, Wellington: 18.

Another three or four years pass [sc. after the royal albatrosses are at sea for 4-6 years] before they start breeding, and during this time they form sociable groups for the highly stylised ritual of "gamming". In this ceremony, groups of adolescents and adults alternately bow, extend their huge wings, clapper their bills, and point their heads skywards, to the accompaniment of liquid rattlings, ecstatic shrieks, and melodious wheezings.

**gang line** *Dog-sledging*

Part of the harness arrangement for **sledge dogs**: the centre line taking the main pull of the sledge, and to which the dogs are fastened.

**1958** Bursley, Jack *Antarctic night* Longman, Green & Co., London: 156.

The gang-line was tied to it, and the dogs would be fastened to the gang-line in pairs except for the lead dog, who pulled alone, out ahead.

**1992** Steger, Will and Bowermaster, Jon *Crossing Antarctica* Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 30.

I find myself dragging out my chores — unpacking the sled, untangling gang lines, feeding the dogs.

**gansey** *Tristan da Cunha. Also ganzey*

[*English dialect ganzey (west Yorkshire) a jersey, a knitted woollen shirt, variant of gansey (Yorkshire, Suffolk) recorded from 1892 (EDD).*]

A jumper, a jersey.

**[1949]** Granville, Wilfred *Sea slang of the twentieth century* Winchester, London: 106.

Ganzey: a guernsey, thick sweater worn in Merchant Navy.]

**1957** Booy, D.M. *Rock of exile: a narrative of Tristan da Cunha* J.M. Dent & Sons, London: 67.

When a girl received with favour the attentions of a young man, she would knit for him a pair of stockings, and — later — a ganzey.



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**1967** Pondus-Bøgerne, Lohse, transl fr Danish by Falk-Rønne, Arne *Back to Tristan* Allen & Unwin, London: 21.

A pullover is a "gansey", a word which seems to have come to the island via a Norwegian whale-fisherman, who gave a "ganser" to a Tristanite.

**1989** (1950s) Thompson, Pat in *Tristan da Cunha Newsletter* 5 (Sept): 8.

The wool was then washed, carded, spun and knitted by all the women on the island. They knitted all day long — stockings and jerseys which they called ganseys (after Guernsey) for all members of the family.

**gash** *noun and attrib. Brit.*

[Origin unknown, but in use as naval slang from 1925.]

Rubbish.

**1958** Fuchs, Sir Vivian and Hillary, Sir Edmund *The crossing of Antarctica: the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955–58* Cassell & Co, London: 128.

The most important feature was the 'gash' pit ... Now we made a deep waste pit by digging a small hole about 18 inches deep in the snow and pouring into it a pint of petrol. When this had soaked in and was ignited it burned slowly, melting a cavity.

**1967** *British Antarctic Survey Newsletter* 2 (May): 2.

Others gave up, threw their efforts into the gash bin, and renewed the attack.

**1989** British Antarctic Survey *Glossary of FIDS terms* British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge (unpublished): [2].

Gash: Naval term for rubbish. To be 'on gash' or 'Gashman' means it is your turn for domestic chores such as laying tables, getting in coal, washing up, etc.

**gashman** *Also gash hand*

Someone rostered for kitchen and cleaning duties; a **housemouse** or **slushy**.

**1949** Granville, Wilfred *Sea slang of the twentieth century* Winchester, London: 107.

Gash hand: a man without a job.]

**1957** *Ross Sea Committee, Trans-Antarctic Expedition: newsletter* no 15 (1 May): 8.

Daily in rotation two "gashmen" do the Base chores. Their day begins with clearing away breakfast, sweeping living-room and washing up — washing up which looms large throughout the day. But there are other duties such as emptying the kitchen waste bucket, a huge twelve gallon affair always too full and apt to empty itself over the hindmost gashman as they struggle up the snow steps towards the surface.

**1965** von Brunn, Victor in *Antarktise Bulletin* 10 (Jul): 5.

No one member of an expedition, whether he be chief scientist or junior "gash-boy", has the right to regard himself or his work more worthy than that of the other person.

**1968** (Hope Bay) Herbert, Wally *A world of men: exploration in Antarctica* Eyre & Spottiswoode, London: 54.

The meal was usually served by the cook's assistant — the 'gash-hand' — who, like the cook, was an amateur.

**gash run**

The duty of regular removal and disposal of **gash** or rubbish.

**1992** *Casey News [Casey Base, Antarctica]* July: 2.

On Saturday everyone is also involved in Saturday station cleaning duties. Floors are mopped, rubbish emptied (we call

this the 'gash' run), carpets vacuumed and work/leisure areas cleaned.

**1996** *Icy News. Antarctic Division staff newsletter* 1 Mar: 2.

Sat. duties went ahead, except for the gash run, we didn't want to spoil our good run, and distribute the weeks [sic] rubbish over eastern Antarctica.

**gathering** *verbal noun, Falkland Islands*

Mustering sheep.

**1994** Simpson, Tim *Cooking the Falkland Island way* Peregrine Publishing, Bangor: 51.

Falkland Island mutton ... was always cooked slowly in the peat-burning Rayburn (nowadays many Rayburns in Stanley have been converted to diesel or kerosene) to allow for gathering<sup>1</sup> or any other work on the farm which took a long time. <sup>1</sup>[Footnote] Gathering involves long hours, usually in the saddle, but sometimes these days on motorbikes or three-wheelers, moving the sheep from one place to another.

**gee** *verb, dog-sledging*

[Gee has been used to direct (a horse, etc.) by the call, since 1845 (NOED). It is used to mean 'turn right' as a dog command in both Canadian (DCanE: 1900) and Alaskan English (DAlasKE: 1904).]

A **sledge dog** command: turn (left). There is much confusion with dog commands, some of which mean the reverse of their northern hemisphere meaning, at least sometimes.

**1930** (South Victoria Land) Byrd, Richard Evelyn in *National Geographic* LVIII(2) Aug: 189.

The drivers used the Alaskan gang hitch — that is, the dogs were harnessed to each side of a long line attached to the sledge. One dog is attached to the end of the gang line as leader, and to him the drivers yell their commands of "Gee" or "Haw".

**1949** Hurley, Frank *Shackleton's argonauts: the epic tale of Shackleton's voyage to Antarctica in 1915* McGraw-Hill Book Co Pty Ltd: 74.

In turning the team, the order 'Ha!' swings them to the right, 'Gee!' turns them to the left.

**1958** Bursley, Jack *Antarctic night* Longman, Green & Co., London: 174.

"That lead dog of mine," he said, "will do just the opposite of what I tell him to do. When I say Haw, he goes Gee."

**gee-pole** *Also G-pole*

[Gee-pole is recorded in northern Canada (DCanE) from 1899, in the same sense of a sturdy pole used for steering and support. DAlasKE records the term from 1901, and notes that the pole is attached 'usually to the right, hence the name!]

A pole lashed to a dog sledge at one end, and held for skiing support and steering purposes (see 1931 (Gould) and 1958 quotations).

**1931** O'Brien, John S. *By dog sled for Byrd: 1600 miles across Antarctic ice* Thomas S. Rockwell, Chicago: 19.

We take our places at the gee-pole of our sledges.

**1931** Gould, L. *Cold*: 60.

The G-Pole is a sturdy stick about six feet long, which is securely lashed to the forward end of one of the runners and cross-pieces and elevated at the free end. When the sledges needed any attention, we used to hang onto the G-Pole with one hand, and push along beside the sledge with a ski stick in the other. It was easy to guide the sledges in this way and if it were necessary to make a quick stop the whole sledge could be swung around cross-wise to the trail using the G-Pole for a lever.

**1958** Bursley, Jack *Antarctic night* Longman, Green & Co., London: 156.

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Each gee-pole was planed down to the last shaving to save weight ... A gee-pole was lashed to the front of each sled to be used as a support when skiing beside it, and as a means of steering the sled.

### **gemini** *Brit.*

[From the name of the boat manufacturing company, Gemini Inflatables.]

An inflatable boat, a **zodiac**.

**1980** (South Georgia) Parmelee, David F. *Bird Island in antarctic waters* University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis: 14.

I soon appreciated the difficulties of going ashore by boat — even by modern rubber boats designed for tricky beach landings and called “gemini” by the British and “zodiacs” by Americans.

**1989** British Antarctic Survey *Glossary of FIDS terms* British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge (unpublished): [2].

Gemini: Inflatable raft.

### **gentoo penguin** *noun and attrib. Also gentoo*

[As one of the Spanish names for this penguin is *juanito*, ‘little John’ or ‘Johnny’, this seemed to me the likely origin of both *gentoo* and the alternative English name of **Johnny penguin**. On reading Beaglehole (see 1961 quotation), I see that he had already come to the same conclusion, although his interpretation might differ slightly.]

The penguin *Pygoscelis papua* (fam. Spheniscidae), which has distinctive white triangular patches above its eyes. It lives in the subantarctic, occurring circumpolarly from Marion Island and the Crozets past Macquarie Island to the Antarctic Peninsula and southeastern coast of South America. There are two subspecies, the **northern** and the **southern gentoo penguin**, but to most people it’s just a gentoo. It is also called a **pygoscelid**.

[**19 Feb 1820** (near 61° 23’S, 63° 59’W) Bransfield in *The Literary Gazette and Journal of Belles Lettres [London] vol 5* quoted in *Polar Record* (1946) 4(32) Jul: 388.

While rounding the island we observed its shore covered with penguins, whose awkward movement had the most strange appearance, and at the same time the most intolerable stench assailed our noses that I ever smelt, arising from these gentry.]

**1860** Abbott, Captain CC in *The Ibis* II(VIII) Oct: 337.

*Eudyptes papua* is the next Penguin that “hauls up” (to use a nautical term) at the Falklands to breed. They come up at about the same time as *Aptenodytes demersa* [sc. late September] ... This bird is called in the Falklands the Gentoo Penguin: whence the name I leave others to conjecture. I may mention, that the ground about the rookeries is covered with small round stones, which these birds eject, on coming up from the salt water, in green masses about the size of a shilling.

**1901** Saunders, Howard in Murray, George, ed. *The Antarctic manual, for the use of the expedition of 1901* Royal Geographical Society, London: 227.

By far the most abundant species within the Antarctic circle is the smaller blunt-billed ADELIE [sic] LAND PENGUIN (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), named after the place of its discovery ... Its range does not appear to extend far to the north of the Antarctic circle ... Northward of lat. 63°S. its place seems to be taken by a slightly smaller Penguin with a white band across the crown, the ‘Gentoo’ of the Falklands, and the ‘Johnny’ of sealers (*Pygoscelis papua*).

**1915** (Macquarie Island: Hasselborough Bay) Mawson, Sir Douglas *The home of the blizzard: being the story of the Aus-*

*tralian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–1914* William Heinemann, London, vol 1: 37.

Gentoo penguins in numbers were busy hatching their eggs on the sloping ground beyond.

**1915** Harvey, Rufus Watson *Thrilling adventures in the Antarctic wilds* Unpublished record, in possession of Tim Vasquez: 60.

Gentle or Johnny-penguin of Kerguelen Island and the Falklands.

**1916** (Elephant Island) *Daily Mirror [London]* 5 Dec: 1.

[caption] Here some of the explorers are seen skinning Gento [sic] penguins, their principal food for four and a half months.

**1931** *The Falkland Islands Gazette* 40(1) 1 Feb: 10.

The period for which Licences to take Penguins’ eggs may be issued shall be .. in the case of Gentoo Penguins from the 1st day of October to the 31st day of October in every year.

**1955** (Marion Island) Rand, R.W. in *The Ostrich* XXVI(2) June: 58.

Nine coves are utilised by the nesting Macaronis and sixteen by the Gentoos. Unlike those frequented by the King penguins, these “gentoo” coves are in very different parts of the island.

**1961** Beaglehole, J.C., ed. *The voyage of the Resolution and Adventure* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge: 93.

In the eighteenth century English-speaking sealers commonly called this bird the Johnny Penguin. The Spanish translation of this was ‘Juanito’, which has degenerated into Gentoo.

**1966** MacKenzie, D., ed. *Fog ‘N Bog [yearbook of Macquarie Island ANARE overwinterers]* ANARE, Macquarie Island: 35.

The Gentoo penguin is another Macquarie Islander. It occurs throughout the sub-Antarctic, its main breeding grounds being Macquarie, Heard, Kerguelen, Crozet, Prince Edward, South Georgia, Falkland, South Orkney, South Shetland and the west coast of Graham Land.

**1968** (Falkland Islands) Sparks, John and Soper, Tony *Penguins* Angus and Robertson, Sydney: 198.

Gentoo eggs are said to be the favourite, and a rough estimate is that nowadays 10,000 a year may be harvested, under government licence. However there is not much doubt that a certain amount of unofficial collecting is done on the side; certainly there are fewer eggs for the taking. In 1911, 85,000 eggs were collected from the Kidney Islands, while in 1952 the result of an exhaustive search was 1,000.

**1994** *Geo [Aust]* 16(5) Sept-Oct: 37.

[caption] A German couple get married .. at Port Lockroy witnessed by fellow passengers and crew and several hundred gentoo penguins and blue-eyed shags.

### **gentoo penguin rookery** *Also gentoo rookery*

[See **rookery**.]

A breeding ground for **gentoo penguins**.

**1904** (Falkland Islands) Vallentin, Rupert *Memoirs and Proc of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society* XLVIII(3) no. 23: 11.

I examined several scattered burrows occupied by the Jack-ass Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), before we reached the first Gentoo rookery (*Pygosceles tæniata*).

**2 Nov 1912** (Macquarie Island) Blake, L.R. in Mawson, Douglas (1942) *Geographical narrative and cartography. Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–14. Scientific reports series A vol 1* Government Printer, Sydney: 289.

Visited a Gentoo rookery and collected 4 dozen eggs. These eggs are by far the best for eating.

**1954** (Heard Island) Ealey, E.H.M. in *The Emu* 54(2) June: 94.

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# S

## SAB

[Acronym from 'special antarctic blend'.]

An extremely low-wax fuel oil specially formulated for use in extremely cold conditions. It is very similar to domestic heating oil, and is known in full as **Special Antarctic Blend**.

[1964 Helm, A.S. and Miller, J.H. *Antarctica: the story of the New Zealand party of the Trans-Antarctic expedition* R.E. Owen, Government Printer, Wellington: 63.

An idea of the amount [sc. of fuel] required can be envisaged when it is realised that the entire electricity and heat at Scott Base relied on diesel fuel for their generation. Thousands of gallons of a special kerosene for this purpose, adapted for the rigorous Antarctic conditions, had to be provided. The motor and aviation spirits had to be of special blends, with particular ignition qualities to combat the below-zero temperatures. At first these special fuels had to be brought from England, but for the second season they were produced from the BP refinery at Kiwana [sic] in Western Australia.]

1987 Chester, Jonathan in *Australian Geographic* 5 (Jan–Mar): 96.

*Fuel tanks* holding SAB (Special Antarctic Blend) diesel fuel, replenished annually and used for generators and other station equipment.

23 June 1990 (Mawson station) Greet, Pene and Price, Gina (1995) *Frost bytes* Doubleday, Sydney: 101.

Casey has lost 90 000 litres of SAB in a ruptured tank and that has hit the press.

**saennagras(s), saennegras(s)** See **sennegrass**

## sago snow

[Sago from the graininess of the snow.]

Snow which falls as very small, round, hard balls, sometimes with a fluffy exterior.

[1909 (Ross Sea) Shackleton, E.H. *The heart of the Antarctic: being the story of the British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909* William Heinemann, London: 68.

In the afternoon the wind blew fresh, and the sky became overcast again, and snow began to fall. This snow differed from that brought by the northerly wind; the northerly snow had consisted of flakes about a quarter of an inch in diameter, while that now met with formed of small round specks, hard and dry, like sago — the true Antarctic type.]

1928 Hayes, J. Gordon *Antarctica: a treatise on the southern continent* The Richards Press, London: 35.

Snow is found in the following forms: .. The commonest form near the coast: this is granular, probably due to water-drops. The little spheres are the "fluff-balls," and form a kind of sago snow.

1955 (Heard Island) Dalziel, Ken *Penguin road* Angus and Robertson, Sydney: 18.

We left the ship and found the ground covered in snow — different snow from what you have seen in Australia. It was

called sago-snow, because the hard dry little pellets looked just like sago.

## saladero

*Hist., Falkland Islands*

[From the South American Spanish *saladero* salting house.]

A slaughtering and salting house for meat. The Falklands use of the word is restricted to one particular establishment (see quotations), which ceased operations in the nineteenth century. The name is preserved as the name of the area.

1924 (1840s) Boyson, V.E. *The Falkland Islands: with notes on the natural history* by Rupert Vallentin Clarendon Press, Oxford: 198.

In a short time he [sc. GT Whittington] established a large *saladero* or slaughtering and salting house called Hope Place, to the south-east of Brenton Loch.

1987 (1840s) Strange, Ian J. *The Falkland Islands and their natural history* David and Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon: 136.

On the south-east shore of Brenton Loch, at Hope Place, Lafone established an extensive *saladero*, or slaughterhouse and salting establishment.

## Salvin's albatross

 Also **Salvin's mollymawk**

[The species name *salvini* was given to the bird by Sir Lionel Walter Rothschild (see 1893 quotation) in honour of English ornithologist Osbert Salvin (1835–1898), who brought the species to Rothschild's attention.]

The albatross *Diomedea cauta salvini* (fam. Diomedidae), a subspecies of the **shy albatross**. The bird breeds on the Crozet Islands and on New Zealand's Snares and Bounty Islands, and has also been called the **grey-backed mollymawk**.

[1893 *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* I(X): lvi

Mr. Rothschild also exhibited and described the following species:— ... *Thalassogeron salvini*, sp. nov. ... This is the "*Diomedea cauta*" of Buller and other writers on New Zealand birds. On comparing my series of specimens with one of Gould's types of *T. cautus* in the British Museum, the differences above pointed out are apparent. In coloration this species is apparently greyer on the head and neck, the dark loreal mark in front of the eye being very conspicuous ... These three species of *Procellariidae* in my collection were pointed out to me as new by Mr. Osbert Salvin, who kindly confirmed the diagnoses.]

1974 Harper, Peter C. and Kinsky, F.C. *Tuatara* 21 (1,2): 21.

Although Salvin's Mollymawks do not follow larger ships, they will congregate around fishing vessels for offal.

1988 Woods, Robin W. *Guide to birds of the Falkland Islands* Anthony Nelson, Shropshire: 105.

The race *D. c. salvini* (Salvin's Albatross) breeds at the Snares and Bounty Islands.

## Salvin's mollymawk

 See **Salvin's albatross**

## Salvin's prion

[Named in 1912 (see quotation) in honour of English ornithologist Osbert Salvin (1835–1898) by Australian ornithologist G.M. Mathews.]

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The seabird *Pachyptila vittata salvini* or *Pachyptila salvini salvini* (fam. Procellariidae) of the southern Indian Ocean, which breeds on the Prince Edward Islands group, Crozet Islands, Amsterdam and St Paul. It is also called the **Marion prion** and **medium-billed prion**.

See also **broad-billed prion**.

[1912 Mathews, G.M. *Birds of Australia* vol 2: 212.

From the Crozets, Marion Island, etc., are birds which agree with this, but have the bill shorter and slightly narrower. For these I propose the name *Prion vittatus salvini*, subsp. n.]

1971 Bakker, E.M. van Zinderen Sr., Winterbottom, J.M., eds and R.A. Dyer *Marion and Prince Edward Islands* A.A. Balkema, Cape Town: 12.

The most numerous bird species on the islands is, apparently, the Salvin's Prion (*Pachyptila salvini*).

1989 *Antarctic Science* 1(1) Mar: 20.

The estimated .. 1.7 million breeding pairs .. of .. Salvin's prions (*Pachyptila vittata salvini* Mathews) at Marion Island..

### Sanaean

[In 1959 South Africa began work in Antarctica, sending the first SANAE — South African National Antarctic Research Expedition — to Queen Maud Land. Since then, it has occupied successive bases (Sanae, Sanae II, III and IV) in the region.]

A worker with the South African National Antarctic Research Expeditions.

1971 *Antarktische Bulletin* 2(5-6) Apr.-Sept: 56.

Again we greet all friends and relations and especially the "Goughels" and "Sanaeans".

**sastrugi** *noun and attrib., normally occurs in this form as pl. though sastrugis (see 1993 quotation) is known. Sing. sometimes sastruga, sastrugos, sastrugus*

[Sastrugi is recorded in Canadian English from 1851.]

Ridges of snow (becoming ice) formed and hardened by the wind, and indicating direction of the prevailing wind because they run parallel to this. These can be from a few centimetres to two or three metres high and make travelling hell.

1906 (South Orkneys) Rudmose Brown, R.N., Mossman, R.C. and Pirie, J.H. Harvey *The voyage of the "Scotia", being the record of a voyage of exploration in Antarctic Seas by Three of the Staff* William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh: 343.

Walking was, however, somewhat difficult, as the surface of the whole floe was excavated by the wind into a mass of small pits called "sastrugi," some over two feet in depth.

1909 (nr White Island) Shackleton, E.H. *The heart of the Antarctic: being the story of the British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909* William Heinemann, London: 273.

Often as we marched the sledges would be brought up all standing by a sastrugus, or snow mound, caused by the wind, and we would be lucky if we were not tripped up ourselves. Small depressions would escape the eye altogether, and when we thought that we were marching along on a level surface, we would suddenly step down two or three feet.

1912 Amundsen, R. in *Mercury [Hobart]* 11 Mar: 5.

There were no sastrugi (ridges of snow), and only local crevasses.

1915 (Shackleton Ice-Shelf) Wild, Frank in Mawson, Sir Douglas *The home of the blizzard: being the story of the Australasian*

*Antarctic Expedition, 1911-1914* William Heinemann, London: 58.

The slope was covered with sastrugi ridges, three to four feet in height.

— 275 Bage, R.

In Adelie Land, even when the air was clear of snow, it was easy to bump against a four-foot sastruga without seeing it.

28 Feb 1912 Cherry-Garrard, Apsley (1994 repr.) *The worst journey in the world* Picador, London: 432.

I had my first upset just after starting, the sledge capsizing on a great sastrugus like the Ramp.

1949 (Heard Island) Scholes, Arthur *Fourteen men: story of the Australian Antarctic Expedition to Heard Island* F.W. Cheshire, Melbourne: 183.

The ski-ers said the sastrugi formations on the "flat" took the speed out of their runs.

1958 Fuchs, V. in Fuchs, Sir Vivian and Hillary, Sir Edmund *The crossing of Antarctica: the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955-58* Cassell & Co, London: 242.

The two Weasels and the Muskeg .. were slower than the 'cats' over the murderous sastrugi.

1959 Siple, Paul *90° South: the story of the American South Pole conquest* G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York: 154.

The high altitude and the sastrugi-strewn path to the Pole had winded the not-yet-acclimated men.

1979 Kilian, Crawford *Icequake* Futura Publications, London: 63.

Snow was deep and powdery in the lee of each sastrugus, and in places they waded knee-deep.

1988 Porter, Eliot *Antarctica, 2nd edn* Arch Cape Press, NY: 118. Any projection object on the open plain soon develops a long sastrugos tail.

1989 May, John *The Greenpeace book of Antarctica, 2nd edn* Child & Associates, Sydney: 29.

[caption] The strong winter winds of Antarctica combine with the heavy coastal snowfall to produce a dramatic landscape. Together they erode the surface, sculpting it into a corrugated "sea" of irregularly shaped snow forms, known as sastrugi.

1993 Claassen, P. and Sharp, P.A., eds *Draft comprehensive environmental evaluation of the proposed new SANAE IV facility of Vesleskarvet, Queen Maud Land, Antarctica* Department of Environmental Affairs, Pretoria: 2-6.

The direction of sastrugis at the site of the base indicates the prevailing wind direction.

1993 Fiennes, Ranulph *Mind over matter: the epic crossing of the Antarctic continent* Sinclair-Stevenson, London: betw. 54 and 55.

[caption] *Sastrugi*: a word from Russian meaning icy features built from snow. These iron-hard ridges were a great problem both on the 1993 manhaul journey and, even more so, on the 1980 Trans-globe Expedition. Here, on that earlier expedition, Oliver Shepard's sledge is jammed on a three-foot-high sastruga.

1996 (McMurdo Sound) Wheeler, Sara *Terra incognita: travels in Antarctica* Jonathan Cape, London: 171.

If you hit a sastrugi and fall off without your safety cord connected to kill the motor, the thing just keeps going till it runs out of fuel — could be a hundred miles.

**sastrugi'd** *adjective* Also **sastrugized**

(Of a snow surface) formed into **sastrugi**.

10 Feb 1912 Wilson, Edward in King, H.G.R., ed. (1972) *Diary of the Terra Nova expedition to the Antarctic 1910-1912* Blandford Press, London: 242.

The snow in this névé is pitted in small cups on the east and S.E. but sastrugized with no pitting on the N. and N.W.

## THE ANTARCTIC DICTIONARY

**1986** Jenkins, Adrian and Summerson, Rupert *Travel report — Sledge Golf. Glacier geophysics Ronne Ice Shelf traverse 17 Dec 1985–24 Feb 1986* British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge: 17.

The surface was good and flat then becoming increasingly sastrugi'd.

### scattered pack *Also scattered ice*

#### Open pack.

**1964** (1955) Helm, A.S. and Miller, J.H. *Antarctica: the story of the New Zealand party of the Trans-Antarctic expedition* R.E. Owen, Government Printer, Wellington: 111.

The first large tabular iceberg appeared on the starboard bow at 7.30 a.m. on the morning of their third day out from South Georgia, by which time they had crossed the 64th parallel. More bergs appeared during the morning and by late afternoon the small "bergy bits" of midday had increased to scattered pack. There were large open areas among this pack making it possible to navigate without striking much ice.

**1984** (65° 22' S, 64° 45' E) Fletcher, Harold *Antarctic days with Mawson: a personal account of the British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition of 1929–31* Angus and Robertson, London: 149.

The ship had now entered an area of broken, scattered pack.

**1987** Bates, Robert L. and Jackson, Julia A., eds *Glossary of geology, 3rd edn* American Geological Institute, Alexandria: 590.

Scattered ice: ... An obsolete term for sea-ice concentration of one-tenth to five-tenths; now replaced generally by *open pack ice* and *very open pack ice*.

### Schlegel's petrel *noun*

[The bird was given its original scientific name *Procellaria incerta* by German-born Hermann Schlegel (1804–84), director of the Museum des Pays-Bays, Leiden, in Mus. Hist. Nat. Pays-Bas, Rev. Méthod. Crit. Coll. (1863) 4: 9–10.]

The seabird *Pterodroma incerta*: see **Atlantic petrel**.

**29 Oct 1929** Mawson, Douglas in Jacka, Fred and Jacka, Eleanor, eds (1991) *Mawson's antarctic diaries* Allen & Unwin, Sydney: 258.

A Schlegel's petrel appears; this is a Tristan da Cunha type ... Noon position 42° 38' S and 37° 50' E.

**1966** (en route to Heard Island) Temple, Philip *The sea and the snow* Cassell Australia, Melbourne: 59.

We were still not past 40° S ... Bird life increased. Apart from albatrosses there were Wilson's Storm Petrels (Mother Carey's Chickens), Schlegel's Petrels and Prions.

**1998** Graham, Mike in *Notornis* 45(2) Suppl: 7.

Between us we chalked up Wilson's Storm Petrel .. and a bird I've not seen since [sc. since 1962] that we called "Schlegel's Petrel". Today it is more commonly known as the Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*, a medium-sized brown and white bird not unlike our White-headed Petrel.

### scientific age

[Most of Antarctica's history is more or less connected with science, from the early days of natural history exploration to the scientists who constitute a large part of the population of the continent today.]

A vaguely defined period of antarctic history, somewhere after the early years of the twentieth century, and perhaps extending to the present (which in this case is 12 November 1998).

**1963** McKenzie, Douglas *Opposite poles* Robert Hale & Co, London/ Whitcombe & Tombs, New Zealand: 102.

Lack of a truly common ground between Hillary and Fuchs followed from the circumstance that they were really men

from two different ages of Antarctica. The first two ages of Antarctica, namely, the age of discovery of the nineteenth century and the heroic age of the first part of the twentieth century, had already passed away. Fuchs and Hillary qualified for the new ages of the southern continent according to their different temperaments and skills. Hillary saw himself as part of the age of exploration; Fuchs, as part of the scientific age.

**1994** *Antarctic Society of Australia newsletter* no 39 (Dec): 3.

Although Australia has a long and distinguished history of activity in Antarctica and the adventures of the early explorers are well documented, the activities of the recent Scientific Age are less well known.

### scientific whaling

Whaling for sale of the meat, done in the name of scientific research in order to circumvent regulations banning whaling for consumption.

**1989** May, John *The Greenpeace book of Antarctica* Child & Associates, Sydney: 171.

Japan had killed 273 minke whales in the 1987/88 Antarctic season under the pretext of "scientific whaling".

**1995** *Antarctic Bulletin of the New Zealand Antarctic Society* 13(10) June: 401.

Continued "scientific whaling" by Japan in the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary area resulted in strong resolutions being adopted by a large majority at the 47th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

### Sc Slater's penguin

[The species name *sclateri* was given by Sir Walter Lawry Buller (see 1888 quotation) in honour of English ornithologist Philip Lutley Sc Slater (1829–1913).]

The penguin *Eudyptes sclateri*: see **erect-crested penguin**.

**1888** Buller, Sir Walter Lawry *A history of the birds of New Zealand. 2nd edn* Published by the author, Westminster London, vol. II: 289.

*Eudyptes sclateri*. (Slater's Penguin.) ... In April last I received a note from Dr. Sc Slater calling my attention to two Penguins recently added to the menagerie of the Zoological Society at Regent's Park, and observing:—"The bird just received from the Aucklands seems quite distant from the New-Zealand species." I accordingly repaired to the "Fish-house," and the inspection which I then made satisfied me that, notwithstanding a general outward resemblance between the two birds, there was considerable difference both as to size and in the details of the plumage. The Auckland-Island bird having since died it was courteously forwarded to me by Mr. Bartlett, the Superintendent of the Gardens ... I have no hesitation in pronouncing the Auckland-Island bird a new species, distinguishable from the former [sc. *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*] by its larger size, by the peculiar character of its superciliary streak, and by the different coloration of its flippers. It becomes necessary, therefore, to select a distinguishing name for this species, and I have much pleasure in connecting with it that of the accomplished Secretary of the Zoological Society of London, Dr. P.L. Sc Slater, F.R.S., who has long taken an interest in our local zoology, as was recognized by his election some years ago as Honorary Member of the New-Zealand Institute.

**1902** Hutton, Captain F.W. *The Emu* II(1) Jul: 3.

Slater's Penguin (*Catarrhactes sclateri*) has its headquarters at the Antipodes and Bounty Islands.