Antarctic Penguins

In 1842, the Dundee whalers launched an expedition to the Antarctic, hoping to find new stocks of whale to catch. Although they failed in this, the discoveries made during the voyage caught the public imagination, and helped to start a new age of polar exploration.

D’Arcy acquired two splendid penguin specimens for his museum. An Emperor Penguin was brought back from the Dundee Antarctic Expedition of 1842–3, making it one of the oldest specimens in the world. In 1916, Ernest Shackleton presented a King Penguin brought back from his Farthest South expedition.

Illustration by Gavin Rutherford, from the D’Arcy Thompson Colouring Book, on sale in the Museum