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On the Cover

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SciTech News

Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus

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On the Cover

Although Fingal's cave on the isle of Staffa in the Scottish Hebrides had long been known to locals, it was first revealed to the outside world when Joseph Banks visited the site in 1772 while on his way to Iceland. Banks had the foresight to bring along an artist, who made the picture on the cover of this issue. The naturalist Thomas Pennant later visited the area but missed the cave, so Banks allowed him to use his drawings to make engravings to illustrate the travel account that Pennant published as Tour in Scotland, and Voyage to the Hebrides (Chester, 1774). It was a good thing he did so, because Banks never did publish his own account of his voyage *(photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology).*

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