

April 2012

On the Cover

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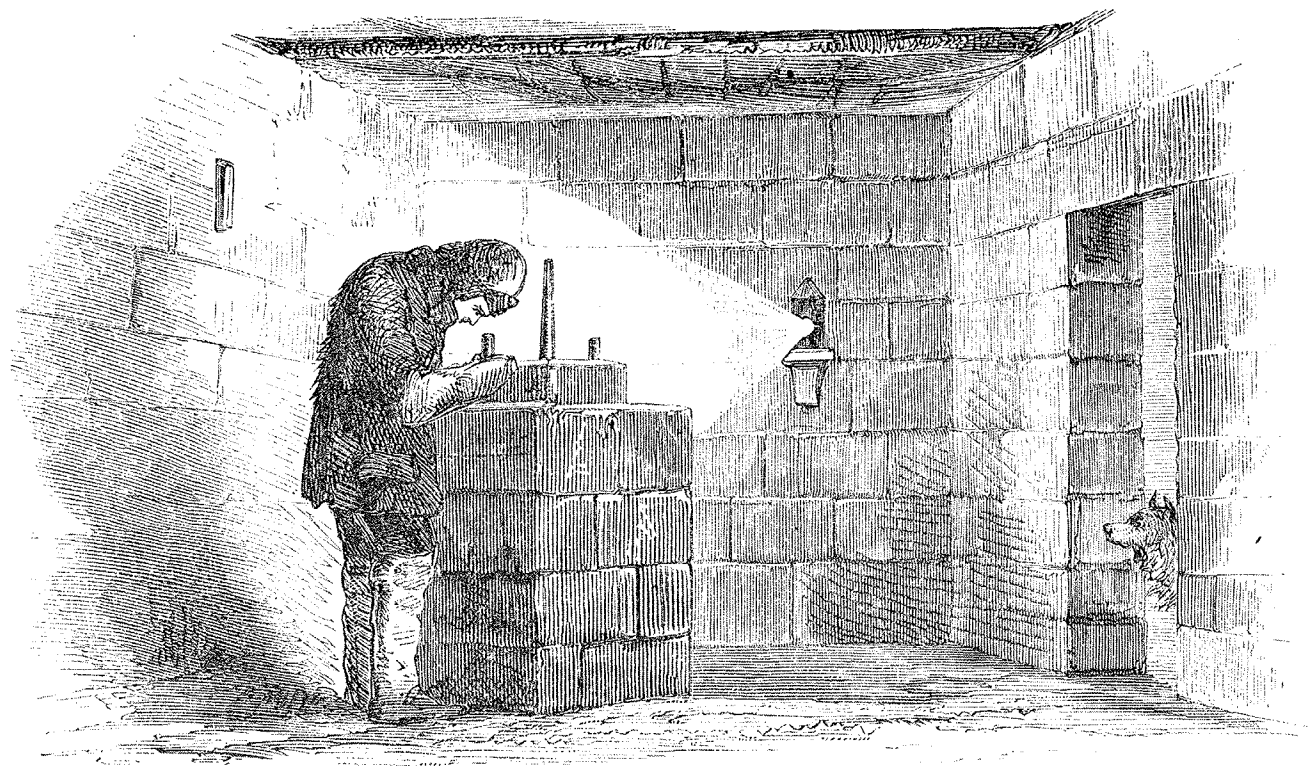
(2012) "On the Cover," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 62: Iss. 2, Article 1.

Available at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol62/iss2/1>

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SciTech News

Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus



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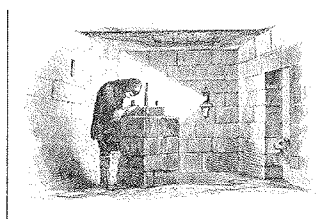
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On the Cover



One of the passions of British science in the nineteenth century was geomagnetism. Magnetic observatories were established all over the world, to record the variation, declination, and intensity of the earth's magnetic field. When Francis McClintock went searching for the lost Franklin expedition in the Canadian arctic in 1857, he took the time to set up his own observatory on Somerset Island. So that the readings would not be affected by any nearby metal, the entire structure was built of blocks of ice, including the pedestal on which the instruments stood. From Francis McClintock, *The Voyage of the Fox in the Arctic Seas* (London, 1859). (Photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology).

Copy Deadline

February Issue.....	Jan 5
May Issue.....	April 1
August Issue.....	July 1
November Issue	Oct 1

SciTech News

Volume 62, Number 2 May 2008
ISSN 0036-8059

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SCITECH NEWS (ISSN 0036-8059) is published quarterly (February, May, August, November) by the Chemistry, Engineering, and the Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723-6099, (443) 778-4301. Periodicals postage paid at Laurel MD and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **SciTech News**, Heidi Porth, 347 W. 2nd Avenue, Suite G, Colville, WA 99114. Printed in U.S.A.

Publication Policy: **SciTech News** is the official bulletin of the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association. The contents of articles and editorials are not to be construed as being or representing the official position of the sponsoring divisions.

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